

Ridgewood High School
Home and School Association Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2011

Attendance: Laurie Goodman, Kelly Coakley, Lindsey Barclay, Jaime Frederick, Mary Casale, Lynn Knight, Suzanne Golabek, Audrey Fink, Lynn Granski, Hannah, Kelly, Gina McDade, Tracy Autera, Beth Abbott, Vicky Herbert, Donna Lubinsky, Sara Erwin, Linda Willk, Theresa Callaghan, Emily Young, Karen Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Jack Lorenz, Basil Pizzuto, Beth Holmes, Rose Boniello, Joyce Suss, Bamini Pillai, Michele Lenhard, Ines Bunza, Alane Steinacker

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Arlene Sarappo, President of HSA, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new executive team for RHS HSA. The minutes from the May 10, 2011 meeting were approved.

Principal's Report: Jack Lorenz, Principal of RHS, gave a brief summary of recent and upcoming events.

Senior students were honored at the Academic Awards night on June 9, 2011. More than 100 seniors received scholarships for academic and leadership skills. The event was well attended by parents and community members.

RHS alumnus Dave Madden hosted the second National History Bowl for high school students. Mr. Madden will also act as advisor for the RHS MSG Varsity academic challenge team, filling in for Ms. Stephanie Gigante while she is on leave.

Graduation plans for the graduating Class of 2011 are taking shape. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be postponed and guests will wait inside until the weather clears. The ceremony will then resume proceedings.

The challenging task of developing a master class schedule for the more than 1700 students who are registered at RHS for next year is currently underway. Because of the large number of students enrolled at school, classroom space will be tight.

RHS administration has hired a number of new teachers for next term. RHS was able to select new faculty from a large pool of highly qualified applicants.

Jack thanked the HSA for a year of hard work and dedication, noting the successful fundraising that allowed for the much needed purchase of new microscopes and computers at the school. He thanked Arlene for her leadership and support throughout the year, and also thanked parents for their continued partnership.

Assistant Principals' Reports: Basil Pizzuto, Assistant Principal for Supervision and Student Services, gave a summary of the state anti-bullying law that was recently put into place. RHS has designated three on-site anti-bullying specialists: Mr. Dave Bailey, Ms. Helen Aslanides, and Ms. Meredith Yannone. These faculty members are familiar with

the new procedures that RHS is now mandated to follow according to state law. The new law includes the definition of harassment and bullying, and also addresses schools' responsibilities regarding online behavior and after school and weekend hours. Basil anticipates that Dr. Fishbein will outline and communicate the changes in the law to families in the district in the next school year.

Basil also reported that the senior prom was a great success. The prom was held in a different venue this year at the Palasadium in Cliffside Park.

Student Government is wrapping up its final projects for the year.

Due to ongoing construction in the building, the administrative offices will be temporarily relocated during the summer months.

Gym lockers must be emptied out by all students by June 15.

Jeff Nyhuis, Assistant Principal for Guidance, Curriculum, and Instruction, gave a brief report from the Guidance Department.

At Senior Awards Night, 113 scholarships and 366 awards were given to 186 recipients.

Jeff summarized information collected from the Senior Survey. More than 3,100 transcripts were sent out to colleges and universities. This was an increase by more than 600 compared to last year's requests. Some seniors sent out as many as 11 or 12 applications. More than 90% of this year's graduating class will attend a 4-year college, while more than 95% of the class will attend a 2 or 4 year program. 42% of the class will attend a public institution. These percentages are similar to the data collected from previous graduating classes at RHS. Additional information is available to parents and students on the school guidance website, on Naviance, and in the guidance department office.

Jeff thanked this year's executive board and especially Arlene Sarappo for their hard work and dedication.

Jeff fielded questions from parents regarding next year's schedules and guidance counselor assignments. Chris Fabish and Dave Bailey will absorb Alice Tepfenhardt's caseload. Current freshmen will either remain with Mr. Bailey, be assigned to the same counselor as an older sibling, or be distributed among the remaining counselors. A letter explaining guidance counselor assignments will be sent home this summer.

Final grades will be available for viewing on Skyward at the close of school. Final transcripts for seniors are sent to colleges during the first week of July.

