Research Triangle High School

Academic Excellence Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday September 11, 2024 at 12:00 PM EDT

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

https://rthighschool.zoom.us/j/93566460638

Meeting ID: 935 6646 0638

One tap mobile

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The RTHS Academic Excellence Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month, except in December and July. Meetings are held virtually from 12:00 until 1:00 PM.

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**12:00 PM**
A.	Record Attendance		Jeni Corn	5 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Jeni Corn	1 m

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
II. New Business			**12:06 PM**
A. Items for Discussion	Discuss	Jeni Corn	40 m

• Welcome and Introductions
• Overview of Purpose of the RTHS Academic Excellence Committee
• Discuss Committee Priorities for the 2024-25 School Year
• Determine Committee Topics for Full Board Update

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
III. Other Business			**12:46 PM**
A. Other Business	Discuss	Jeni Corn	10 m

Committee members may introduce additional items for discussion.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
IV. Closing Items			**12:56 PM**
A. Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Jeni Corn	1 m

Coversheet

Items for Discussion

Section: II. New Business
Item: A. Items for Discussion
Purpose: Discuss
Submitted by:
Related Material: Role_of_the_RTHS_AE_Com_2014.04.pdf

Role of the RTHS Academic Excellence Committee

The purpose of the Research Triangle High School (RTHS) Academic Excellence Committee is expressed in a policy enacted by the RTHS Board of Directors, which states the following:

"To ensure the school fulfills its goals, the RTHS Board Academic Excellence Committee monitors student achievement, teacher capabilities, instructional model implementation, and technique sharing with other institutions using test data, CSO reports and teacher evaluations by the CSO. "

Consistent with this policy, the main purpose of the Academic Excellence Committee is to measure the academic results of the school against the goals laid out in the charter. This document serves to describe the duties and role of the RTHS Academic Excellence Committee, and captures the relevant goals from the charter.

Duties

The Academic Excellence Committee ensures that:

- The board and CSO have a clear and shared definition of "academic excellence" for the organization.
- The board and CSO have a clear and shared sense of how well the organization is currently performing in reaching that definition of excellence.
- The board and CSO agree on what the next steps the organization will take in order to reach that goal of excellence.
- All trustees understand the promises in the charter and understand how well the organization is currently performing against those promises.
- All trustees understand what standardized assessments the school administers, what each one assesses, when each one is administered, and how the data from each is used to inform teaching and programmatic changes.
- The board and CEO have a clear and structured process for updating the board on the organization's performance on key academic outcomes on a regular basis.
- When academic-outcome data is presented to the board, it is presented in a comparative context (e.g., against comparables of how the organization has performed in the past, how other schools in the area have performed, and how other high performing schools have performed) so that trustees can assess the organization's overall strength of performance meaningfully.
- Work with CSO to provide board training, as necessary, to understand how the organization is achieving the board approved goals.

	CSO Role	Committee Role
Goal Setting	• Work with the committee to develop goals/timeline for reporting on progress towards academic goals and propose them to the committee for discussion and feedback • Present finalized goals/reporting timeline to the full board for approval	• Work with the CSO to develop proposed goals/reporting timeline • Ask questions to ensure that the goals are (1) ambitious and (2) achievable. (These judgments are made relative to the organization's charter promises, other schools' performances, the organization's own past performance.) • Recommend finalized goals/reporting timeline to the full board for approval; ensure that all trustees understand goals

	CSO Role	**Committee Role**
Progress Monitoring	• Provide the committee with data to assess progress towards goals on the agreed upon timeline • Present updates on data to full board on agreed upon timeline	• Work with the CSO to review data to assess progress towards goals on agreed-upon timeline • Ask probing questions to better understand the data and help the CSO to be thoughtful about the data • Help CSO to frame data for presentation to the full board
Instructional Decision Making	• Select and implement curricula, training, and materials necessary for successful instruction	• Sounding board for CSO's ideas on how to improve instructional practices and curricula based on student performance data
Staff Oversight	• Hire and train all staff • Oversee and evaluate all staff	• Ensure that CSO has created and implemented staff evaluation and feedback procedures • Monitor results through staff surveys and through staff retention data

