

# **Ridgewood High School Home and School Association Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Carol Olson, Kim Lucky, Lori Weil, Pam Ricatto, Kelly Gioia, Tara Callaghan, Tom Gorman, Basil Pizzuto, Jeff Nyhuis, Ruth Parks, Ann Wheaton, Nancy Johonsen, Bennett Darienzo, Joanne Trattner, Allison Rogers, Michael Cullen, Jennifer Montague, Christine McCandless, Jennifer Celiberti, Susan Caswell, Amy Bachmann, Bamini Pillai, Elizabeth Jastrzebska, Loraine Reynolds, Cathy Jacobson, Karen Caine, Lori Golden, Nancy Koontz, Louise Jerkovich, Adam Seston, Sharon Simoncini, Sheila Brogan, Kim Arzoumanian, Rob Absey, Fran Seremetis, Jack Herzberg, William Chelak, Herena Record, Sara Whiting, Eliza Armstrong, Yevgeniy Patek, Becky Simpson, Kristen Stuart, Elizabeth Ronda, Leo and Sandra Aguerrevere, Kevin Sheehy, Elizabeth Kostro, Mitra Basu, Jeff Feldhann, Christine Driscoll, Jen Muller, Laura Miller, Jennifer Shakibai, Lynne Peabody, Brian Gatens, Frank Aleberta, Ajanta Kumar, Joan Gaidimas, Richard Goodman, Pat Noeth, Camille Raia, Enid Joseph, Lynn Granski, Jennifer Hamlet, Nancy Legg, Terry Anzano, Catherin Bunza, Izabella Sandoval

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Carol Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed all attendees. The minutes from the November 12, 2013 were submitted and approved.

**Student Report:** Catherine Bunza and Izabella Sandoval reported that the student government food drive for Thanksgiving was successful. They also reported that the Holiday giving party for kids 6 to 10 was a rewarding experience.

## **Presentation – Academic Programs and Course Selections**

### **A. American History & Literature with Integrated Study in the Arts**

**(AHLISA)** Karen Aromando presented the AHLISA program. This course of study is an honors level interdisciplinary two-year program.

The program integrates the study of fine and performing arts with a strong academic focus on history and literature. There is an application process to be accepted. Twenty-four students are accepted. Approximately sixty children apply. They take many day trips. The classes meet back to back during the school day.

#### **B. American Studies**

Mark Ferreri introduced the American Studies program, which is a two-year honors study of American history with an English and Social Studies component. The students take 5 trips over the two years. There is an application process similar to AHLISA. Between forty and fifty students are accepted to the program. There are two sections. An American studies graduate, Mike Antosiewicz, spoke about his experience in the program.

#### **C. Ridgewood Academy for Health Professions (RAHP)**

Lucy Fern introduced the RAHP program. This is a three-year program in partnership with Valley Hospital and Bergen Community College. This is an interdisciplinary program with English, Science and Wellness. There are thirty-five spots available with 2 sections. Valley Hospital has capped the program at 35 students. There is an application process. She reported that the program is a study in awareness of the health professions. During the Junior year the students do an internship. Senior year has a capstone project as a graduation requirement. This Sat. from 9:30 to 11:30AM at the campus center is a RAHP information session. Thursday, January 16, during the school day is another information session. All of the programs are discussed in Freshman focus. For more information go to RAHP.org.

#### **D. DECA (Business and Marketing)**

Karen Mendez discussed DECA. The DECA club members are required to be enrolled in any business or marketing education class. This is a regulation set by the national order of DECA. DECA is a series of competitions. There are regional and national competitions. Last year 35 students went on to compete in nationals.

**Principal's Report:** Tom Gorman reported that there is a sleep in tomorrow. There is a professional day for teachers. The topic for the day for the teachers will be "What will RHS look like in 2025". Tom reported that the midterm review day is January 23. Exams start on January 24.

Tom reported on RHS drug, alcohol and tobacco use. He stated we address all situations. Tom highlighted the NJ student health trends from the NJ Department of Education Report. Numbers are in favor of the positive behaviors. Tom will be publishing facts in the weekly views.

**Assistant Principal:** Basil Pizzuto reported that the Freshman and Sophomore class is having a dance this Friday from 7 to 10PM. Basil is sending out an email outlining the rules for a school dance at RHS. The cost of the dance is \$10.

**Assistant Principal: (with Department Chairs input)** Jeff Nyhuis reported that over the next few weeks the guidance counselors will be meeting with the students and making recommendations for course selections for next year. In Freshman focus, all of the courses and programs are discussed. In February, the students will be choosing their courses on skyward based on teacher recommendations. Certain courses follow each other. Teachers make the recommendation of the level of the class based on the student's achievement in the classroom. Students should find out if

they are accepted to the specialty programs the first or second week of March.

PARCC (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Carrers) is going to be replacing HESPA test.

All RHS courses align with the common core standards.

This March will be the last required year for the HESPA. The PARCC tests will then be required.

Jeff reported that local scholarship applications are due Friday, January 10.

REF is sponsoring a SAT program for Juniors. \$10 to sign up. RHS teachers are teaching the course. They are getting a book and 6 hours of math instruction and 6 hours of english instruction. Thank you to the REF for sponsoring the program.

Jeff working to enhance our school profile which is sent to the colleges.

**Faculty Report:** Ruth Parks suggested students should start studying for their midterms now. Start early. She also suggested going in to skyward and reviewing your grades.

**Board of Education Report:** Sheila reported that the BOE has been discussing the common core and the NJ standards.

BOE is putting together some FAQ's on the testing and the common core.

There is conern about using test data for teacher recommendations.

Ridgewood did well on the testing from last year.

## **Executive Board Updates**

### **A) Presidents Report:**

The Wizards charity basketball game is January 31. Tickets are on sale. Two RHS faculty members are playing in the game.

Carol reported that the REF donated \$100k to RHS to enhance the computers at the HS. Thank you to REF.

**B) Vice President:**

PG 2014 is looking for new constructions space. If anyone knows of a space please contact Nancy Scanlon.

**C) Treasurer:**

Pam Ricatto distributed the financials. We are still undergoing an audit, so we do not have updated account balances at this time.

HSA is slightly behind on directory sales. You can still get a directory.

**D) Secretary:**

Kelly Gioia reminded parents that the meeting is being taped. Please remember to sign the sign-in sheet.

**E) Communications:**

Nothing to report.

**F) Development:**

Lori reported that RHS was not approved for the NJ State grant for the Learning Commons project. Other towns that submitted grants for media centers were also turned down. The BOE decided to allocate some additional funds for the project so we are back on track. The project will be going out to bid before the end of January. Bids should be back by the end of February /beginning of March and we should start construction this summer.

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

**Class Reports**

**2014 –Project Graduation**

See VP report

**2015– Jr. Class**

Sharon Simoncini reported that junior class parents are needed to help out at the fashion show. She is looking for parent volunteers to work the check out at the event.

**2016– Soph. Class**

Nothing to report

**2017 – Frosh. Class**

Lynn Granski reported that a heads up email went out to Freshman parents about the midterm schedule.

**Other Business:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Next HSA meeting will be held on February 11, 7:30 PM, RHS Library.

Respectively submitted by Kelly Gioia.