

Summary & Minutes

10.9.25 RRHS SIT Meeting

Summary

This School Improvement Team meeting covered multiple operational aspects of Rocky River High School. The team reviewed the school improvement plan which guides all work through 2029, with **specific focus indicators** required due to the school's "low performing" status. A required Title IX briefing explained policies and procedures for handling sexual harassment cases under the 2020 Final Rule, with Dr. High serving as the school's Title IX liaison. MTSS data showed concerning **chronic absenteeism rates (31-37% across grade levels)** with attendance challenges attributed partially to McKinney-Vento students requiring special transportation arrangements. The team also discussed safety protocols including the "I Love You Guys" system for emergency responses and upcoming canine visits to ensure campus safety.

Additional updates included technology distribution reaching **96% of students** with a goal of one-to-one device access, cell phone policy implementation data showing most violations coming from freshmen, and the Device Care Canvas course completion rate of 72%. The PTSA board provided updates on upcoming events including a TopGolf spirit night and reported current finances of \$3,057.53, noting a slight increase in membership compared to the previous year.

Action items

No action items detected.

Decisions

No decisions detected.

Topics

School Improvement Plan and Title I Funding

- The district's placemat outlines goals and guardrails not only for this academic year but extending to 2029. These goals **guide all work, projects, funding, and initiatives** throughout CharlotteMecklenburg Schools until then. 03:32
- The School Improvement Plan resides on the INDISTAR platform and is accessible via the school website under "About Us and School Improvement." Both team members and general public can access it, though with **different login credentials**. 05:05
- The school has identified specific focus indicators for the academic year, some of which are **required due to their "low performing" status** from last year's data. These

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indicators guide both instructional priorities and financial decisions for Title 1 funds.
05:58

- The Comprehensive Progress Report shows detailed action items aligned to each indicator, including progress monitoring narratives. This is a **living document updated daily** that tracks implementation of improvement strategies and Title 1 spending. 07:43
- Title 1 funds have already been utilized for several family engagement activities including open house, new student orientation, and curriculum night. **All spending must align with and be approved through** the school improvement plan goals. 08:56

Title IX Policies and Procedures

- As a legal requirement, the school must brief the School Improvement Team on Title IX twice per year. This presentation represents the **first semester briefing** with another to follow in semester two. 09:37
- Title IX operates under the **2020 Final Rule** which dictates how schools handle incidents at both school and district levels. The federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender and gender identity. 10:26
- The 2020 rule defines sexual harassment in three categories: quid pro quo from employees, hostile environment (unwelcome conduct that is objectively offensive and so severe and pervasive it limits participation), and violence including dating/domestic violence and stalking. 11:19
- When handling potential Title IX incidents, **best practice is always to call the Title IX office as a first step**. Not all incidents involving private body parts automatically fall under Title IX - they must meet specific criteria defined in the rule. 13:19
- Schools may provide various supportive measures including counseling, restorative conferences, schedule changes, no-contact agreements, seating changes, and referrals to outside agencies. The **grievance process** may include supportive measures only, informal resolution, or formal investigation. 16:36
- Formal Title IX investigations follow the 2020 Final Rule with an equitable, unbiased process that includes written notifications, two 10-day evidence review periods, and separate investigators and decision makers, **taking 75 days on average** to complete. 18:15
- CMS uses the **preponderance of evidence standard** ("More Likely than not") when investigating complaints, weighing evidence to determine if it's more likely than not that the formal complaint occurred as alleged. 19:01
- Student Code of Conduct Rules 27 (non-Title IX sexual misconduct) and Rule 28 (Title IX sexual harassment) address violations with consequences ranging from short-term suspension to expulsion, with Rule 28 violations handled through the district's Title IX department. 19:26
- Students have specific rights including reporting incidents to law enforcement, submitting complaints to school administration, having complaints investigated equitably, being accompanied by an advisor, and accessing outside resources like crisis counselors. 22:34

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- The school's **Title IX liaison this year is Dr. High**, and reports of sex-based harassment can be submitted to any school staff member. Michelle Jean Jamal serves as the district Title IX coordinator with information posted on the school website.

MTSS Updates on Attendance, Behavior, and Academic Data

- The school participates in a district pilot program with **weekly leadership team meetings** analyzing attendance, behavior, academic, and graduation cohort data with student services team, administrators, and district performance partners. 24:26
- **Chronic absenteeism rates by grade level** show concerning trends: 9th grade at 31.28%, 10th grade at 37.32%, 11th grade at 32.03%, and 12th grade at 36.02%, with the attendance team implementing incentives and home visits in response. 24:59
- Behavior data shows 40 out-of-school suspensions (OSS) and 45 in-school suspensions (ISS) for September 2025, compared to 27 OSS and 124 ISS in September 2024, with the increase in OSS attributed to the continued cell phone policy enforcement. 25:29
- Academic updates include Math 1 students taking iReady diagnostic tests to support small group instruction and 324 credit recovery enrollments (representing course sections, not individual students). 25:55
- For the 2022 graduation cohort, 336 students should be graduating but **31 students are currently off track**, with counselors creating support plans to address their needs. 26:06