What the Academic Excellence Committee Does Not Do

The Academic Excellence Committees does not engage over *inputs*—the means by which the school pursues its mission—rather than *outcomes*—the objective data used to assess how well the school is meeting its mission. Inputs are management level issues, which should be handled by the CSO. Outcomes are what the board should be focused on and governing towards. The Academic Excellence Committees helps the CSO set clear goals for the year of outcomes that are related to the mission and then sets up checkpoints throughout the year to meet with the CEO to monitor progress towards those goals.

The Academic Excellence Committee also does not:

- Evaluate teachers
- Select, design, or review the quality of curricula
- Plan professional development for teachers
- Interact with teachers or other staff members on a regular basis (i.e., daily or weekly)
- Interact with families or students on a regular basis (i.e., daily or weekly)
- Present themselves as an outlet for staff, family, or student complaints or concerns that have not first been formally addressed to the CSO

Committee Membership

The Academic Excellence Committee should include at least some members with strong analytical skills who need not be educators, in order to help the CSO to define metrics that can best inform the school's goals, and to monitor those metrics to assess progress toward those goals. It is also useful for some committee members to have a background in education in order to help the CSO and the committee to interpret the data and to serve as a sounding board for some of the CSO's ideas regarding potential new instructional practices and curricula. However, it is not necessary to have a background in education in order to be an effective committee member.

RTHS Goals and Objectives as Drawn from the Charter

Goal 1: Student Achievement. Develop literate graduates ready for college, as independent self-learners. Accelerate learning for all students, such that they cover more years of material in their four years in high school, whether they enter behind the average or vastly ahead, as a way to prepare all students for college. Prepare students for the 21st century workforce by instilling in them the skills and habits of thinking that our global companies are seeking. This requires us to guide young people to become independent, innovative problem solvers.

> **Objective 1.1: Content Mastery.** Move all students through a rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum. All students need to learn the core curriculum of math, the sciences, English, history, a language, and the arts in order to graduate as educated, college-bound young people.

> **Objective 1.2: Independence and Initiative.** Move each student from being a teacher-directed dependent learner to an independent, self-guided one – making their own choices through Flipped courses about how they can best learn required ideas and concepts.

> **Objective 1.3: Critical Thinking.** Develop strong critical thinking, group and collaboration skills, e.g. through Flipped learning-based teacher observation and guidance, labs, and group activities.

> **Objective 1.4: Professionalism.** Advance students into RTP internships in science research, marketing and communications, or business office skills.

Goal 2: Faculty Professional Development. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunities to be responsible for the learning program at the school site. Foster professional development and teacher effectiveness.

> **Objective 2.1:** Maximize teacher effectiveness as it relates directly to student achievement.

> **Objective 2.2:** Ensure effective instruction through a well-balanced mix of planning, execution, investment, and engagement.

> **Objective 2.3:** Seek and implement teachers' general feedback, suggestions related to staff professional development, and ideas on mentoring of Residents outside RTHS.

Goal 3: Access. Increase access to globally competitive STEM education for students and faculty at the school, and for those beyond.

> **Objective 3.1:** Make RTHS accessible to all; achieve full enrollment with socioeconomic, ethnic, and scholastic diversity in the RTHS student population.

> **Objective 3.2:** Meet and exceed the majority of attributes captured in NC STEM's Collaborative Score Card (if still relevant) for STEM schools in NC.

> **Objective 3.3:** Develop greater numbers of teens prepared to pursue globally competitive careers in STEM industries, from technician to scientist-level work.

> **Objective 3.4:** Incubate innovative models of teaching and learning while remaining abreast of best practices, e.g. through visits to several national models of STEM schools.

> **Objective 3.5:** Develop and disseminate RTHS methods so that a growing pool of rural & local district teachers learn, incorporate, adopt and spread new RTHS tools and techniques into their schools.