

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2012

In Attendance: Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Jaime Frederick, Tracy Autera, Carol Olson, Lynn Knight, Beth Holmes, David Zrike, Elizabeth Jastrzebska, Vincent Loncto, Theresa Callaghan, Annette Testa, Jung Kim, Christine Eckles, Joyce Suss, Jane Stone, Betty Eng, Tara Callaghan, Maryam Alsop, Lindsey Barclay, Jane Lum, Jean Cleary, Gina McDade, Cathy Jacobson, Terry Anzani.

Welcome and Approval of Minutes: Jaime Frederick called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed all attendees. The minutes from the January 10, 2012 meeting were submitted and approved.

Principal's Report:

Jeff Nyhuis reported that the Valentines Dance for the senior citizens was being hosted by the student congress this evening. This annual event is wonderful and enjoyed by all attendees.

The Maroon Men delivered singing valentines today, which resulted in approximately \$700 being raised for charity.

The Class of 2013 will be taking the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) exams on March 6th-8th from 8-11am. Because of the time requirements of the exam, a modified class meeting schedule will run during that period. Letters about the HSPAs and related schedule were sent home via the mail to parents/guardians.

To aid in the planning process for the next school year, the child study teams from the two middle schools met with the RHS child study team and co-principals to discuss the current 8th grade special education students.

The search for new RHS principal has yielded 63 candidates. Vincent Loncto, Board of Education representative, will report on the search later in the meeting.

Wednesday, February 15th, 2012 is the last day to drop second semester courses.

The February vacation week is a "no homework" break for students.

Topic- "Q and A with our Co-Principals":

The following is a summary of the questions posed to the co-principals:

- 1) Why doesn't the faculty use consistent websites to post information for students? For a variety of reasons, the staff uses many different websites. Jeff and Basil understand the issues that this causes and will work to streamline the number of websites used.
- 2) Why is there an inconsistent policy for making up PE classes, when students have to leave early for an athletic event or another specialty? Jeff and Basil will look into the situation.
- 3) Could PE be graded as a pass/fail class? No, because PE is part of the State required Wellness curriculum.
- 4) How is the GPA provided on Skyward calculated; I can't recalculate my daughter's? Jeff will review the GPA calculation with that parent.
- 5) Why don't teachers use the midterm exam as a teaching point and distribute/review the exam so the students can understand their performance? Many teachers reuse their midterm exams, so they do not want them distributed. The co-principals will discuss this issue at the faculty meeting.

- 6) How are the co-principals doing in their new roles? They are enjoying the roles. The role presents many challenges.
- 7) When will the bridge be fixed? By April.

Faculty Report:

Diane Capetola thanked the HSA for all the refreshments at the Faculty meetings.

Student Report: There was no student report because the students could not attend due to a conflict with the annual Valentines Dance with the senior citizens.

Board of Education Report: Vince Loncto reported on the following four topics:

- 1) Principal's search: there are currently 63 candidates that have submitted their resumes to be considered for the position. A screening committee, that includes Jeff Nyhuis and Basil Pizzuto, will review the resumes and identify 6-8 preferred candidates. From February 27th- March 9th, the first round of interviews will be conducted and the candidate pool will be reduced to four. Beginning March 12th, three constituent groups (comprised of parents, teachers and faculty) will meet the candidates and forward all impressions to Dan Fishbein. He will interview the candidates from March 19th-23rd before making his final recommendation to the Board of Education on April 2nd.
- 2) Budget: the development of the 2012-2013 budget is in process. There are three significant assumptions that are unknown at this point – State aid, health care premiums and the settlement of the current teacher contract. Governor Christie will deliver his budget on February 21st and within 48 hours of that address, the district should know the amount of state aid we will receive. The administrative staff will continue to refine the budget before the March 5th submission to the County Superintendent. During the month of March, district administration will host a series of meetings aimed at educating the community about the proposed budget before the community's April 17th vote on the budget.
- 3) Teacher contract negotiations: progress has been made but the two sides have entered into the state's fact-finding process. Both sides will present their offers to a fact-finder who will issue non-binding recommendations in a report to both parties. This report will also be available to the public. Both parties then have ten days to respond to the report. The State has submitted the names of three fact finders to the district for approval. The district has indicated that any of the three individuals would be acceptable. It is anticipated that the fact-finding session will take place in April, unless a resolution to the negotiation is reached.
- 4) Technology: Angelo DeSimone, the District's Business Administrator, led a discussion of technology strategy and direction at the February Federated meeting. He reported that a committee of 5 administrators has been formed and tasked with understanding and stratifying the use of ipads and virtual desktop/server based technology throughout the district. There is a strong feeling that ipads are changing the face of education on a technical level and it seems likely that the district will pursue the implementation of this type of system.

EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES:

A) President's Report:

Jaime Frederick announced that Tara Callaghan is taking over as the Class of 2013 representative.

She also reported that the Wizards game brought in a profit of approximately \$4200. \$1,000 will be used by Federated for their operating expenses, leaving \$3200 to be used for safety initiatives and/or donated to a local charity. The Federated HSA will vote on how to use the proceeds at their March meeting.

The NJ Unfunded Mandate Commission found that the HIB legislation, as written, does not have the appropriate state funding to ensure compliance. The State of NJ now has 60 days to determine how much, if any, funding they are willing to put behind the HIB mandate or the law will become null and void. The finding was made January 27th.

B) Vice President:

Tracy Autera had no items to report this month.

C) Treasurer:

Lynn Knight discussed financial statements. She reported the HSA made a donation to purchase new resuscitation dolls for the health curriculum.

D) Communications:

Beth Holmes had no items to report.

E) Development:

David Zrike stated the HSA would be conducting a phone-a-thon/telethon in March/April 2012. Last year's event raised \$55,000 which was used to purchase microscope. If you are interested in volunteering for the phone-a-thon, contact David.

Backwoods:

David reported that 400 students attended the February dance with very few incidents. Future plans include a March dodge ball tournament, a comedy night and a dance in June to celebrate the end of the year.

COMMITTEE AND LIASON UPDATES

A) Class Reports:

Class of 2012: (Lindsey Barclay): Project Graduation is progressing on schedule. On March 1st, the volunteers will be able to access the Brogan's building to start the building process.

Class of 2013: Tara Callaghan will be taking over as the Class of 2013 representative. There were no items to report.

Class of 2014 (Joyce Suss): "WOOD" magnets are being sold for \$5 at Bookends. They magnets are strong enough for vehicles, lockers, refrigerators and other metal surfaces.

Class of 2015: no report

B) Hospitality: Carol Rapaport thanked the individuals who contributed food and drink for the faculty meeting. An email will be distributed next week for the April meeting.

C) Jamboree: The recent Jamboree was a huge success and raised approximately \$90,000, which will be used to fund need-based college scholarships.

There was no **Other Business** and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 13th, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted by Carol Olson