

Research Triangle High School

RTHS Board Meeing

Date and Time

Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM EST

Location

Due to the statewide COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will only be held as a Zoom video teleconference.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/98283216480

Meeting ID: 982 8321 6480

Find your local number: https://rthighschool.zoom.us/u/aefdPJWonu

[The RTHS Board of Directors meets monthly on the Third Wednesday of each month, except for December and July. Meetings are normally held onsite at 5:30pm until 7pm, upstairs in the FBC Conference Room.]

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Agenda

Purpose Presenter Time

I. Opening Items 5:30 PM

Powered by BoardOnTrack 1 of 37

			Purpose	Presenter	Time				
	A.	Record Attendance			4 m				
	B.	Call the Meeting to Order			1 m				
	C.	Approve Minutes	Approve Minutes		3 m				
		Approve minutes for RTHS Board Meeing on December 16, 2020							
II.	CEO Actions								
	A.	CSO Report	FYI	Eric Grunden	15 m				
	B.	Action item: Articulation Agreement Request	Discuss						
		Discovery Charter School, a STEAM-focused middle school in Durham, is requesting an articulation agreement. A draft agreement is included here but discussion of this is warranted.							
III.	Fina	ance			5:53 PM				
	A.	Monthly Finance Report	FYI	Alex Quigley	10 m				
	В.	Finance Committee Updates	FYI	Alex Quigley	5 m				
IV.	Aca	ademic Excellence							
	A.	Committee Updates / Goals Status	FYI	Elizabeth Cunningham	10 m				
V.	Dev	elopment			6:18 PM				
	A.	Development Committee Issues / Goals Status	FYI	Carmen Mugge	15 m				
VI.	Gov	vernance			6:33 PM				
	A.	Vote on adding another directors	Vote	Mark Johnson	10 m				
		Carolyn Coia							
	В.	Flywheel Initiative	FYI	Mark Johnson	10 m				
VII.	Oth	er Business (As Needed)			6:53 PM				

			Purpose	Presenter	Time
	A.	Board on Track Webinar on Open Meeting Laws (Jan. 27 at 4pm ET)	FYI	Gary Rodgers	5 m
		Understand and simplify charter school board Open Meeting Law compliance			
VIII.	Clo	sing Items			6:58 PM

A. Adjourn Meeting Gary Rodgers Vote 2 m

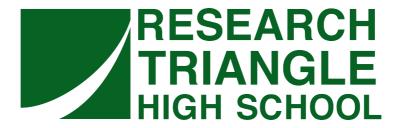
Approve Minutes

Section:
Item:
C. Approve Minutes
Purpose:
Approve Minutes

Submitted by:

Related Material: Minutes for RTHS Board Meeing on December 16, 2020

Research Triangle High School - RTHS Board Meeing - Agenda - Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM



Research Triangle High School

Minutes

RTHS Board Meeing

Date and Time

Wednesday December 16, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Location

Due to the statewide COVID-19 restrictions, this meeting will only be held as a Zoom video teleconference.

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Directors Present

A. Quigley (remote), C. Mugge (remote), C. Rao (remote), E. Cunningham (remote), G. Rodgers (remote), M. Bliss (remote), M. Johnson (remote), S. Hunter (remote), S. Rivers-Kobler (remote), T. Medhin (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

E. Grunden (remote), J. Guilford (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

G. Rodgers called a meeting of the board of directors of Research Triangle High School to order on Wednesday Dec 16, 2020 at 5:31 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

- C. Mugge made a motion to approve the minutes from RTHS Board Meeing on 11-18-20.
- M. Johnson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Quigley Aye G. Rodgers Aye E. Cunningham Aye C. Rao Aye C. Mugge Aye M. Johnson Aye T. Medhin Absent S. Rivers-Kobler Aye M. Bliss Aye S. Hunter Aye

II. CEO Actions

A. CSO Report

- Sondra joined the meeting
- Building refurbish and cleaned during time when closed in January for remote learning
- Remote teaching: highly demanding; Hired a new Math teacher
- C. Rao made a motion to approve CSO Report and Recommendation under Covid Update.