Safety and Security Protocols

- The school is implementing the **"I Love You Guys" protocol** across CMS, which operates with three core programs: Standard Response Protocol (SRP), Standard Reunification Method (SRM), and Reunification Exercise Training (REX). 27:52
- The protocol is widely implemented across 50,000 schools, supporting 20 million students, 1 million educators, and 100,000 law enforcement personnel, with specific actions for hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate, and shelter scenarios. 28:38
- An **upcoming canine visit** is scheduled to support campus safety and reinforce a secure learning environment, ensuring rule compliance and student safety. 29:21
- The school conducts regular safety drills including lockdown, evacuation, and fire drills with full staff participation to ensure everyone knows proper procedures and locations. 29:32
- The **"Capturing Kids Hearts"** program's monthly focus is on self-direction, encouraging students to take ownership of their actions, choices, and learning rather than adopting a victim mentality. 29:54

Technology Access and Device Distribution

- The school is working toward a **one-to-one device model** to ensure every student has access to their own device for learning, with 96% of students currently having an issued device. 30:32

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- Each classroom teacher has been assigned a spare student loaner device to support students who may forget or misplace their device during the school day, providing continuity in technology access. 30:42
- The **Device Care Canvas course** has a current completion rate of 72%, with the district requiring all students to complete this course on proper care and security of Chromebook devices. 30:49
- The school is actively working to achieve 100% device issuance and course completion to ensure all students understand the responsibility of having a district device and have the technology necessary for learning. 31:06

Chronic Absenteeism Challenges and McKinney-Vento Students

- Recent **changes to the CMS attendance policy** have had a significant impact, as students historically could not miss more than 10 days to pass a class, requiring new approaches to motivate daily attendance. 32:42
- Rocky River has implemented a cohort system where students are grouped by last name with dedicated counselors, administrators, social workers, and psychologists to address individual attendance challenges. 33:26
- A technical factor affecting attendance data involves some teachers not properly updating the Infinite Campus system when students arrive late, potentially skewing the chronic absenteeism numbers. 34:28
- The MTSS team identified that a **significant number of students qualify as homeless** under the federal McKinney-Vento Act (MCV), with transportation challenges being a key barrier to attendance, particularly at the start of the school year. 35:28
- Francinem Romain explained that high absence numbers are partially due to **McKinney-Vento federal law cases** where students living outside the Rocky River zone still attend but need transportation arrangements through cab companies. 35:56
- Some students no longer attending Rocky River are still in the system because the school hasn't received documentation to officially exit them, particularly those who have **moved out of state or country**. 36:57
- The student services and attendance team is actively working to identify and update records for these students, with expectations that **more accurate attendance data will be available by the next meeting**. 37:18

Cell Phone Policy Implementation

- Reniqua Brown asked about suspension numbers related to the cell phone policy that was implemented last year, specifically whether these numbers are expected to decrease over time. 37:54
- Dayanarac Noboa indicated that current cell phone violation numbers appear lower than last year but suggested waiting until November for **accurate year-over-year comparison** when more comparable data will be available. 38:32
- Kevin Samuels noted that **most violations are coming from freshmen** who are new to the policy, with few repeat offenders, suggesting numbers will likely decrease as students adapt to the rules. 39:25

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PTSA Updates and Upcoming Events

- Mario Mckennon introduced the complete PTSA board: himself as President, Quentin Johnson as Vice President, Chiquita Ford as Treasurer, and Shenera MackeySmith as Secretary. 40:26
- The PTSA is organizing a **spirit night at TopGolf** with ongoing efforts to sell bays and tickets, with some commitments already received from school teams and organizations. 41:30
- Chiquita Ford provided a financial update reporting **\$475 in September revenue** (including 5 new members, 2 TopGolf bays sold, and 6 T-shirts) with a current balance of **\$3,057.53**. 42:39
- While membership numbers remain low, they have increased from last year. The PTSA board will continue meeting alongside monthly SIT meetings, with **the next meeting scheduled for the first Thursday in November**. 43:39

Members Present

Members Present:

Reniqua Brown	Parent/Guardian 9/2025	●
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Terri Donegan- Sanchez	CTE Teacher 9/2025	●
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Shenera Mackey	Parent 9/2025	●
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Megan Cunningham	Social Studies Teacher 9/2025	●
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Samantha Glover	English Teacher, 9/2025	●
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Shanna Graham	Parent, 9/2025	●
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Monica High	Assistant Principal, 9/2025	●
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LaQuiana Leeper	Principal Intern, 9/2025	●
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David Legrand **Principal, 9/2025** ●

Vivian Metz **Parent, 9/2025** ●

Taylor Payne **Science Teacher,
9/2025** ●

Francine Romain **Assistant Principal,
9/2025** ●

Randy Stitt **Assistant Principal,
9/2025** ●

Monique Terry **Parent, 9/2025** ●

Shameka Waller **Parent, 9/2025** ●