

YEAREND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

The School Advisory Council (SAC) 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. Card or the Principals; in addition, the Council also provides feedback on other matters requested by Council members deemed timely based on their interaction with the Regis Jesuit community. There are currently 15 parents (some of whom are also alumni) and four 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 mid-year summary of activity for the 2017-18 school year.

SEPTEMBER

School Advisory Council (SAC) reviewed and agreed upon the 2017-18 agenda items and calendar dates. President Card presented a review of the RJ Strategic Plan, goals and school reorganization plans. The SAC members were encouraged to promote the benefits of involvement in RJ community to other parents and students. The annual Homecoming letter to parents was reviewed and adapted to include warning information about vaping and dripping.

OCTOBER

Rick Sullivan, VP of Operations, presented an in-depth presentation about a potential new food services program that will address the school's need for variety, healthy food choices, and a more streamlined, cost-efficient program. The SAC members had lots of questions about costs, volunteer opportunities, and rollout. President Card updated the SAC on the school reorganization and structure with a goal to present the plan to the RJ community in January. He also noted the strides made at RJHS in increasing cultural and economic diversity, with a goal to have the RJ student body mirror that of the Denver metro area. He also hopes to increase administration accessibility to the student body by working more effectively through the Student Council.

NOVEMBER

Rick Sullivan, VP of Operations, gave a detailed presentation of the Campus Master Plan, outlining potential plans for the RJ property, including the recently acquired kennel land, athletic areas and possible STEAM building. Efforts to move a master plan continue to move forward with engineering reports and construction cost estimates. Goals remain to keep tuition costs down, increase teacher salaries and continue building the school's endowment. Plans for the new food service program were in progress with four dining services presenting proposals for a retail option rollout.

JANUARY

President Card gave an overview of the Organizational Assessment Steering Committee (OASC) recommendations. He outlined the goals of the OASC and detailed the recommendations to hire one principal and streamline administration through one lead for the Girls Division and one for the Boys. There will also be a new position overseeing efforts associated with mission, ministry and diversity. The goal is to hire the new principal by summer of 2018 and continue with the implementation of the new plan over the next three years. Communication of regarding the transition to the new structure is updated and dispersed to the RJ community via a dedicated webpage via the RJ website; www.regisjesuit.com/RJ2020. There will be combined departments where it makes logical sense and teachers will be able to teach in both divisions.

Christina Vela, Boys Diversity Director, gave a rich presentation on the diversity of the student body and the faculty and staff. RJ continues to build a diverse community and promotes diversity through student clubs, a parent diversity committee and the Diversity Day conference. RJ strives to build a diverse teacher staff, but there is a teacher shortage nationwide.

FEBRUARY

President Card presented an update of the position announcements, informing the SAC that all transitional leaders are in place and all eight interim administrative positions have been filled. All positions will be filled by summer 2018 so the new principal will arrive to a well-functioning staff. There were more than a dozen applicants for the principal position. That position is expected to be filled this summer.

The SAC discussed the issue of lower parental volunteerism. Regarding tuition and financial aid, there will be a 4% tuition increase for next year with some funding going to increased salaries, counseling and learning services. Financial aid is increasing as well. Admissions to RJ is becoming increasingly competitive and the SAC was asked to convey to other parents trust in the admissions process in seating a well-rounded class that will succeed in our academic environment.

MARCH

President Card proposed that the structure of the SAC change to be able to better advise the administration during this time of organizational change and to add members who can advise the administration regarding the emotional health of our students. The group agreed this would be a good way to provide helpful and constructive input going forward.

Jason Beyer, STEAM Coordinator, presented the plans for STEAM integration throughout our departments. Rick Sullivan, VP of Operations, and David Card, President, detailed plans for campus safety and security, including adding trained and qualified security members to the team. Drills of all emergency procedures continue to be conducted regularly, and the school continues to benefit for utilizing the Safe-2-Tell reporting system.

APRIL

David Card updated the SAC committee regarding the re-organization process. We ended up having 20 applicants for principal and narrowed those down to three strong candidates. The three candidates all visited campus for in-person interviews, which included drop-in sessions for parents.

Departmental unification is progressing well, with most departments beginning operations under the new structure as early as fall semester. Over time, RJ will continue to adjust and fine tune the department structure for optimal success and streamlined processes. Goals are to bring in the class of 2022 seamlessly, streamline the organization to enable clear communication and sound timely decision-making, to protect the single gender learning environment, and to ensure an optimal quality educational experience for our students.

President Card led a lively discussion about athletics, pointing out that 60% of RJ students participate in sports and there is a “no-cut” sport offered in every season. Formation of coaches continues to be paramount, with both coaches and athletes to be examples of hard work, integrity, loyalty and school pride. RJ wants sports to provide an opportunity for growth in discipline and compassion.

Chair Wheeler opened a discussion on healthy technology use depicting the impact of technology on today’s high school students’ mental, physical and emotional health. The administration will use the best research and experts to make decisions regarding technology to protect the health of our students.

MAY

The final SAC meeting for the 2017-18 academic year included an update on the status of the organizational restructure, primarily the hiring of the new principal.

The four SAC members completing their terms this year were acknowledged in gratitude for their dedicated service. New leadership for the 2018-19 was elected: Tom Wheeler, Tara Joseph-Labrie and Lucy O'Shaughnessy will continue in their respective roles as Chair, Vice Chair and Liaison to the Student Life Committee. Marina Heusch will take over from Julia Walsh as Secretary. We ended by celebrating the service of Gretchen Kessler and Alan Carruthers.

The School Advisory Council welcomes your input! If you have a comment or topic suggestion for the School Advisory Council, please email communications@regisjesuit.com.