A. Quigley seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Hunter Aye M. Bliss Aye G. Rodgers Aye T. Medhin Aye E. Cunningham Aye C. Mugge Aye C. Rao Aye M. Johnson Aye S. Rivers-Kobler Aye A. Quigley Aye

B. COVID 19 Update

- Detailed report on Covid-related analysis for remote learning
- Based on survey, majority comfortable with remote learning
- Covid prevention is highest priority Ranked #1
- Combination of students in the building: Scheduling challenges to meet state obligations under Plan B
- Remote learning: 2 hrs face to face interaction with teachers; clearly less time or reduced time with teachers if students return to school under Plan B
- Discipline and focus better if they return to school; Students not being overworked because of remote learning
- Teachers not comfortable returning to school yet
- Under latest CDC guidelines, returning to school clearly a health risk
- Also, the school has a plan ready to hit the ground running, if students have to return under Plan A; Equipped and ready

III. Development

A. Development Committee Issues / Goals Status

- Landscaping project: Preliminary work underway
- Major improvement (outdoor classroom space, amphitheater, outdoor lab/edible garden)
- Seek corporate partners support through fundraising initiatives
- Dynamic and Engaging learning environment
- Get buy in from internal stakeholders/students and then external stakeholders

IV. Governance

A. Vote on adding 2 directors

- 2 Potential Board candidates interested: Rajeev Thalla, Sherry Carty
- 3 Board members met both of them via Zoom on separate days/time
- C. Mugge made a motion to approve 2 new Board Directors Sherry Carty and Rajeev Thalla.
- C. Rao seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Rodgers Aye S. Hunter Aye C. Mugge Aye A. Quigley Absent M. Bliss Aye T. Medhin Aye S. Rivers-Kobler Aye C. Rao Aye M. Johnson Aye E. Cunningham Absent

V. Executive (Closed) Session

A. Personnel Matter Discussion

- G. Rodgers made a motion to enter an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.
- C. Rao seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

E. Cunningham Absent C. Rao Aye G. Rodgers Aye S. Hunter Aye C. Mugge Aye S. Rivers-Kobler Aye M. Bliss Aye T. Medhin Aye A. Quigley Absent M. Johnson Aye

Discussion ensued

- G. Rodgers made a motion to approve CEO Evaluation.
- M. Johnson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Bliss Abstain
G. Rodgers Aye
C. Rao Aye
C. Mugge Aye

Roll Call

M. Johnson Aye
A. Quigley Absent
S. Hunter Abstain
E. Cunningham Absent
S. Rivers-Kobler Aye
T. Medhin Aye

- G. Rodgers made a motion to come out of the Executive Session.
- C. Mugge seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Rodgers Aye C. Mugge Aye C. Rao Aye S. Rivers-Kobler Aye S. Hunter Aye T. Medhin Aye E. Cunningham Absent M. Bliss Aye M. Johnson Aye A. Quigley Absent

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Rodgers

CSO Report

Section: II. CEO Actions Item: A. CSO Report

Purpose: FYI

Submitted by:

Related Material: CSO Report 1_20_21.pdf

CSO Report January 20, 2021

I. State of School

- a. Student Support
 - We have hired former subs to staff two different kinds of student support efforts.
 - In school low attendance, low producing students are invited to campus to work, supervised by a sub. They still attend their regular zoom classes, just from campus with an adult present for support and motivation. All safety protocols will be observed for on campus students.
 - 2. Supervised seminar online work session facilitated by subs. During office hours students attend a separate supervised zoom conference with a sub who can help them with assignments.
 - 3. Subs are being trained for this.
 - ii. Scheduled mentoring attendance for SEL/executive functioning time
 - iii. "class-free" days by subject, where students work asynchronously while teachers meet virtually for department co-planning. This is in response to student concern about adequate work time and teacher concern about working with colleagues.

b. Recruitment

- i. Application process opened 1/6.
- ii. 295 applications received to date, have are preferences. Number to be drawn has not yet been determined.
- iii. Discovery Charter has requested an articulation agreement with us for this lottery. The board would need to approve this request. Please see the attached articulation agreement.
 - 1. The school is a STEAM-focused middle school in Durham and would strongly academically align with RTHS.
 - 2. The school's population is 65% Black, 30% white; 32% FRL, so the school fits with RTHS' mission to increase diversity.
 - 3. Size of the school is a concern—100 8th graders now, 176 is their goal. This could swamp our own lottery. Some limitation on admission may need to be considered if this is something the school wants to do.
- c. Refresh/Repair/Refurbish efforts to be made in while the school is closed.
 - i. I have met with HagerSmith, the architects who provided the gym plans, about the possibility of adding a practice field to the school grounds in advance of the gym. This will give us a safer PE class location and provide on campus practice facilities for outdoor sports. It will not impede any gym plans should they move forward.

