

## **RHS HSA Meeting Minutes January 8, 2008**

Frances Ekblom opened the meeting with a welcome.

Liz Gordon spoke on the REF Speakers' series. Marty O'Connell is scheduled to return to speak to the Juniors on January 30<sup>th</sup>. There is \$3204.50 left in the College Speakers series budget. Liz suggested that we use part of this remainder to fund Ms. O'Connell's visit. Peg Loonam spoke about the need to address colleges' expectations for our students; O'Connell will address this topic. A motion was made to approve. HSA will fund \$250; REF to fund the additional \$250.

**RAHP Program**—Lucy Fern of RHS and Colette Cummings from Valley Hospital spoke about the Ridgewood Academy for Health Professions.

The RAHP(Ridgewood Academy for Health Professions) program is a partnership of RHS, Valley Hospital, and Bergen Community College. It is a learning community with core teachers, students, and relationships with healthcare professionals. It provides an infusion of health-related issues into our existing high school curriculum.

Year 1 (Sophomore) involves a student's Science, English and Wellness classes, along with career exploration. The RAHP student's English and Science classes are tagged as RAHP. Year 2 (Junior) includes: English 11 H, Physics H, and Wellness and Internship credits. Senior year includes a Seminar class and capstone project.

Sophomores spend 4 full days during the school year at Valley, visiting various hospital departments. e.g. Radiology, ER, and infection control. Juniors choose an internship for each quarter of the year, allowing exploration of areas of interest. Seniors experience a mentorship with a Valley staff member, giving each student the opportunity to choose and direct his or her own project in an area of interest. The capstone projects are presented at a symposium.

An exit survey on their RAHP experience is being put together for this year's seniors, the first class to come through the program. The Program Director is hoping to track the RAHP students as they go forward with future schooling and job choices. Upcoming information sessions will be held, including this Saturday, at the Campus Center for all interested students and parents.

The Valley Hospital Foundation recently approved funding of \$7000 for the RAHP program. There will be a formal evaluation of the program as national accreditation is currently being sought. If approved, the RAHP Program will become a formal academy. Five other area high schools have visited the RAHP program.

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**Board of Education Report—Michele Lenhard**

Next Mon, Jan. 14, BOE will hold a roundtable to discuss math in the district. New emergency contact information was sent via mail. All parents should be receiving test calls on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> to test this new rapid emergency notification system.

On Jan 30, the Curriculum Communications committee will be hosting a panel on “preparing our students for the future.”

At the NJ state level, the School funding formula was passed last night. \$20 million was added at the last minute for special education. What does this mean for Ridgewood? The bill does not allocate the funds, yet--that’s the next step. Just the total has been determined. An adequacy \$ amount is determined for each elementary, middle, and high school student. Our average cost per student in Ridgewood is \$12,000, approximately. Once the local budget is prepared for the upcoming year, we will have more detail. The area that is changing most dramatically is in the area of special education. Where we will come out on this budget-wise, it is too early to tell, however our per pupil costs are fairly low in relation to the rest of the state. BOE’s budget process is just starting.

#### **Principal’s Report—Jack Lorenz**

Jack gave a construction update—lots of roof work is going to be done. Tomorrow a snow fence is going in surrounding some areas outside. The cupola is going to be replaced. There is going to be some non-friable asbestos roofing material removed. There is no concern over any health hazards—Jack will be sending a letter about this to parents. The finish date will be near the end of May, hopefully in time for graduation!

Shetland Islands visitors recently visited (three students and one teacher), as part of the Global Classroom Initiative. RHS will have a Global Learning classroom as part of a senior seminar. In June, 5 or 6 students from RHS will be going to Prague for a Global Classroom conference. The seminar program will involve an application process for interested students. The Shetland visitors did a project on the American Dream. A Ridgewood student created a 3-minute video on the American dream in Ridgewood.

The Alcohol EDU program is kicking off soon. (HSA provided partial funding for this program.)

The Principal’s Message is up on the website now; check it out!

The Alumni art show was fabulous.

The band is going to California soon.

Free wrestling and basketball nights have been offered recently to promote school spirit.

