

# **Ridgewood High School Home and School Association Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2013**

**In Attendance:** Kim Lucky, Carol Olson, Lori Weil, Pam Ricatto, Kathy Marshall, Kelly Gioia, Kate Mancini, Annette Testa, Mitra Basen, Amy Bachmann, Maria Absey, Elizabeth Jastrebske, Bamini Pillai, Regina Branca, Bonnie Cornell, Shashi Pattmer, Jin Lee, Robin Morsch, Sara Erwin, Angele Ekert, Sheila Brogan, Sudharshini Ragulan, Joan Gaidimas, Mary Casale, Jocelyn Dreier, Beth Holmes, Jennifer Shakibai, Tina Tilyou, Nancy Koontz, Ajanta Kumar, Kim Reis, Linda Bradley, Laura Miller, Maureen Burke, Angela Chang, Shannon Andrews, Tara Callaghan

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Carol Olson called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm and welcomed all attendees. The minutes from June 18, 2013 were submitted and approved. New HSA Board introduced.

**Student Report:** Catherine Bunza and Izabella Sandoval reported on the summer student government collaboration meeting. Discussions at the meeting included the positive and negative attributes of RHS. Some of the positives include: freedom, many clubs, many sports, and diversity. Some of the negatives include: loss of unity, too busy with our own activity, stress of course loads. Will try and bring students together during spirit week. (Oct. 28–Nov. 1) Will pick a special spirit week rep per class “out of a hat” to determine who will participate in the RHS trivia.

**Principal's Report:** Tom Gorman reported on the professional development day, which will take place on October 14, 2013. There will be 9 different topics discussed. The topics range from technology to stress reduction techniques. Some topics will carry over to the next professional development day.

Each teacher will be asked to come up with 2 student growth objectives (SGO's), which will be part of their teacher evaluation at

the end of the year. Teachers trained in writing SGO's during development day.

Teachers trained on Google Apps during Professional development day in September.

Approximately, 200 plus Chrome books were purchased over the summer. These books are not to go home. Primarily, being used in freshman biology. This is the first step in our process to move to a 1 to 1 initiative for all students in the HS.

On October 24 -26, the New Players will present The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The New Players club is trying to present one family show out of their 10 to 12 shows this year. This show is their first attempt.

On October 16, the freshman and sophomores will be experiencing Ryan's story. This is a powerful story about bullying and suicide. There is a parent component, which will take place at Westwood Regional Middle School on the same day at 7pm. Space is limited. It is free.

Back to school was well attended.

Enrollment will be up 200 students in the next 5 years. Resources will be shifted. Hopefully, we can get more teachers. Class sizes are increasing.

Great start to school year.

**Assistant Principal:** Basil Pizzuto discussed the student government retreat. Student government set goals and plans before the start of the year.

Heermance place parking is now for teachers. Students are cooperating and not parking on Heermance place. We now have visitor-parking set-up along Ridgewood Ave.

Basil reported we have not had any locker room thefts.

Six classrooms will be open for lunch. Teachers monitor the classrooms. Three classrooms open to eat lunch and socialize. Three classrooms open to make up work/tests.

Library hours have expanded to 7:15am to 4:15pm.

Club fair was very successful. 100 clubs represented.

Basil discussed why everyone eats at the same time. Unit lunch allows everyone to be available at the same time. Clubs meet at lunch. Support Services are available at lunch.

RHS is the largest HS in Bergen County.

**Assistant Principal:** Jeff Nyhuis discussed his trip to Toronto to the NACAC conference at the University of Toronto. Jeff meets with admissions reps from all over the county. That is his main job while at the conference. He gets the inside information of what is missing from an application or recommendation. RAA paid for his trip this year.

Jeff gave a college admissions update. 586 transcript requests have been handed in already. Jeff discussed early action restricted.

Jeff reported on the change in the common app process. Computer lab has been open and counselors available for help.

Jeff reported there would not be a College Speaker on October 17, 2013. Instead, on December 12, 2013, Jeff Fedora (of Connections 101) will come and speak to the senior students and parents about scholarships. She is free, however, we must have at least 100 people attend the presentation.

Jeff reported he is planning a panel meeting with current college freshman returning to RHS to discuss their freshman year. This panel meeting will be for senior students.

The College Fair at FDU was the third week of September and about 250 schools were represented.

