

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes for November 7th, 2011

In Attendance: Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Jaime Frederick, Tracy Autera, Carol Olson, Lynn Knight, Beth Holmes, David Zrike, Ruth Parks, Gina McDade, Vicki Herbert, Ines Bunza, Elizabeth Jastrzebska, Jane Stone, Laurie Goodman, Michelle Katzman, Maria Wong, Donna Pierce, Loren Mularz, Angele Eckert, Michael Collins, Jennifer Parsekian, Cathy Jacobson, Lorraine Reynolds, Anila Milo, Marie Malloy, Therese Bonfiglio, Bronwyn McElroy, Cristy Sippel, Carl L., Riley C., Catherine B., Lindsey Barclay, Hema Chaurasia, Denise Smith, Wendy Linker, Jane Luan, Maryam Alsop, Jenny Rabinowitz and Punam Katiyar

Jaime Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all attendees.

The minutes from the October 11, 2011 meeting were submitted and approved.

Principal's Report:

Jack Lorenz provided the following update:

The RHS Sports teams have had a very successful fall, especially the girls' teams.

Students involved in the Global Learning Classroom are planning their trip to South Africa.

The RHS Quiz Bowl club will compete in "The Challenge" an academic quiz show on the MSG Varsity network. The show will air on November 15th, 2011 @ 4:30 p.m. and can be seen on Channel 77.

The Alps Club backpack trip is this weekend.

The dialogue from the Parent 2Parent town hall meeting is ongoing.

Award- winning director JoAnna Rudnick of Kartemquin Films was at RHS filming a documentary on the Pearls Project. The Pearls Project promotes tolerance and empathy for individuals that have genetic and chromosomal disorders.

Jack will be meeting with Donna Hansen and Rocco Orlando as they continue planning The Learning Commons.

Assistant Principal/Administrative & Student Services:

Basil Pizzuto asked the student representatives to give their report first. Riley C., Catherine B. and Carl L. gave a summary of the recent Spirit Week. Unfortunately, the snowstorm and power outage adversely affected the plans. The Pep Rally will be rescheduled to celebrate the winter sports teams.

Basil added comments about the two dances – Freshman/Sophomore and Junior/Senior "Homecoming". They were scheduled as bookends to Spirit Week and were both well attended; but, unfortunately, still had a few situations involving alcohol.

Also, RHS water bottles were distributed to the students in celebration of Spirit Week.

Assistant principal/Guidance, Curriculum & Instruction:

Jeff Nyhuis discussed the impact of the storm and power outage hitting during the November 1st college application deadline. Fortunately, the Guidance Department was able to inform the applicable schools about the situation. Students' applications were not adversely affected.

Jeff congratulated Jack Lorenz for being recognized by the Bergen County Division of Disability Services at the 13th annual "Salute to Champions" event. He was recognized for his work on the S.A.I.L. Program at RHS.

Presentation: "SATs, ACTs and Your RHS Student by Jeff Nyhuis:

Jeff Nyhuis distributed a graphic presentation of the differences between the ACTs and the SATs. The ACT is a test that measures a student's knowledge and the SAT measures reasoning. The decision on which test a student should take depends on that student's strengths and abilities. Jeff encouraged students to take the practice tests for both exams to assist their decision process.

Jeff presented the variety of reports that the SAT data can be displayed and analyzed. He also showed the timetable when the RHS students actually take the SATs. The data he used for presentation purposes was the RHS class of 2012.

A discussion of the SAT II Subject tests occurred, specifically the timing and the reasons for taking these tests.

Jeff mentioned there are many schools that do not require any of these tests be taken for admissions. He encouraged students to learn the requirements of the schools they are interested in attending and follow them.

Faculty Report:

Ruth Parks stated it was the end of the first quarter. She encouraged students to work extra hard to have good grade averages in the second and fourth quarters going into exams because of the impact of midterm and final exams on grades. These exams tend to decrease students' grade averages.

President's Report:

Jaime Frederick commented on the success of the recent College Speaker Series and thanked the REF for co-sponsoring.

She also thanked Linda Willk, Beth Holmes, Sara Erwin, Erin Ades, and Karen Feder for all of their work on the RHS Student directory.

Jamie asked Inez Bunza to provide an update on the Stop & Shop A+ Program. This program donates money to schools based on the level of purchases on registered Stop & Shop cards. To date, only four cards were registered to RHS.

At Jamie's request, David Zrike gave an update on the Parent2Parent Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the Municipal Alliance. Over 200 parents/guardians attended and a good discussion followed a delicious dinner catered by Its Greek to Me. Due to the positive response to the evening, there will be more events around this topic.

Jamie provided an update on the Federated meeting: 1) last week's two cancelled school days will be counted as snow days. If any more snow days are needed, they will be taken from the April, 2012 break. 2) The new food ordering system launched a pilot program at Orchard this month to address the

implementation problems and 3) the teacher contract negotiations have gone to a state mediator because the two parties could not come to terms. The dates for mediation are December 12th and January 11th.

Vice President:

Tracy Autera had no items to report this month.

Treasurer:

Lynn Knight discussed the cash balance and related financial statements.

Communications:

Beth Holmes reported the directory was mailed on Friday (November 4th) and should take 5-10 days for delivery. Anyone still interested in ordering a directory should contact Brenda Flood.

Development:

David Zrike stated the HSA would be conducting a phone-a-thon/telethon in March 2012.

Class Reports:

Class of 2012: (Lindsey Barclay) Fundraiser @ Blend on 12/3/11– Music by the band Crush, which is made up of RHS parents. The apparel sale is ongoing and Trish Smesko is the contact.

Class of 2013: (Jenny Rabinowitz) plans are under way for a student-run bake sale at the Tree Lighting. They are also planning a spring social.

Class of 2014– the flyer for the sale of T-shirts was distributed this week.

Class of 2015 –no report provided.

Hospitality:

Gina McDade thanked everyone who donated items to the Faculty Halloween breakfast. The next faculty breakfast will be December 5th. If you are interested in helping, please email Gina.

Curriculum:

Laurie Goodman reported on the recent Curriculum meeting. All major subject areas are reviewed on a five-year cycle. This year begins the Social Studies cycle. There will be an open meeting on November 30th with a panel of professionals on the skills students need to learn to obtain jobs in this market.

Laurie also encouraged anyone with questions concerning curriculum to contact her, Jack Lorenz or Regina Bottsford.

There was no Other Business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 3, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Carol Olson