

**Ridgewood High School Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2011**

In Attendance: Elizabeth Resnick, Rola Baddoura, Terry Caliendo, Jessica Chao, Sandy Ho, Lynn Granski, Jane Stone, Joseph Carey, Jaime Frederick, Laurie Goodman, Lindsey Barclay, Shari Seroka, Shannon Andrews, Cristy Sippel, Lisa Sammataro, David Zrike, Michele Lenhard, Karen Lorenz, Jack Lorenz, Diana Capetola, Theresa Callaghan, Arlene Sarappo, Tina Telesco, Ines Bunza, Charles Reilly, Liz Gordon, Christina Krauss, Gina McDade, Emily Young, Annalise Marcus, Maryam Alsop, Traci DuBois, Beth Holmes

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Arlene Sarappo, President of HSA, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, including candidates for Board of Education Sheila Brogan, Laurie Goodman, and Christina Krauss. Arlene noted that the RHS cooking class and their teacher, Tina Gagliano, were responsible for providing the delicious platters of homemade cookies for this evening's meeting. The refreshments were a thank you gift to the HSA for purchasing a new refrigerator for the student kitchen. The minutes from the March 8, 2011 meeting were approved.

Principal's Report: Jack Lorenz gave an update of recent events at RHS.

Jack thanked the parents who provided refreshments for the most recent faculty meeting.

Jack praised Development Chair Tina Telesco for her leadership in the RHS Phone-a-thon Fundraiser. He also thanked Arlene Sarappo and David Zrike for their efforts in this successful event.

Jack reported that AP test registration was in place for upcoming exams. Seniors continue to receive college acceptances, and many are making their final decisions about where to attend.

Parent David Zrike summarized a collaborative effort by parents, school administration, and the Ridgewood Guild to provide social activities for teenagers on weekend nights. "Late Night Ridgewood"/"The Back Woods" events include two Band Nights in Van Neste Park on May 6 and June 10 as well as an outdoor Movie Night planned for May 20. Many local restaurants will remain open until midnight. The Ridgewood Junior Guild, comprised of 10 students from RHS, helped to coordinate these events with the hope that students will make better decisions during social gatherings with peers.

Presentations by Board of Education Candidates

Sheila Brogan gave a brief summary of her accomplishments as a 15-year member of the Board of Education. She said that she is well acquainted with the state laws governing education, and feels well prepared for the challenges facing our district. Sheila's tenure has included work on the Facilities, Communications, Joint Review, and Policy

Committees. She also on the Village Safety Board, and is Chair of the Municipal Alliance. She can be reached at SMBrogan@aol.com.

Christina Krauss is a former retail merchant in Ridgewood, and is part of the merchant program in the village. She has been motivated to run for the Board of Education by the K-8 community and believes that she can lend a voice to represent this group of parents. Christina said that she will serve effectively as a new member, and hopes that her candidacy will encourage others to become more involved in Ridgewood's schools and participate at the Board's Public Meetings. Christina can be reached at CMK488@optonline.net.

Laurie Goodman is completing her first term as a member of the Board of Education. Laurie has been active on the Facilities and Communications Committees, and has served as liaison for the Board on the Fields Committee. She also has been part of the team that is negotiating the new contract with teachers. Laurie believes she brings the passion and commitment that is necessary to manage public education at a local level. Fliers are available about her work and qualifications.

The candidates responded to questions from members of the audience about strengths and weaknesses of the school district. All three candidates agreed that teaching staff and parent support were tremendous assets to the Ridgewood school system. Sheila Brogan said that funding technology would continue to be a difficulty. Laurie Goodman commented that the vast bureaucracy of the district was a challenge. Christina Krauss agreed that funding improvements to the schools and technology would be hard in future years.

Arlene thanked the candidates for their presentations.

Arlene introduced Daniel Fishbein, Superintendent of Ridgewood Schools, who was joined by Board of Education Members Michele Lenhard and Charles Reilly, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Angelo DeSimone.

Presentation by Superintendent Daniel Fishbein

Dr. Fishbein gave a presentation of the 2011-2012 Budget for the Ridgewood Public Schools. The presentation addressed how the budget was developed, state aid and resources, as well as budget expenses, initiatives, and challenges. Dr. Fishbein talked about the significant enrollment increase in the district over the past 10 years. He also compared the increase from this year's budget to next year's budget, which is the lowest increase since the mid 1980's. Dr. Fishbein reviewed the general fund appropriations, including budget areas of instruction and support, transportation, operations, employee benefits, administration, and capital projects. He also discussed fiscal efficiencies that have been already implemented through outsourcing and joining energy management and other consortiums. In closing, Dr. Fishbein reviewed the extensive list of the district's academic, athletic, and artistic accomplishments. He encouraged everyone to vote on Wednesday, April 27.

The Ridgewood Public Schools 2011-2012 Budget Presentation may be found at budget12@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

HSA Executive Board Reports

Arlene noted the huge success of the RHS Phone-a-thon and thanked the Ridgewood Education Foundation for their generous \$6000 challenge grant. Arlene also thanked Mr. Pizzuto, Mr. Holand, and the crew of students who televised the event and provided video footage of the many extra curricular activities at RHS.

Development Chair Tina Telesco reported that \$40,000 had been raised during the three evening Phone-a-thon, with an additional \$15,000 pledged. Approximately 45% of RHS families participated in the event, and the volunteer callers felt that overall, interactions were very positive. Tina thanked David Zrike for his integral role in guiding the Phone-a-thon to success.

Treasurer Ines Bunza thanked Maryam Alsop for collecting and organizing the incoming funds from the Phone-a-thon. Financial accounting of the purchases made to benefit RHS students and classrooms will be forthcoming.

Nominating Committee Chair Lynn Granski said that the committee will present the slate of new RHS HSA Executive Board Members in May, and that voting will take place in June.

Project Graduation lawn signs for graduating seniors are still available. Please contact Traci Dubois for more details and information.

Class of 2012 representatives are planning a Parents Band Fundraiser on April 30.

Class of 2013 representative Beth Holmes reported that invitations for the Parent Social are available on the HSA website. The event will take place on May 6 from 7-10 pm.

Class of 2014 representatives are ordering planners for next year. More information may be found at on the HSA website.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 in the RHS Library.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Young