- ii. We have met with a painting contractor about quoting repainting of the hallways.
- iii. We have met with our access control provider about increasing building security.
- iv. We have met with two design firms about making changes to flooring and furniture in the galleries and other student meeting spaces to increase usability of these spaces.

Action item: Articulation Agreement Request

Section: II. CEO Actions

Item: B. Action item: Articulation Agreement Request

Purpose: Discuss

Submitted by:

Related Material: Articulation Agreement Discovery Charter School + RTHS.docx

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN RESEARCH TRIANGLE HIGH SCHOOL AND DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL

I. INTRODUCTION

In 2016, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 242 modifying certain provisions in the charter school law to allow a charter school to give enrollment priority to students enrolled in another charter school that does not offer the next grade level. Accordingly, North Carolina General Statute Section 115C-218.45(f)(6) now provides:

The charter school may give enrollment priority to any of the following: ...

(6) A student who was enrolled in another charter school in the State in the previous school year that does not offer the student's next grade level and both of the charter schools have an enrollment articulation agreement to accept students or are governed by the same board of directors.

This Articulation Agreement between the signatory schools, Research Triangle High School ("RTHS") and Discovery Charter School ("DCS"), is intended to utilize this provision in this charter law to allow RTHS to give enrollment priority to students at DCS as set forth herein. This Articulation Agreement sets forth the eligibility requirements for DCS students to receive priority lottery position at RTHS. It also sets forth the process RTHS and DCS will utilize under this Articulation Agreement.

II. PURPOSE/INTENT

Discovery Charter School is a 6-8 public charter school and does not offer high school. DCS is a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) focused charter school with a diverse student population comprised of majority minority students many of whom are from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. The mission of DCS is to prepare students to be self-motivated, lifelong, independent and collaborative learners through a challenging STEAM-focused curriculum in an innovative and supportive environment. DCS endeavors to provide its students with a variety of choices for high school in accordance with each student's interests and academic strengths.

RTHS is a high school offering grades 9-12. The mission of Research Triangle High School is to increase access to globally competitive Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education for students and teachers across North Carolina, by incubating, proving and scaling innovative models of teaching and learning. As part if its mission, RTHS is committed to increasing access to STEM education for minority and socio-economically disadvantaged students.

The Articulation Agreement between the signatory schools, RTHS and DCS, is intended to further the mission of each school and provide an opportunity for DCS students who wish to continue their education at a public charter school as contemplated by North Carolina General Statute 115C-218.45(f)(6).

III. ELIGIBLITY

To be eligible to receive priority enrollment at RTHS, a DCS student must meet the following requirements:

- 1. Be enrolled in DCS as an 8th grader at the time the student submits a lottery application.
- 2. Academically prepared to be able to complete Algebra I by the end of 9th grade.

IV. PROCESS

If a DCS student meets the eligibility requirements set forth in this Articulation Agreement, that student will be given priority enrollment at RTHS for the academic year for which the student is applying pursuant to RTHS's priority enrollment policies, which are attached hereto as Appendix A. However, nothing in this Articulation Agreement guarantees that an DCS student will be offered admission to RTHS. Representatives at each signatory school will meet either in person or via telephone to discuss any student interested in the priority enrollment set forth under this Articulation Agreement as necessary.

V. BOARD APPROVAL/TERMINATION

In accordance with North Carolina law, this Articulation Agreement must be voted on and adopted by each signatory school's Board of Director's as set forth in their bylaws. Once adopted, the signatory schools will sign this Articulation Agreement. Each signatory school reserves the right to terminate this Articulation Agreement at any time by providing written notice to the other school.

