

Ridgewood High School Home and School Association Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2010

In Attendance: Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Ruth Parks, Joan Lipkowitz, Rola Baddoura, Arlenene Sarappo, Tina Telesco, Ines Bunza, Lynn Granski, Carol Rapaport, Traci DuBois, Rose Boniello, Hannah Cohan, Kelly Boylan, Laurie Goodman, Sara Erwin, Kate Douglass, Jaime Frederick, Linda DiOrio, Beth Holmes, Elizabeth Gordon, Cheryl Sabbath, Linda Tarzian

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. Minutes from the April 13 meeting were submitted and approved.

Principal's Report: Mr. Lorenz reported that May is "testing" month. RHS will be administering AP exams, end of course Biology exams, and end of course Algebra exams.

All students and chaperones who had their travel extended by the effects of the Icelandic volcano ash are now safely back home, with quite a few tales to tell!

The National Association of Music Merchants has named Ridgewood as one of the best communities for music education in the nation.

The district has received approval from the DEP to begin working on the field renovations. Our Latin students excelled in the National Latin exam.

RHS will be hosting eight students from the Global Learning Classroom for one month.

The district is readying the new SKYWARD information system for implementation soon.

The Freshman Dance was a success.

Graduation is quickly approaching, and the Administration is working to ensure that all seniors are in compliance with the necessary requirements.

Guidance Report: Vice Principal for Guidance Jeff Nyhuis reported students were getting ready for the upcoming AP exams.

RHS will host both the SAT and ACT exams in June.

There will be delayed opening for students not taking the end of course Biology exam.

The Guidance Office has been working with the various Scholarship Committees to award students.

Guidance will be working next year on projects to address the subject of stress in the classroom for the over-scheduled child.

Special Presentation: Joan Lipkowitz, Supervisor of World Languages at RHS gave a presentation of the Foreign Language program at RHS. The goal of the Department is to create better citizens in a multi-language world.

Students Report: The results of the Student Congress Election are: Timothy Cox, Greg Resnick, Tara Porfido, Kevin Muldoon

Student Services Report: Vice President for Student Services Basil Pizutto is working with the students, parents and Administration on Prom, which be held on June 4.

His office is working on a revised Student Code of Conduct.

Faculty Report: Ruth Parks, Faculty Liaison, thanked the HSA for providing refreshments at the faculty meeting.

As the fourth quarter comes to a close, and exams are getting closer, Mrs. Parks encouraged parents to reach out to their student's teachers by e mail to keep in touch.

Board of Ed Report: BOE Rep Laurie Goodman reported that the defeated school budget is now in the hands of the village council. The Council may decide to keep the budget as is, or to make further reductions.

Several of the Referendum projects are ready to be sent out to bid.

Michele Lenhard will be the new President of the Board of Ed, with Bob Hutton as VP.

President's Report: HSA President Rola Baddoura reported all gifts donated by the HSA this year:

- 30 wireless laptops and a wireless cart. Each laptop came with an 11-hour battery and a math program
- 3-4 smart boards
- 4 scanners
- Co-sponsoring with REF of the Fall college speakers series –Peter Van Buskirk
- Co-sponsoring with REF of the Spring College speakers series –Panel of admissions officers
- Speaker/professional story teller for the AHLISA program
- T-shirts for the 1st class program- A new club that was started this year by Mr Lorenz and was fully applauded by the HSA. It encourages honesty, integrity, personal responsibly and respect for peers.
- Washing machine for the Food and Nutrition class
- Co-purchasing with REF of the educational DVD "In 500 words or less "which will be show to the seniors next fall. It deals with the college admission process.
- DVD for the Health and Physical education program (deals with the effects of drugs on the brains)
- DVD for the SAIL program

Rola asked all Committee Chairs to please begin getting a folder together to pass on to the incoming chair.

Vice President's Report: HSA Vice President Arlene Sarappo reported that the transition for the next Board is under way. She urged all parents to get involved in some capacity with the HSA.

Treasurer's Report: Ines Bunza presented the financial reports for the month. The HSA is in full compliance with all IRS regulations.

Going forward, there will be a change in how the Project Graduation bank accounts are handled. In the past, the accounts would remain open to cover the cost of the Homecoming Breakfast for Alumnae in November. Some of these accounts have been long forgotten. Beginning this year, once all expenses for PG have been paid, the account

will be closed, with extra funds being deposited in the general HSA account. The HSA will cover the cost of the breakfast.

Project Graduation: Work sessions at the “secret location” are well under way. If you are free to help out, in any way, please let PG Chairs Debbie Castello and Missy McLaughlin know.

Curriculum Committee: Maryam Alsop reported that the Curriculum committee is working on improving and further implementing Technology in the classroom.

Ridgewood Education Foundation: REF President Liz Gordon reported that the First Annual Community Dog Show will be held on Sunday, May 23 at RHS.

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.

Nominating Committee: Chair Cristy Sippel presented the slate for the 2010/2011 school year for election:

President – Arlene Sarappo

Vice President – Theresa Callaghan

Treasurer – Ines Bunza

Secretary – Emily Rosenfeld

Development – Tina Telesco

Communication/Webmaster co-chairs – Sara Erwin and Linda Willk

The officers were elected unanimously.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Herbert