Jeff reported the freshman and senior meetings were held and were well attended.

Jeff reported he needs freshman students for his Principal's Advisory group. The meetings are the first Thursday of each month in room 116. If interested please have your child email Mr. Nyhuis. Next meeting November 14 due to teacher's convention.

PSAT's are October 19, 2013 at RHS. If necessary, juniors can take the test at Bergen Catholic on Wed. October 16, 2013. Sophomores are taking the test.

**Faculty Report:** Ruth Parks and Katherine Venturini, both of the World Language department, introduced themselves as the faculty reps for this school year.

**Board of Education Report:** Sheila Brogan reported that the school year is off to a good start. Overall enrollment in all of the Ridgewood schools K-12 is down 34 students.

Coffee and conversation will take place tomorrow between 7 and 8:30pm.

On October 16, there will be an Internet safety meeting for parents at BF.

Sheila reported that teacher evaluations would be challenging. Test scores will be linked to evaluations.

Sheila reported that the board is looking to move the budget and BOE elections from April to November. The Board is looking for feedback from the community. Board may do a survey. If the election were moved the savings would be \$42,000. Only 38 communities in NJ have kept the elections in April.

The Board is looking to make a decision by their first meeting in December.

### **Executive Board Updates**

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

Carol Olson thanked Annette Testa and Becky Simpson for organizing the teacher breakfast.

Carol suggested emailing her with any ideas for upcoming HSA meetings.

Carol thanked Maureen Burke and Barbara Crowe for working on the RHS directory.

Carol reported that the \$25 dues for the HSA are our only fundraiser.

Carol thanked Sharon Walker for stepping up to be our Webmaster. All HSA enews are posted on the HSA webpage.

Carol gave a brief update of the Federated meeting details: Dr. Fishbein introduced the new hires at the meeting. Dr. Fishbein reviewed the school surveys at the meeting. School surveys are on the district website. The date of the Wizards basketball fundraiser is Friday, January 31, 2014. BOE goals for the year were reviewed.

Carol reported the documents the HSA is required to maintain given we are a 501C3. Those documents include a conflict of interest policy, a whistle blower policy and a document retention policy.

PG 2014 is selling raffle tickets (50/50) at the end of the meeting. No givebacks allowed. Only 1000 are tickets for sale.

#### **B) Vice President:**

Kim Lucky reported for the junior class PG that they are still selling stadium chairs and the info is on the website.

#### **C) Treasurer:**

Pam Ricatto distributed the budget. Pam reported the directory dues are our only fundraiser.

Pam reported this is our first year presenting a budget.

**D) Secretary:**

Kelly Gioia reminded attendees to sign in so attendance can be noted on the minutes.

Kelly Gioia informed attendees that meeting is being taped.

**E) Communications:**

Tara Callaghan reported that she sends out the enews. Please copy Carol and Tara if you are sending information to be distributed via enews. Tara is trying to streamline information. PG 2014 can email information directly to Tara and she will send out immediately.

**F) Development:**

Lori Weil reported that we are waiting for information from the state about the Learning Commons grant. The grant deadline was September 4, 2013. Parent committee raised \$600,000 and BOE giving \$400,000 toward the project. Lori reported that Learning Commons project would happen no matter the outcome from the state.

Lori to work with Dr. Fishbein and Dr. Gorman and will create an alumni-giving campaign. Siobhan Winograd already created an alumni t-shirt to raise money for an alumni endowment.

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

**Class Reports**

**2014 –Project Graduation**

Robin Morsch reported that the school wide social was a success. School apparel is still for sale.

Baby pictures for seniors due on November 1, 2013.

Next PG 2014 meeting is on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

**2015– Jr. Class**

No report

**2016– Soph. Class**

Kathy Marshall reported the class of 2016 won the wine pull contest at the social and raised \$360 for the class.

**2017 – Frosh. Class**

Lynn Granski and Kate Mancini introduced themselves as the freshman class reps. They are having coffee on October 10, 2013 at 9:15 at Lynn's home.

**Other Business:**

Linda Bradley discussed her request to have the RHS HSA support the Tic Toc program at RHS. Linda discussed the major requirements. Attendees discussed funding of Tic Toc vs. other clubs and activities at the RHS.

David Zirke reported the Backwoods dance was a success with over 1,100 students in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectively submitted by Kelly Gioia.

