School Board meetings are important sources of information. However, sometimes additional data and context is useful to understand the topics discussed at any one meeting. Below RCPEP has drafted a summary and provided additional data and analysis regarding a few of the most substantial items discussed at the school board meeting on October 22, 2019. For the full video of that meeting, click [here](). The complete minutes of that meeting will be posted [here]().

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE OCT. 22nd BOARD MEETING

- There were several announcements of awards - the [National Healthy Schools Award](), [Palmetto Gold & Silver Awards](), Partnership Awards, sports, and the descriptions of the individuals being selected to the Richland One Hall of Fame.
- The Superintendent has a high school student advisory group and is going to have "Sup & Sandwich" with middle schoolers. He also announced a book club with a challenge for students to read across the district.
- CA Johnson has a Jobs for America's Graduates Program with 45 students that seems to be very successful with a 100% graduation rate. Click [here]() to learn more about this nationwide program.

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT: 2018-2019 TEST SCORES

Dr. Brossard, Chief of Teaching and Learning, presented summary data from the elementary and middle school 2018-2019 state tests.

Let's dig into the numbers.

SC READY STATE TEST

The SC READY ELA and Math testing is administered to all students in 3rd through 8th grades. Dr. Brossard indicated that as a district, Richland One is getting closer to the state average in most grade levels and subjects. Click [here]() for the district-to-state comparison in ELA and [here]() for the Math comparison.

Dr. Brossard also provided a breakdown by school and grade level. Those statistics indicate that there are huge variances in performance from school to school. Click [here]() for the information provided by the district. We took the individual school statistics and compared them to the state 2019 averages and the statewide average increase from 2018 to 2019.

Elementary School

Scores Based on Percentage of Students who met or exceeded expectations*

Grade	Schools At or Above State Average	Schools Below State Average	Schools Below State Average *but Making Progress*	Schools Below State Average *and Falling Further Behind*
ELA Scores				
3rd	6	22	12	10
4th	6	22	11	11
5th	5	23	13	9**
Math Scores				
3rd	6	22	13	9
4th	4	24	13	11
5th	4	24	7	17

* The data in this and the tables that follow have been pulled from the statistics referenced by the school board as well as data from the State Department of Education website.

** One school that was below the state average neither gained nor lost ground.

Middle School

Scores Based on Percentage of Students who met or exceeded expectations

Grade	Schools At or Above State Average	Schools Below State Average	Schools Below State Average *but Making Progress*	Schools Below State Average *and Falling Further Behind*
ELA Scores				
6th	2	7	5	2
7th	2	7	4	3
8th	2	7	3	4
Math Scores				
6th	1	8	5	3
7th	1	8	3	5
8th	2	7	1	6

Some Follow Up Questions
Dr. Brossard discussed some focus areas for curriculum going forward, with a focus on critical thinking at the secondary level. For more detail on the focus areas, see this presentation. She indicated that teacher professional development and the supervision process are all aligned to these focus areas. How is this differentiated based on specific school needs? Are all schools being asked to do the exact same thing? Is this different than what has been happening?

What can we take away from this data?
We have some bright spots—and certainly, on aggregate, some numbers have improved. However, the variation between schools is concerning—some schools went down significantly. While test scores are certainly not everything, we want to make sure that every student in every school in the district is achieving—and that learning is not based on zip code. Currently, by the time a student reaches the 8th grade, there are only 2 schools performing at the state average. So, the large majority of our students complete their middle school year at a school that is performing below (and in some cases well below) the state averages in math and English.