A new Smart Phone system has been created; Jack demonstrated his Smart Phone, demonstrating how he can immediately call up information about any student. It is especially helpful for school security.

**President's Report—Frances Ekblom**

Frances spoke about the decision of Federated HSA to use monies earned from the upcoming Wizards' game to contribute toward smart phone technology—"Swift Reach"—a fast way to contact all parents in the district. (The emergency call system is going to be tested on January 17 throughout the district—see above.)

The Harlem Wizards game is coming up on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 at RHS. The information and order form will be up on the website soon.

An Author chat is coming up soon, featuring Leslie Lipton and her novel Unwell. It is a fictionalized account of a young woman's struggle with anorexia. It will be held Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Ridgewood Public Library. The REF is a sponsor.

Frances thanked those who participated in the Mango Jam fundraiser. The total raised is not in yet, but several \$100s were raised for RHS HSA.

Due to February vacation, there will be no HSA meeting in February. Our next meeting is in March—watch for the date!

**Guidance Report—Peg Loonam**

Local Scholarship applications for Seniors are due tomorrow, Jan 9. Many reminders have been given. Late applications will be marked late, but allowed to be received.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting will take place on Jan 24 in the Campus Center. RHS students will be there to speak as part of a peer panel.

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, both middle school counseling departments are coming to RHS to learn about placement for next year's 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

Marty O'Connell is going to speak to Juniors in an all-class assembly during the final period on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> (See above for more information on this.)

This Saturday (12th) and next Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) there will be information sessions for the RAHP program. All parents are welcome.

Juniors are going to again be invited to participate in the Bruce Hammond SAT program. There will be no weekend classes; they will be held from 5-8 in the evening.

On February 8<sup>th</sup>, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting will be held.

Regarding the scheduling of exams: review day is January 23<sup>rd</sup>—students will go to every period that day for a review in each class. There will be an hour break between the 2 exams each day. Jack mentioned that the exam will comprise 20-25% of each student's final grade. Seniors with an A- or better in a class will be exempt from taking the final exam in that class. Exams are going to be based upon each class' actual material covered.

Every course will have a meaningful culminating activity, even if it is not an exam. Ruth Parks suggested stressing the importance of outlining chapters across all subjects.

The College Speaker Series for April will again use a panel format, with approximately 5 speakers.

**Treasurer's Report—Wendy Wong**

Wendy presented the financial report for December. Total expenses for the month were \$196.75, with a total of \$6,372.53 for the school year, thus far.

Approx. 50 directories are still available for sale; let her know if you'd like one.

**Project Graduation—Beth Abbott**

Things are coming along well. The annual Senior Fashion Show is planned for March 2.

No student report.

**Class Reports**

**Freshman Class—Terri McAteer**

They are still collecting emails, but have been pretty successful.

**Sophomore Class—Wanda Yee McCrudden**

Keychain-Carabiner fundraiser is ongoing. Keychains are \$5 each. They have been selling them at sporting events. They include a safe driving message and are selling well.

**Junior class—Suzanne Willis**

\$500 was raised from their picture frame sale.

The kickoff meeting for PG 2009 will be in March.

**Faculty Report—Ruth Parks**

German program is going to Oelde this April. Her upper level classes are using virtual living experiences and getting away from the textbook as much as possible, in order to engage the students in learning.

**Hospitality**

No report.

**Ridgewood Education Foundation**

No report.

**Jamboree—Debbie Castello**

Things are moving along. Tickets are available on the Jamboree website:

**[www.rhsjamboree.com](http://www.rhsjamboree.com)**. Backstage helpers are still needed—ushers, seamstresses, etc.

Valerie Corsaro is in charge of all the props—she has many needs. Dates of the show: Thursday-Saturday, February 6-8.

**Curriculum Committee—Eileen Haynes**

First Meeting is tomorrow night. There will be a forum held for CC's 2<sup>nd</sup> mtg. Their last meeting will be held in May.

**Development Committee-Vickie Herbert**

The committee is requesting \$725 for printing and postage of their letter/fundraising appeal. Discussion was held on where the \$725 will come from. It could come from HSA's miscellaneous category. A motion was made and approved. The committee hopes to raise monies toward RHS technology needs.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Jones