Discovery Charter School	Date	
Research Triangle High School	Date	

APPENDIX A

RTHS current Board Admissions/Lottery Policies, with 2.e. to be approved at January 2021 BOD meeting

- 1. Lottery
- a. If it is discovered after the student's name has been drawn in the lottery that information was withheld from the school during the application process, and this information would have made the student ineligible for admission to RTHS, the school may rescind the offer of admission and remove the student from the school's enrollment.
- b. In keeping with the school's mission of increasing access to globally competitive STEM education, as stated in the charter application, 40% of the incoming ninth grade class is reserved for students entering Math 1.
- 2. Lottery Preferences (all refer to G.S. 115C-238.29F(g)(5a)): Preferences will be given to students meeting the following conditions, according to RTHS Board policy and NC General Statute:
- a. Siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted to the charter school in a previous year. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "siblings" includes any of the following who reside in the same household: half siblings, stepsiblings, and children residing in a family foster home.
- b. Siblings of students who have completed the highest grade level offered by that school and who were enrolled in at least four grade levels offered by the charter school or, if less than four grades are offered, in the maximum number of grades offered by the charter school.
- c. Limited to no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the school's total enrollment, unless granted a waiver by the State Board of Education, the following:
- i. Children of the school's full-time employees. In the event that an employee is hired after the lottery for that year has been drawn, the student may still be enrolled. Children of employees may be eligible for enrollment if they are rising eleventh or rising twelfth graders.
 - ii. Children of the charter school's Board of Directors.
- d. A student who was enrolled in the charter school within the two previous school years but left the school (i) to participate in an academic study abroad program or a competitive admission residential program or (ii) because of the vocational opportunities of the student's parent.
- e. RTHS will allow students who attend Global Scholars Academy, Maureen Joy Charter School, Healthy Start Academy, or Discovery Charter School to be granted enrollment priority under NC G.S. 115C-218.45(f)(b).
- f. RTHS will grant admissions preference for children of all employees. In the event that an employee is hired after the lottery for that year has been drawn, the student may still be enrolled. Children of employees may be eligible for enrollment if they are rising eleventh or rising twelfth graders.

Monthly Finance Report

Section: III. Finance

Item: A. Monthly Finance Report

Purpose: FY

Submitted by:

Related Material: FY 2020-21 Budget Update 12.31.20.xlsx

Notice

The following file is attached to this PDF. You will need to open this packet in an application that supports attachments to pdf files, e.g. <u>Adobe Reader</u>:

FY 2020-21 Budget Update 12.31.20.xlsx

Finance Committee Updates

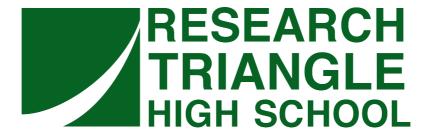
Section: III. Finance

Item: B. Finance Committee Updates

Purpose: FYI

Submitted by:

Related Material: 2021_01_15_monthly_governance_meeting_minutes.pdf



Research Triangle High School

Minutes

Monthly Governance Meeting

Date and Time

Friday January 15, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Location

https://unc.zoom.us/j/8331542090

The RTHS Board of Directors meets monthly on the Third Wednesday of each month, except for December and July. Meetings are held onsite at 5:30pm until 7pm, upstairs in the FBC Conference Room.

https://unc.zoom.us/j/8331542090

Committee Members Present

C. Mugge, G. Rodgers, M. Johnson

Committee Members Absent

C. Rao

Guests Present

E. Grunden

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Johnson called a meeting of the Governance Committee of Research Triangle High School to order on Friday Jan 15, 2021 @ 1:10 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

II. Governance

A. Discuss Governance Action Items

Discuss role of flywheel and how the board would benefit from a staff member assisting with meeting logistics

Eric to contact a staff member Mark to start a document describing flywheel tasks

we need a macro cadence doc - rough schedule of board activities throughout the year

and a micro - board duties over the course of a month

Development Committee Issues / Goals Status

Section: V. Development

Item: A. Development Committee Issues / Goals Status

Purpose: FY

Submitted by:

Related Material: 2021_01_13_development_committee_meeting_minutes.pdf

Board SWOT Presentation.pptx



Research Triangle High School

Minutes

Development Committee Meeting

Monthly Development Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 13, 2021 at 2:30 PM

Location

Zoom Call during pandemic

https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/94317644302

The Development Committee meets monthly - one week prior to the Board Meeting. If possible, please attend the meeting the meeting in person in Ashley's office. Alternately, you can connect in through zoom at:

https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/94317644302

Committee Members Present

A. Fenoglio (remote), C. Mugge (remote), N. Danehower (remote), S. Rivers-Kobler (remote), T. Medhin (remote)

Committee Members Absent

M. Johnson

Guests Present

E. Grunden (remote), Nocha van Thielen (remote), Sarah Hanawald (remote)

I. Opening Items

- A. Record Attendance and Guests
- B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Mugge called a meeting of the Development Committee of Research Triangle High School to order on Wednesday Jan 13, 2021 @ 2:30 PM.

