

**RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES FOR JUNE18, 2013**

In Attendance: Lori Weil, Tom Gorman, Basil Pizzuto, jeff Nyhuis, Jaime Frederick, Carol Olson, Tara Callaghan, Annette Testa, Robinsons, Becky Simpson, Kim Reiss, Deborah Bryant, Elizabeth Jastrzebska, Joan Gaidimas, Sara Erwin, Jin Lee, Kim Lucky, Pam Riccato, Kelly Gioia, Maggi DeVita

Welcome and Approval Of Welcome: Lori Weil called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm and welcomed all attendees. The minutes from the May meeting was submitted and approved.

Student Liaisons were not present at the meeting.

Principal's Report: Tom Gorman informed of the need for a swim coach and asked if anyone has any recommendation. A physical education coach and a cheer leading coach have been identified and will be confirmed soon.

Lori Weil also confirmed of an organizational meeting for parents before tryouts for cheerleading. Communications have been sent out to parents.

Tom Gorman informed of "Sports Free Week" during the month of August. He also informed of school working on an Academic Integrity policy, which will be communicated, to the parents over the summer.

He spoke on the following four initiatives for the upcoming school year.

1) A Summer Reading program for the incoming 9th graders in conjunction with the public library, which is voluntary but highly recommended by all the teachers.

2) RHS Teen LEADS in conjunction with Bergen LEADS whereby students will engage in immersion learning experience in Government, Health, Education and Law & Public Safety. This is open to all 9-12 grade students.

3) The Child Development Program will work with the Nursery at the First Presbyterian Church therefore eliminating the need for kids being brought into the high school. The RHS students will be able to observe and interact with the nursery kids for practical purposes.

4) As part of the Technology Initiative in addition to "bring your own device" BYOD, 250 chrome books will be purchased and as a pilot program will be given to the freshman biology class and then rolled out to other classrooms based on the outcome.

Basil Pizzuto: He informed of another successful "Prom Night" despite the pouring rain and appreciated the Jersey City police officer for bringing out big umbrellas to help with the kids. He also informed of Dr. Tim Silvestri (Lafayette College

Psychology teacher) talking to the kids about alcohol and substance abuse and consequences on Monday before the prom. They are gearing up for the graduation day and will be practicing the routine as soon as the kids are back in school. He thanked all the parents for their support this year and is looking forward to another great year ahead.

Jeff Nyhuis: He presented the conclusion of the Senior Survey and reported that 3,102 transcripts and about 790 teacher recommendations were sent out. He informed that about 86.7% of the students (346) will be attending 4yr colleges and 5.8% will be attending (23students) 2yr colleges. 153 of the kids are attending state school and 69 students were accepted early decisions. 11 of the kids are doing a 5th year prep school before going on to college.

All information will be on Naviance.

Lori asked Maggie DeVita to present her report, as she had to leave for PG13 meeting.

Maggie DeVita informed that they are in the process of transporting the props to BF. She requested that HSA consider a PG foundation fund to provide families who cannot afford the dues to attend PG. She recommended a \$1,000 to be put into a savings account to help the future needs. Lori Weil said it was a great idea and will be made available for the future.

Jeff Nyhuis thanked the special student panel present consisting of Kelly Boylan (Haverford College), Arlim Guerrero (Rutgers), Ashley Ellis (Lafayette), Carl Legg (University of Maryland), Alex Sarappo (Colby). He invited them to share their experience at college and asked them as to why they choose their respective colleges and if they were happy with their choice. He also asked if RHS prepares them for college and if so how and also about the rooming experience. Parents were also invited to pose their question to the panel as well.

Faculty Report: Faculty representatives were not available to present their report.

Learning Commons Update: Lori Weil informed that the Learning Commons project went out for bids in May and was expecting the construction bids to be about \$600,00 but were taken aback when all three bids came back with a cost of \$1.2Mn or above. At present the BOE and the committee are working together to come up with suitable/creative option to work with the funds available. The overages were mostly mechanical as the building has old systems and are now looking at innovative ways to mesh with the existing system seamlessly. The committee is now working with the state grant, which should be available for construction. This will delay the start of the construction process as they are waiting on the grant to come through. The grant would be a percentage of the cost of construction on a reimbursement format.

Board of Education Report: Sheila Brogan informed that the board negotiated the contract with Dr. Daniel Fishbein and confirmed that he will remain for another 5yrs as the Superintendent. She also informed that due to an Extraordinary Aide from the state they are able to hire two new administrative assistants to help K-5 and middle school. She confirmed of the changes for the new calendar for the next year and also the change in the elementary lunch program. The surcharge for credit card payments will be eliminated from Rev Trek. The senior awards night was fabulous and looking forward to a wonderful graduation day.

Looking Back By Tom Gorman: Tom Gorman praised the students; faculty and parents for the valuable assistance in making his first year at RHS go smoothly. His observation was that Ridgewood is the best town to live in and Ridgewood High Schools takes their academic work seriously, they come to school early and stay late to pursue their interests involving in athletics and extra curricular activities. They involve themselves in services and make a positive change in community living.

Executive Board Updates:

A) President's Report: Lori Weil thanked each and every one for making it a wonderful experience to serve on the board for this past year. She thanked the members of the executive board and mentioned that it was an honor to work with a talented and dedicated team. She thanked the School administrators and appreciated their work on a daily basis. She was grateful for the insightful, honest and caring individuals and for the work they do on behalf of our student development every day. She thanked all the committee members and liaison for their support and for attending all their meetings and sharing their perspectives on so many issues. She especially thanked those involved in the Learning Commons Project and for their valuable time.

She ended with a quote "*Be thankful for what you have and you will end up with more*" by Oprah Winfrey.

B) Lori Weil reported on behalf of David Zrike on "**Backwoods**" requesting parent chaperone for the upcoming dance on June 21st to be held at Van Nest Square.

C) **Vice President:** Carol Olson had nothing to report.

D) **Treasurer:** Lynn Knight was not available.

E) **Communications:** Tara Callaghan had nothing to report.

Committees And Liaisons Update:

1) Class Reports:

Junior Class: Kim Lucky and Gina MaDade reported that Nancy Scanlon and Robin Morsch are the Project Graduation 2014 chairpersons. They are looking for junior parents to be the "watch Dog"/ hall monitors at BF. Also they need people to take down (Wrecking Ball) PG the next day.

Carol Olson thanked the chairpersons for a wonderful job they have done.

Sophomore class: No reports available and Carol mentioned the Bleacher chairs were popular and are in need of more.

Freshman class: Kathy Marshall reported on the sale of 216-stadium blanket for PG and said it was a good fundraiser so far.

2) Nominating Committee:

Tracy Autera presented the slate for the HSA Executive Board for the school year 2013-2014.

President: Carol Olson

Vice President: Tom Gorman

Second Vice President: Kim Lucky

Treasurer: Pam Riccato

Secretary: Kelly Gioia

Communications: Tara Callaghan

Development: Lori Weil

A vote was taken and the slate accepted.

Introduction of Carol Olson as the new president by Lori Weil: Carol Olson thanked Lori Weil for her work ethics and presented her with a thank you gift. She acknowledged the rest of the board members and is looking forward to a wonderful new year. She also thanked Tracy Autera for getting a great Board together.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:35PM.

Respectfully submitted by Bamini Pillai.