

**Ridgewood High School  
Home and School Association  
Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Carol Olson, Kim Lucky, Lori Weil, Pam Ricatto, Kelly Gioia, Tara Callaghan, Tom Gorman, Basil Pizzuto, Jeff Nyhuis, Ruth Parks, Annette Testa, Mercedes Vidal, Elizabeth Jastvzebska, Maureen Burke, Kate Mancini, Ann Cabay-Walsh, Sue Sofka, Keri Hwang, Kim Reis, Shari Seroka, Hema Chaurasia, Pat Noeth, Laura Miller, Joanne Trattner, Lynn Granski, Shashi Pathman, SS Pathman, Izabella Sandoval

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Carol Olson called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed all attendees. The minutes from the January 7, 2014 were submitted and approved.

**Student Report:** Izabella Sandoval reported that the Valentine's Day dance was postponed due to weather. She also reported that the student government is working on the Spring Fling.

Dr. Gorman challenged the student government to imagine what RHS might look like in the next 10 to 20 years. The student government will be discussing this topic.

**Presentaion: Common Core Standards**

Cheryl Best, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment (CIA) gave a power point presentation on the common core standards. There are 3 major changes. There are new standards, assessments, and new accountability measures. The power point presentation can be found on the Ridgewood public schools website at [http://curriculum-instruction-and-assessment.ridgewood.schoolfusion.us/modules/locker/files/group\\_files.phtml?parent=23648290&gid=1063615&sessionid=79011fc922c36abf40c75fc15bd300f1](http://curriculum-instruction-and-assessment.ridgewood.schoolfusion.us/modules/locker/files/group_files.phtml?parent=23648290&gid=1063615&sessionid=79011fc922c36abf40c75fc15bd300f1).

The common core state standards are replacing the 2008 standards. There are fewer standards with greater rigor in the common core standards. Cheryl also reviewed the PARCC test that will be given next year to students. There will be 2 mandatory tests each year for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The testing will be on line. This is the last year for the HESPA test. The HS /Middle School students will be taking individual English, Math, and Science course tests. The results from the 2015 tests will determine what happens in the next

few years. PARCC results will be on college transcripts. All these tests are still in development so stay informed.

**Principal's Report:** Tom Gorman reported that the RHS report card from the state of NJ for the 2012/2013 school year is on the RHS website. There is a lot of information that is not credible on the report. We have put the information out and will discuss.

Tom wants to know what is the best way to communicate with parents. Facebook, twitter, etc.

Tom will continue to put the NJ state stats on drug information in the weekly views email.

**Assistant Principal:** Basil Pizzuto reported that teachers are feeling stressed about all the new initiatives. (PARCC, SGO's Common Core, teacher evaluations)

**Assistant Principal:** Jeff Nyhuis reported PARCC (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Carrers) is going to be replacing HESPA test. Jeff discussed the time the PARCC test planning is taking away from the time supervisors and guidance counselors have to work directly with the kids.

**Faculty Report:** No news to report.

**Board of Education Report:** Sheila Brogan reported that Super Science Saturday is March 8.

The BOE is working on the Budget. There will not be a vote on the Budget this year. Dr. Fishbien has 2 evening meetings scheduled to review the budget. The BOE wrote a resolution about their concern about the use of PARCC test score data for teacher evaluations. There are too many questions that are unanswered. The resolution has been sent to the NJ legislatures and NJ department of education. (Delay use of data)

There is going to be a town hall meeting on alcohol and drugs on March 26. It is at It's Greek To Me and Tim Silvestre is the speaker. Sheila reported that the 2014/2015 calendar is not set yet. The start date is Sept. 4.

**Executive Board Updates**

**A) Presidents Report:**

Carol Olson thanked the Jamboree committee. It was a fabulous event. The March HSA meeting is an open question meeting. Please submit any questions to Carol. She will then pass the questions on to the administration. The HSA nominating committee is starting right after break. If anyone is interested in a position on the HSA please contact Lynn Knight.

Carol thanked Dr. Fishbein for inviting her to the bid opening for the Learning Commons.

**B) Vice President:**

PG 2014 is looking for new constructions space. They are struggling to find a space. If anyone knows of a space please contact Nancy Scanlon.

**C) Treasurer:**

Pam Ricatto distributed the financials.

Pam reported that the audit is complete. The audit went well. There was only one deficiency noted. Two checks issued by PG 2013 that were over \$500 did not have the required co chair signatures.

We are running at or under budget on all line item expenses.

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 Weil reported that the bid opening for the Learning Commons was today. Seven contractors submitted sealed bids. They ranged from approximately 797K to 1 million. The architect is reviewing the 4 lowest bids and then the BOE attorney will review the bids. Then a contractor will be selected. The furniture invoice was finalized and there should be some money left for technology.

Lori reported that they are in the final design stages for the donor wall. We are on track for demolition of the old library to start at the end of school. The new Learning Commons should open some time at the beginning of the 2014/2015 school year.

**Committee Liaison Reports:**

**Class Reports**

**2014 –Project Graduation**

**See VP report**

**2015– Jr. Class**

Junior class is selling merchandise. The deadline to buy is Feb. 28.

Junior class coffee is scheduled for Thurs. March 13, at the home of Lori Weil.

**2016– Soph. Class**

Sophomore class is thinking of doing a flip-flop sale in the spring.

**2017 – Frosh. Class**

Lynn Granski reported that the class sold 125 t-shirts. Thank you to Mr. Maye for helping promote the sale.

The Frosh. Class is having a social on Feb. 7 at 10AM. An email with information will be sent.

**Other Business:**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.

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

Respectively submitted by Kelly Gioia.