II. Development

A. Development Update

We deferred the general update and focused on the meeting planned for Jan 21st with all organizations and discussion on the Dev Strategy.

B. Discuss 2020 Strategic Development Action Items

- Discussion on Meetings with all RTHS organizations
 - PTSO leaders joined the meeting and introduced themselves and are anxious to work with the Board - Nocha is the President and Sarah is the Fundraising Chair
 - Discussed the purpose of the meeting on the 21st and the need to be transparent
 - Discussed keep points to emphasize at the meeting
 - Get a better understanding of activities to ensure that we are being effective and efficient
 - Coordinate efforts especially when we are dealing with the same stakeholders - parents and companies
 - Pool volunteer hours to gain grants from large companies
- · Discussion on Dev. Strategy and Landscaping project
 - Carmen again relayed the concerns from the Board to approve spending on landscaping project without getting context on prioritization process and approvals
 - PTSO reps relayed that they have committed to \$50K to the school and it was approved by their members
 - Nan and Ashley agreed they they would put together a presentation for the Board - a SWOT is a key tool to begin the discussion to identify the priorities. Staff input is also important to ID gaps.
 - $\,{}^{\circ}$ Target to put on the agenda on the 20th.

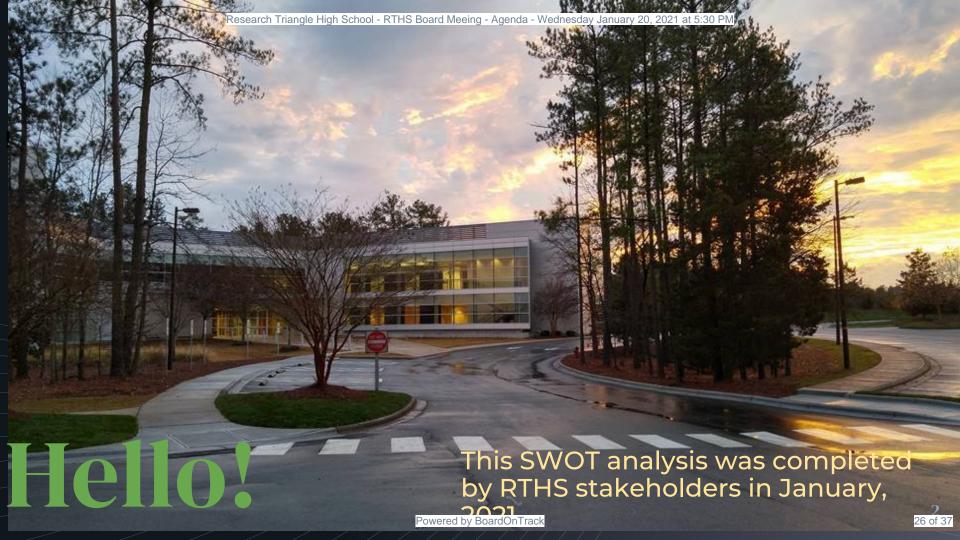
III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, C. Mugge

January 20, 2021 RTHS SWOT Analysis



What is our current School-wide Reality?

- → Vertical alignment
- → STEM & ARTs opportunities
- External learning opportunities
- → Personalized learning focus

Data

- → Consistent platform for data collection
- → Use of universal screener

Environment/Culture

- → Parents/students self select
- → We know and care about each student
- → Community of shared respect
- Community of shared decision making
- → Student leadership
- → Daily mentoring sessions

Teaching/Learning

- → Teacher knowledge of content
- → Teacher commitment to continuous learning; sacred professional development time
- → Teacher flexibility
- → Technology support staff
- → Technology resources
- → Structured system for student support
- → Remote Learning Transition

- → Rigid schedule
- → Rigid requirements for courses
- → Rigid testing requirements

Data

- → Structures of Grading Practices
- → Teacher knowledge of assessment and progress monitoring

Teaching/Learning

- → Staff capacity to meet needs of all students
- → Rapid movement from initiative to initiative
- → Teachers lack time for dedicated professional learning

