

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

In Attendance: Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Jaime Frederick, Tracey Autera, Carol Olson, Lynn Knight, Beth Holmes, Linda Willk, David Zrike, Tina Telesco, Ruth Parks, Michele Lenhard, Christina Krauss, Lindsey Barclay, Jenny Rabinowitz, Joyce Suss, Dick Majors, Rob Taylor, Gina McDade, Carol Rapaport, Vickie Herbert, Bamini Pillai, Sulakshana Bhak, Tara Callaghan, Suzanne Golabek, Sharon Simoncini, Sharon Walker, Beth McAllen, Mindy Dauber, Rose Boniello, Joan Gaidimas, Sara Erwin, Theresa Callaghan, Alaine Neville, Angele Ekert, Jean Cleary, Jocelyn Dreier, Lori Weil, Betty Eng, Andrea Rademacher, Laura Williamson, Megan Martin, Diana Lyandvert, Donna Pierce, Leonid Tomilchik, Loren Mularz, Fatma Yildiz, Jan Marchionni, Annette Testa, Jay Kim, Lynn Granski, Deborah Edghill, Nicki Ann Bussanch, Jennifer Cohen, Kathy O'Shea, Lindsey Barclay, Ann Cabay- Walsh, Sue Sofka, Marla Klein, Liz Kloak, Mary Casale, Linda Weisberger, Judy McClennan, Arlene Sarappo, Karen Feder, PJ Halwari, Laurie Jones, Annalise Marcus, Erin Ades, Diana Capetola, Jeanne Johnson, Laurie Goodman

Jaime Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. She introduced the HSA's Executive Board, reported that the Board had met on Friday and stated that they were off to a good year. The format of this meeting was outlined – the Principal would give his report, followed by the two Vice Principals, Faculty and Board of Education Representatives, the Executive Board and finally Committee Chairs.

The minutes from the June 14, 2011 meeting were submitted and approved.

Development:

Due to a scheduling conflict, David Zrike was moved up on the agenda. He 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.

David also spoke as a representative of the Jr. Guild. The Jr. Guild is an organization dedicated to providing safe and fun social events for High School students in the Village. They will be hosting a dance for Village HS students on Friday, September 16th. The HSA can help by chaperoning the dance (five to ten more are needed) or by becoming a member of the Sr. Guild for a nominal fee. Funds from the Sr. Guild help sponsor the Jr. Guild events. Membership forms were provided.

Principal's Report:

Jack Lorenz stated the High School experienced a smooth start to the school year. Every classroom is being utilized and space is tight. One more Science class is actually needed but there is no classroom to accommodate. Grade level meetings

were conducted and the new State HIB law was discussed. There are already two situations being investigated as they relate to this law.

Construction projects continue including enhancements to lighting, heating and air systems- including climate control, water fountains, flooring and ceilings. Timing of the construction has been shifted to the evenings to avoid disrupting learning. Due to manufacturing delays, some replacement of windows will be delayed until next year. The students have noticed aspects of the renovation.

The Freshmen Mixer was well attended and without incident. A very-successful Club Fair was held for the freshmen and Back-to School Night is September 22nd.

Dave Madden (RHS Grad and Famous Jeopardy Winner) will be starting a RHS Quiz Bowl club to compete in "The Challenge", an academic quiz show on the MSG Varsity network. The show will air in November. We provide the audience, so there will be a chance to attend, if interested.

The Pearls Project promotes tolerance and empathy for individuals that have genetic disorders. Students have been involved in a performance with affected 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 in October.

Dates for adding/dropping classes are: September 23rd for semester classes and October 7th for full-year classes.

Donna Hansen and Rocco Orlando continue planning work on the Learning Commons.

Jack concluded by encouraging parents to contact him with any questions or concerns.

Presentation - "Where to Find Information"

Basil Pizzuto began the discussion by introducing Adam Brunner from the IT Department who was available during the meeting for anyone having issues with the Skyward system.

Basil outlined several examples of information exchanges that had been taking place at RHS: 1) a Freshmen Orientation in early September 2) visitations by administration to all the freshmen focus classes and 3) the Club Fair.

Discussions are underway for a Club Fair webpage that will be a good and current source of information of the status of the many clubs. An informational evening event for parents is also under discussion.

