

YEAREND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

The School Advisory Council was established to serve in an advisory capacity to the Regis Jesuit President and Principals on matters concerning the school. The Council discusses and provides input on timely topics as requested by Mr. Sullivan or the Principals or other matters requested by Council members deemed timely based on their interaction with the Regis Jesuit community. There are currently 15 alumni/parent and five RJ staff members on the School Advisory Council. Sharing of information is an important principle for the Council and it is in this spirit that the Council presents its midyear summary of activity for the 2015-16 school year.

SEPTEMBER

Solar Installation Project. Rick Sullivan, VP of Operations, presented a plan to bring a zero-cost solar project to RJ. The school would agree to buy electricity at a 10% discount from the prevailing Xcel rate. The merits of roof-based and carport-based designs were discussed. The SAC consensus recommendation was the carport-based design.

OCTOBER

Rick Sullivan Introduction: Rick Sullivan was introduced as the Interim President, following Fr. Sheridan's resignation. Rick presented the general overview for the search process for the next President, which would be led by Board Chair Tony Naes '80 and expressed his willingness to serve until that person was found.

School Finances: Rick talked about school finances, noting a major concern is the endowment, and the goal to grow it from \$11M to \$40M vs. an operating budget of \$27M. Rick also observed that in 5-7 years, 50 – 60% of students will need aid vs. the current 25% now on some form of tuition assistance. We will need to disperse double the current \$3.2M aid. The SAC members all agreed that more transparency on financial needs and where the money is spent would be good for the entire RJ community.

NOVEMBER

Student Giving Program: Rick Sullivan discussed the student giving program launched by the Advancement Office this year. The idea is to instill in students from day one a sense of giving back and inculcating a culture of philanthropy. The school will establish class-endowed scholarships starting with freshman contributors. We are looking to tap into the "power of 100%" even if individual contributions are small.

- In 10 years, we expect 60% of RJ students to receive financial aid.
- Most Jesuit schools have 25–35% of alumni contributing, but only 10% of RJ alums currently support the school financially

RJ Student Life: Rick described what this is about. It started as a way to address drugs and alcohol, then it grew into a broader spectrum. Raising kids is difficult. Counselors report that the issues facing kids are all intertwined. Self-esteem is reinforced by social media. There is much more internet awareness than ever before and lots of stress among students. Their world requires sophisticated decisions from teens. The college process and the knowledge of a tough job market down the road add even more stress. SAC members discussed several ways to communicate with kids about the choices that they make. As always, parent involvement is vital. The school will continue to seek ways to provide information and advice to help students make good choices.

Executive Chef and Food Service Plans: Director of Communications Charisse Broderick King talked about the RJ food program. With the two cafeterias and snack bar, the operation is complex, but there was no singular oversight that would allow for streamlining of ordering processes, food prep, etc. which would help reduce costs and improve food quality and nutrition. The school decided to hire an Executive Chef who could address these issues and also expand the program. Since Chef Andrés Arboleda was hired in August, RJ has already decreased its use of processed food from 85% to 60% with a target of 20%, and has upgraded the quality of ingredients. The Chef also does catering for smaller school events. The cost savings from the efficiencies instituted and bringing some catering costs into the school more than cover the salary for the Chef.

JANUARY

School Safety: Rick Sullivan presented efforts RJ has made to improve safety. It's an initiative he took on four years ago at Fr. Steele's request. Kelli Lotito and Mike Doherty have also been part of this work. Literally dozens of projects have been executed. Highlights include faculty/staff training; "incident command" approach (a Department of Homeland Security template) to safety; incident action planning before events like retreats, meets, etc; first aid training for about half the staff; hiring of five security specialists. There are now at least two security people on site from 7:00 am–4:00 pm and one person from 4:00–7:00 pm. In addition, bullying, alcohol abuse and dating abuse were three areas of focus from asking students. The Side By Side and Safe 2 Tell programs were started in response. The school gets several calls on this per week, mainly kids concerned about other kids' mental states or abuse situations. Finally, some physical strengthening (doors, windows) has been added to buildings. The Council discussed further steps that can be taken to improve campus security, including additional ways in which our onsite security team can provide protection. The Council agreed with the recommendation to expand camera monitoring to more of the campus. Finally, the Council consensus was that locking all doors during school hours and providing keyless entry is a worthwhile cost vs. our current open door situation.

FEBRUARY

Safety and Security Communications: Charisse Broderick King reported on a test of the lockdown drill during a lunch period. This was the first time a drill was run when no students were in a classroom. The SAC noted that clarification of lockout vs. lockdown is still needed for parents. From the January lockdown event, the initial information sent out was great. It was recommended that additional updates are provided during events.

Curriculum: Gretchen Kessler, Alan Carruthers and Ken Bostdorff explained what they are doing to get middle schoolers exposure to RJ and what colleges are expecting from prep schools. The school will add robotics and AP computer programming next year. Budget allowing, the school is looking to hire a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) coordinator next year. Scheduling difficulties and constraints were discussed. SAC members discussed more utilization of JVLA (Jesuit Virtual Learning Academy) for online options and providing life skills classes for students. AP classes are still deemed useful even if fewer colleges grant credit. The school will continue to evaluate SAT vs. ACT but stay with the ACT for now.

MARCH

There was no SAC meeting in March to allow for attendance at the State of the School meeting.

APRIL

RJ Mission Statement: Jim Broderick King '87 and Fr. Tom Rochford, SJ '64 presented a draft of the new RJ mission statement to be rolled out next year. It is part of the strategic plan and would replace the current mission statement, which is more than 20 years old. It adds in the context of the new Jesuit mission statement in the U.S. It is brief and succinct, using action words. It tries to avoid Latin terms and RJ jargon. The Mission Statement is 'what we do'; Values: 'how we do it'; Vision: 'what we want as a result.'

Enrollment and Re-Enrollment Process: Traci Holinger presented changes to the enrollment and re-enrollment processes and asked for feedback. The process has been streamlined over time. The SAC provided some additional feedback and suggestions for further improvements.

State of the School Meeting: Rick Sullivan, Alan Carruthers, and Gretchen Kessler discussed how the State of the School event went. There were about 50 in attendance and an unquantified number viewing online and on YouTube rebroadcasts. The SAC provided some ideas for future improvements.

MAY

The SAC met in May to celebrate another year's work and thank those who would be moving on from the Council for their service and to elect new leaders for 2016-17. Lori Finch was elected as Chair, and Marc Zarlengo '96 will serve as Vice Chair. We are grateful to Brian Bornhorst, Jennifer DiBiase, Bryan Goodwin, Dave Lennert, Kelly Moran and Lurette Morton for the work on the School Advisory Council these last years.

The application process for the six open seats on the School Advisory Council will open this summer and the new members will be selected in August.