Student Representatives' Report: HSA Student Representatives Hannah and Kelly reported on the busy June schedule at RHS. In addition to upcoming final examinations, highlights include the Senior Prom and Yearbook Signing Party, the Senior Gag Awards,

and the New Players Senior Awards Ceremony. Students participating in the Global Classroom program are currently visiting their fellow counterparts in Sweden.

Arlene thanked this year's Student Representatives, Kelly, Hannah, and Carl for their refreshing perspectives and honest and eloquent presentations.

Board of Education Report: Board Member Michelle Lenhard gave an update of the construction projects in the district. Work at Hawes and Ridge Schools is nearly complete, while at Willard, construction on footings and foundation is just underway. Occupancy sensors are scheduled to be installed in all buildings this summer.

Michelle also gave a brief summary of the ongoing negotiations with teachers, whose contract is due to expire on June 30. Michelle stated that the terms of the current teachers' contract, including salary and benefits, will remain in place until the new contract is settled.

Michelle also provided an explanation of the procedures for turf field maintenance and cleanup. She said that the process utilizes a series of cleanings to remove heavy debris and the silt that collects in the fibers of the turf field. The district has hired a firm to oversee maintenance and test for safety. Additional plantings along the brook will be installed to help control the amount of silt overflow during heavy storms. The footbridge connecting Stevens Field to the RHS stadium field was deemed safe for pedestrians and light vehicles by an engineering firm who performed an inspection on the bridge in 2009.

Nineteen light visors will be installed on the field lights on Stevens Field, further reducing light spillage onto North Irving St.

Executive Board Reports: Arlene Sarappo, President of RHS HSA, commented on the wonderful collaboration and communication between parents and school, which contributed to the successful fundraising and disbursement of \$70,000 during the 2010-11 school year. Arlene thanked all of the executive board members for their hard work, taking special note in recognizing the efforts of Development Chair Tina Telesco. Arlene concluded by stating that it was a privilege to work with the talented and dedicated RHS school administrative team, who demonstrated tremendous courage and leadership during the tumultuous and difficult early days of this school year.

Treasurer's Update: Ines Bunza, Treasurer of HSA, reviewed the budget handout, noting that unspent monies from last year's budget were the reason for the discrepancy between expenses and income in this year's final summary. The new lectern for the Campus Center will be the final purchase for the year. Ines reported that Project Graduation finances for each class is current and up to date. Theresa Callaghan will take on the responsibility of financial recordkeeping for 9th, 10th, and 11th grades next year.

Communications Update: Sara Erwin will continue to oversee the Skyward email system and assist with the directory communications.

REF/Junior Guild Update: Maryam Alsop reported that the Ridgewood Education Foundation held its end of year reception for grant recipients, including RHS HSA, which received a matching grant in the amount of \$6000. REF is currently welcoming its incoming board members.

Maryam also gave an update of the recent “Neon Safari” dance in Van Neste Park, sponsored by the Junior Guild of RHS with support from the Guild and the Village of Ridgewood. The event was well attended by more than 800 students and included a DJ and dancing. Plans are underway for future events.

Project Graduation 2011 is readying for the final effort before the big event on June 23!

PG 2012: PG 2012 Chairs Kelly Coakley and Lindsey Barclay are organizing 11th grade parents for the “wrecking ball” to take place on the morning of June 24. The junior class will also host the iced tea reception for seniors and their families immediately following graduation ceremony.

Jamboree: Alane Steinacker, co-chair of this year’s production, announced that \$65,000 in scholarship money was awarded to 23 RHS seniors demonstrating financial need. The new producers are already planning and organizing in anticipation of next year’s show!

Nomination Committee: Lynn Granski, Chair of this year’s Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates for the Ridgewood High School Home and School Association Executive Board for the 2011-12 school year. The nominees are as follows:

Jaime Frederick, President
Jack Lorenz, 1st Vice President
Tracy Autera, 2nd Vice President
Mary Casale, Secretary
Lynn Knight, Treasurer
Beth Holmes and Linda Willk, Communications
David Zrike, Development

A motion to approve the slate of candidates was made by Lindsey Barclay and seconded by Vicki Herbert. The candidates for the RHS HSA Executive Board were approved.

Incoming President Jaime Frederick thanked the outgoing Executive Board for their hard work. Please contact Jaime if you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more information about positions that are not yet filled for next year’s posts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Emily Young.