

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR October 11, 2011

In Attendance: Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Jaime Frederick, Tracy Autera, Carol Olson, Lynn Knight, Beth Holmes, David Zrike, Ruth Parks, Christina Krauss, Jenny Rabinowitz, Joyce Suss, Gina McDade, Carol Rapaport, Vicki Herbert, Suzanne Golabek, Sharon Simoncini, Betty Eng, Annette Testa, Linda Weisberger, Arlene Sarappo, PJ Lalwani, Annalise Marcus, Ines Bunza, Victor Dobroshynskyy, Teresa Husband, Vincent Loncto, Bamini Pillai, Juy Kim, Connie Lee, Chiyon Kim, Shari Seroka, Elizabeth Jastrzebska, Kim Lucky, Tatyana Feldman, Jin Liu, Catherine B., Sean McCooe, Audrey Fink, Jane Stone

Jaime Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. She congratulated Jack Lorenz for being recognized by the Bergen County Division of Disability Services at the 13th annual "Salute to Champions" event. He is being honored for his work on the S.A.I.L. Program at RHS. The S.A.I.L. or Strategic Actions and Innovations Program provide students with special needs the ability to become independent learners. The event will be Friday, October 28th, 2011 from 10am-noon at the Bergen County Freeholders office in Hackensack, NJ. Jack provided information on the S.A.I.L. program, from its inception to current day.

The minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting were submitted and approved.

Principal's Report:

Jack Lorenz outlined the three RHS School Achievement Goals for 2011-2012:

- 1) Meet the AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) as required as a result of The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.
- 2) Increase the GPA of all current sophomores, who began the school year with a GPA of 1.8 or below. The goal is to try and get the GPA to at least 2.0.
- 3) Review the Advanced Placement Scores (AP) by subject and increase where necessary. Current target- Biology.

Dave Madden (RHS Grad and Famous Jeopardy Winner) started a RHS Quiz Bowl club to compete in "The Challenge" an academic quiz show on the MSG Varsity network. The show will air on November 15th, 2011. Mr. Kase is the RHS faculty moderator of the club, who will also lead the club in various other competitions.

The Pearls Project promotes tolerance and empathy for individuals who have genetic and chromosomal disorders. Students have been involved in a performance with effected individuals and curriculum based projects have been developed. This project will also be the subject of a documentary by award- winning director JoAnna Rudnick of Kartemquin Films. Filming should begin on October 18th, 2011.

Dr. Michael Holt will be presenting "The Compromise of 1850", as part of the Teaching American History grant.

Thirty-one RHS students were named Commended Scholars and five were named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists based on their performance on the 2010 PSAT/NMP tests.

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

Assistant principal/Guidance, Curriculum & Instruction:

Jeff Nyhuis reported Guidance Counselor; Lauren Hellman will begin her leave of absence in December and will be replaced by Bill Roper. Bill had retired 5 years ago from RHS.

Jeff thanked the HSA and the Korean Parents Association for sponsoring his recent NACAC (National Association of College Admissions Counseling) conference in New Orleans. Jeff made many contacts with college admissions officers and found the conference very beneficial.

Approximately 658 sophomores and juniors will take the PSATs on Saturday, October 13th, 2011.

Friday, October 7th, 2011 marked the mid-point of the first quarter. All grades should be current and all faculty was requested to add comments about the students on Skyward. Guidance counselors will contact all students that received a grade of "D" or "E" in any course. They will meet and develop a plan to improve their grades.

Vickie Abeles (Race to Nowhere Creator) contacted Jeff to ask what the RHS ' next steps will be in relation to this initiative,. In response, RHS administration has decided to have "Homework Free" December and February breaks.

Presentation: Math, Science and Technology- Greg McDonald

Greg began his presentation with a discussion of the Global Learning Classroom (GLC). GLC is an educational organization that networks schools around the world in order to research, share, design, and develop excellence in effective learning. RHS participates in GLC, along with schools from eight countries around the world. RHS has a GLC club that Greg moderates. They meet on Mondays at lunchtime and are working on this year's theme – sustainability.

Greg began the Science presentation by thanking the HSA for the donation of the microscopes last year. They have changed the way Science is taught at RHS. Greg continued by outlining the course paths for both Math and Science. The specific course information can be found on the RHS website under the "Department" tab. A discussion with attendees then ensued.

Board of Education Report:

Christina Krauss discussed the open seat on the Board of Education and the process for filling the seat for any interested individuals.

Jon Meachum will be discussing his recent book "The American Lion" as part of the Teaching American History Grant at the RHS Campus center on November 2nd, 2011 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Christina asked the status of the problems with RevTrak and learned that while they have improved, there are still many problems with the new system.

Dan Fishbein, Michelle Lenhardt and several Village Officials are meeting to try and tackle the flooding issues facing RHS.

Faculty Report:

Ruth Parks discussed the German exchange program's trip, which will take place in the spring, 2012.

Student Report:

Catherine B. outlined the events of Spirit Week, which will run October 31st – November 5th. Each day will have a different theme: Monday – Halloween, Team Tuesday, Wood Wednesday, Throwback Thursday and Color Wars Friday.

There will also be student dances. Dates are still being finalized.

President's Report:

Jaime Frederick had nothing more to report.

Vice President:

Tracy Autera met with the Class Financial Coordinator and all the grade representatives. Each classes' fundraising efforts have begun. A list of all the vendors being utilized is being compiled for Tracy.

Treasurer:

Lynn Knight discussed the cash balance and related financial statements.

Communications:

Beth Holmes reported the directory should be available in a few weeks. HSA eNews was electronically distributed this week.

Development:

David Zrike stated that due to the success of last year's phone-a-thon (\$55,000), the HSA would be conducting a phone-a-thon/telethon in March, 2012. Enhancements to last year's format are currently being planned.

Class Reports:

Class of 2012 (Tracy Autera reported for chairs): Parent meeting 7:30 p.m. @ RHS. Two events are planned: 11/5 @ Town & Country and 12/3 @ Blend – Music by the band Crush, which is made up of RHS parents. They are also hosting an apparel sale.

Class of 2013 (Jenny Rabinowitz): plans are under way for the sale of class flip-flops and a bake sale.

Class of 2014 (Joyce Suss) – T-shirts will be sold this year and a parent social is being planned.

Class of 2015 (Sharon Simocini): – will be selling flip-flops and hosting a crazy bingo night.

Curriculum:

The first CCC meeting is 10/27/11 and a report will be provided at next month's meeting.

Hospitality:

Gina McDade reported there will be a faculty breakfast on October 28th. If you are interested in helping, please email her.

Jamboree:

Sean McCooe distributed cards for the 2012 Jamboree and outlined this year's timetable., For 65 years, Jamboree has been raising and distributing money for need based scholarships to RHS seniors. Volunteers are needed for behind the scenes work as well as for onstage acting, singing and dancing. Registration will be held at RHS on October 6th, 12th and 18th.

Other Business:

Municipal Alliance: There will be a Town Hall Meeting "Parent2Parent" on Thursday, October 27th at the RHS Campus Center for parents to learn about Teens and the use of Drugs and Alcohol. The panel leading the discussion will be comprised of Basil Pizzuto, ER physician Dr. Felsenstein and representatives of the Ridgewood Police Department There will be a light dinner catered by Its Greek to Me at 6:30 p.m.

David also spoke as a representative of Back Woods. Back Woods is an organization dedicated to providing safe and fun social events for High School students in the Village. They are planning a variety of monthly events for the school year. Membership dues to the Jr. Guild help fund Back Woods activities.

There was no Other Business and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Carol Olson