

Ridgewood High School Home and School Association

Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2010

In Attendance: Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Rola Baddoura, Arlenene Sarappo, Tina Telesco, Ines Bunza, Lynn Granski, Kate Douglass, Carol Rapaport, Jaime Frederick, Sheila Guarino, Jane Stone, Beth Freed, Linda Vangrover, Audrey Fink, Beth Abbott, Cristy Sippel, Beth Holmes, Tracey DuBois, Margie McKeon, Arianne VanVliet, Leesa Manderano, Angela Chang, Ed Berry, Ockjou Baek, Liz Gordon, Elizabeth Resnick

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm. Minutes from the February 9 meeting were submitted and approved.

Principal's Report: Mr. Lorenz reported that six students and a chaperone have traveled to the Shetland Islands as part of the Global Learning Classroom. They will be presenting the project the group has been working on for the past few months with students from around the world. RHS will be hosting the international conference here from June 9-19. Eighty-seven students and twenty teachers from around the globe will become part of the Ridgewood Community for ten days. Host families are needed. If you are interested in hosting a student or teacher, please contact Julie Beites. RHS has received a grant of \$7500 from Valley Hospital to fund the program. That donation covers about 90% of the cost of the program.

RHS will be launching the Freshman Digital Portfolio project soon. Focusing on the topic "Effective Citizenship in the 21st Century", the program will track student's growth through their four years at RHS.

Former Jeopardy Champ and RHS Alum Dave Madden has pledged \$2000 to RHS to institute the first Tri-State History Bowl. The monies will pay for a faculty moderator for the new group.

Mr. Lorenz will begin working with the LifeTrack system to track RHS graduates at the end of senior year, eighteen months post-grad, and again five years later. This will help RHS determine if we are producing students capable of adjusting to living in the "real world" and see where RHS can make improvements.

Students will soon be taking part in the Indiana Student Engagement survey. This will enable faculty and staff to make quicker decisions and make pertinent changes as needed.

The New Players production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" was spectacular!

Social Studies Teacher Dr. Patrick Bernardo was named RHS Teacher of the Year.

RHS has received a Federal Matching Grant to purchase 30 laptop computers installed with the ACELLUS Math program.

A senior student won the Fort Lee Film Commission award.

Mr Lorenz also addressed the issue of bullying on social network sites such as Facebook. Recently some cyber bullying situations have been brought up to the administration's attention by parents. This can be a very harsh reality for students as there is no easy way to deal with this type of behavior. The RHS administration is very concerned and is taking initiative to address the issue.

Budget Report: Mr. Lorenz addressed the proposed Budget specifically as it pertained to the high school. This will be the second consecutive year of significant cuts. The administration's goal is to "sustain our level of excellence with diminishing resources." Although programs and staffing will remain in flux until September, several cost-cutting measures will be implemented. For example,

there will be no Investigative Bio or Investigative Chem next year, but this will not really have an effect on course registration. Mr. Lorenz is also looking at ways to incorporate blended classrooms and using technology to enhance the student learning experience. There will no longer be individual subs for classes; instead the permanent subs on staff will monitor large groups of students. The students will go to the campus center and will have homework assignments. Although budget cuts will result in the loss of one guidance counselor, due to restructuring, counselors will actually see their caseload lightened.

Board of Ed Candidates Michele Lenhard and Charles Reilly presented their platforms and urged parents to vote in the upcoming election.

Guidance Report: Vice Principal for Guidance Jeff Nyhuis reported that to date, the Guidance Office has processed 3,957 college applications (an average of 9.35/student!)

The upcoming College Speaker Series will consist of a panel of admissions officers from Lehigh, Villanova and Rutgers.

AP exams will take place May 3 – 14.

Course scheduling for next year is well under way.

Due to budget cuts, the Guidance Office will be losing one Counselor. To compensate for the loss, Mr. Nyhuis is looking into an innovative way to deal with the cuts. He is suggesting implementing a new system in which he will work with John Maye and four interns to serve as counselors to all incoming freshmen. The ratio of students to guidance counselors will be lowered from a current 240 and prospective 280 to 200 students as a result.

Board of Ed Report: BOE Rep Laurie Goodman urged the community to see all Budget information on the District web site.

The Board has approved their three-year plan for improving technology. The first push will be to upgrade wireless access throughout the District.

The first Referendum projects are ready to be sent out to bid.

Legacy Book Program: Willard Librarian and RHS parent Linda DiOrio has worked with RHS Librarian Diane Capetola to place the HS wish list on the RHS web site. Parents may purchase a book from the list as a dedication to a graduating student, or current or former student.

President's Report: HSA President Rola Baddoura encouraged all Village residents to vote in the upcoming election.

RHS Class of 1948 has donated \$1250 for the purchase of docu-cameras for the HS.

Preparations for PG10 are progressing. The fashion show was very successful.

Treasurer's Report: Ines Bunza presented the financial reports for the month.

RHS Cares: Committee Chair Kate Douglass reported that there are currently eight families, including one faculty member, receiving help from RHS Cares.

Ridgewood Education Foundation: REF President Liz Gordon reported that the Spring Grant awards amounted to \$6,000.

The Spring College Speaker Series will be held on April 14.

Reminders: The Teacher Thank You program is still running, and would make wonderful end-of-year teacher acknowledgements! The Barclay Golf Tournament will be held at Ridgewood Country Club from August 26-August 29. Please consider volunteering on behalf of the REF.

The First Annual Community Dog Show will take place at RHS on Sunday May 23.

Several people have asked about the legitimacy of request for Alumnae information by a direct marketing company. The REF has contracted with the company to compile alumna information. It is not a scam, and people should not be afraid to supply the requested info.

Nominating Committee: co-chairs Cristy Sippel and Jaime Frederick presented the slate for the 2010/2011 Executive Board.

President- Arlene Sarappo

Secretary- Emily Young Rosenfeld

Treasurer- Ines Bunza

Development- Tina Telesco

Communication/Webmaster co-chairs- Sara Erwin & Linda Willk

The search for a VP continues.

The slate will be presented at the May 11 meeting for a vote by the general membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

The next HSA meeting is on Tuesday May 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the RHS Library. It is a general membership meeting

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Herbert