Environment/Culture

- → Lack of ownership by community, cohesive community
- → Community giving
- → Current educational system was developed within a foundation of systemic racism.
- → Relationships with feeder schools
- → Interior teaching and learning spaces are too rigid and traditional
 - Number of classrooms
 - Fixed furniture spaces
- Exterior teaching and learning spaces are too rigid and traditional
 - Ugly office building
 - No teaching and learning spaces outside

- → Build a schedule that allows for more connections and fewer siloed learning experiences
- → Site-based decision-making about
 - Schedule
 - Courses
 - Assessment tools

RTHS can be an agile, innovative school because of our size, staff, students and charter.

Environment/Culture

- → Increase systems that root out racism and inequity.
- → Stakeholders hold one another accountable to the vision and values.
- → Build more partnerships with community
 - RTP
 - Families
 - Universities
 - Hospitals
 - Feeder Schools
- → Redesign interior spaces to provide more flexible innovative teaching and learning opportunities.
- → Redesign exterior spaces to provide more flexible innovating teaching and learning opportunities.

Powered by BoardOnTrac

Data

- → Focused implementation on Student System of Supports
- → Teacher learning about interventions and assessing growth

Teaching/Learning

- Continued focus on personalized learning for teachers and students
- → Add targeted staff to meet student needs.
- → Add more authentic learning opportunities.

- → Wider course opportunities at other comparable schools
- → Messaging about mission of school as college preparatory

Data

- → Perception of how we collect and use data
- → Understanding of Grading practices in general
- → Understanding of how WE do grades (growth>grades)

Teaching/Learning

- → Unstable budget dependent upon outside factors
- → Full teacher ownership of growth and personalized learning
- → Support or release staff who are not willing or able to grow and change.

Environment/Culture

- → First impressions of our spaces inside and out do not 1 -meet the same professional level as the building itself, 2-appear organized and well maintained, and 3-provide teaching and learning spaces like other comparable schools provide
- → Athletic programs are more of a focus in other schools
- → Alumni base is not attached to school
- → RTHS students come from a broad geographic area
- → Focus on too many initiatives
- Perception of language around "college preparatory school"
- → New Privated Charter High Schools planned in area
- → Lack of school transportation

Data

- Audit what data can and should be collected in school.
- Determine how this data can inform our instruction and choices.
- Choosing tools to collect further needed data.

Curriculum

- Re-envisioning schedule to open opportunities and Building knowledge of faculty around assessment tools to support student growth.
- Audit courses for equity and race content. Revise as PLCs.

Teaching/Learning

- Examine current teacher evaluation model and revise for our specific school.
- Hire targeted staff to meet student needs.

Research Triangle High School - RTHS Board Meeing - Agenda - Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM **Priorities**

Environment/Culture

- Engage all stakeholders in an audit of current culture to identify racism and inequity.
- Use results to create and implement a plan for addressing racism and inequity.
- Stakeholders hold one another accountable to the vision and values.
- First impressions of our spaces inside and out do not 1-meet the same professional level as the building itself, 2-appear organized and well maintained, and 3provide teaching and learning spaces like other comparable schools provide.
- Build more partnerships with community
- Create a unified community giving plan
- Provide transportation for students

Development Potential Areas of Support

Short Term Environment/Culture Support

- 1. Hold one another accountable to the vision and values.
- 1. Engage all stakeholders in an audit of current culture to identify racism and inequity.
- 1. Use results to create and implement a plan for addressing racism and inequity.
- 1. Provide transportation for students.
- Design the exterior appearance of the building to include teaching and learning spaces, a field for student activity, and organized areas for landscaping.
- Design interior spaces to provide more flexible innovative teaching and learning opportunities.
- 1. Build more partnerships with community.
- 1. Create a unified community giving plan.

If you have questions about this data:

Question and Answer Document

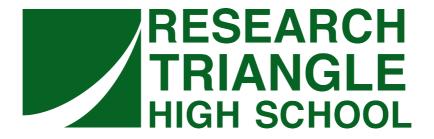
Flywheel Initiative

Section: VI. Governance Item: B. Flywheel Initiative

Purpose: FY

Submitted by:

Related Material: 2021_01_15_monthly_governance_meeting_minutes.pdf



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and a micro - board duties over the course of a month