Skyward, which is our system that has information on grades and attendance. Many school and district communications are sent to the emails in Skyward, it was recommended parents and guardians confirm their information is correct. Students should become very familiar with the all the information available to them in Skyward.

The Student Congress is currently planning out the year's events.

Jeff Nyhuis continued the presentation by reviewing the themes of the grade level meetings that took place the first week of school: Seniors - the college process; Juniors: the SATs and PSATs, beginning the college process, boosting grades and GPAs; Sophomores – PSATs and the improvement or maintenance of GPAs; Freshmen – new beginnings and connections.

Jeff talked about Naviance, which is a college research application and career exploration website. All guidance communications come through Naviance. In his opinion, it is the best system of its kind.

Blackboard is another information system used at RHS. It can function like an interactive classroom with testing capabilities. Access is only available to students registered in a class. There is no parent portal. Blackboard has more capabilities than Skyward and School Fusion. Guidance, department heads, many faculty members and students favor this system. Many colleges and universities that our graduates attend use Blackboard.

The RHS website is also another good source of information.

Finally, Jeff stated that any schedule changes should be submitted as soon as possible.

Board of Education Report:

Michele Lenhard discussed three topics: the new point-of-service system for food purchases, the status of the athletic fields and the Board of Education's goals for the year.

Michelle explained that annually the district receives \$72,000 in food subsidies from Federal and State government sources. These subsidies cover all students and not just those who receive free lunches. In order to comply with Federal and State regulations related to these subsidies, the district had to install a point-of-service system to capture specific data on food sales. Issues had arisen in prior audits that had to be corrected. The prior system could not provide the data that was necessary. The installation of the system has not been easy for the users. Many attendees shared issues they were having with the new system. Michelle referenced Q&A documents that the IT department has prepared to help families trying to use the new system. She said the IT Department is committed to fix all the issues with the new system.

The cost to repair the damage to the fields due to Hurricane Irene is \$117,860. The Board is hoping most of the costs will be reimbursed by FEMA and insurance. By comparison, Hurricane Floyd's damage was approximately \$296,000 with \$153,000 being reimbursed by FEMA and \$133,000 reimbursed by insurance.

There was a concern of field repair being done at dismissal time. The repair work causes a lot of dust and particles to be released into the air, while students are outside and/or playing sports. HS administration is going to make sure this situation does not occur again.

Finally, Michelle outlined some of the Board of Education's goals for the year, which focused on:

- 1) District Community Planning Goals for 2011-14.
- 2) Referendum projects- timely completion within budget;
- 3) Good Methods of Communications
- 4) Contract with the teachers and administrators – finalize a fair negotiation.

Faculty Report:

Diana Capetola thanked everyone for the treats at the Faculty meeting and equipment purchased from the proceeds of the 2011 Telethon.

President's Report:

Jamie Frederick stated that work on our goals has begun -Ninth Grade Transition Tips have been distributed and the HSA Facebook page is up and running. Both have been well received.

She also thanked Arlene Sarappo and last year's HSA Executive Board for helping to ensure a smooth transition for this year's Board.

Vice President:

Tracey Autera will be meeting with the Class Financial Coordinator and all the grade representatives to review the various fundraising efforts.

Treasurer:

Lynn Knight discussed the cash balance and related financial statements.

Communications:

Beth Holmes outlined the three main ways the HSA communicates: 1) HSA eNews- periodically sent via email; 2) HSA Facebook page and 3) the HSA webpage (www.rhshsa.org). Special thanks were given to Laurie Goodman for setting up the Facebook page.

She also reported work on the directory is underway. A target for directory distribution is mid-October.

Class Reports:

Class of 2012 (Lindsey Barclay): PG12 is in good shape. They have an electronic newsletter and great fundraising ideas.

Class of 2013 (Jenny Rabinowitz): nothing to report.

Class of 2014 (Joyce Suss): T-shirts will be sold this year.

Class of 2015 (Sharon Simocini and Nickiann Bussanich): planning is under way.

Hospitality:

Carol Rapaport thanked everyone for baking for the faculty meeting. More people are needed to help. If you can help, contact Carol or co-chair Gina McDade.

RHS Cares:

Report to come next month.

Jamboree:

Dick Majors and Rob Taylor distributed flyers about 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.

There was no Other Business and the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Olson