

# Minutes

Ridgewood High School Home and School Association  
March 20, 2007

**Call to Order** – President, Beth Jorgensen, welcomed members and guests. Guests included Acting Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Paul Arilotta, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Mr. Angelo DeSimone, Dr. Carlo Ritschl, Director of Management Information Systems for the district, and Language Arts teacher Margo Smith.

**Secretary's Report** – The minutes from the January 26, 2007, meeting were posted on the HSA website and forwarded to HSA members present at that meeting. Copies were handed out at the March 20 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the January 26 meeting.

**Speaker** – Margo Smith, RHS faculty member and member of the ABC, encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on March 25, at Ridgewood Public Library, where there will be a budget presentation/discussion for all interested residents. This is an opportunity for people to offer input, ask questions, and have a casual conversation regarding the proposed budget. The committee also has budget lawn signs, and anyone interested in putting up a sign can contact Ms. Smith or any ABC committee member. ABC is a citizens group dedicated to educating the public about the proposed school budget and advocating for its passage.

The last day to register to vote is March 27, and absentee ballots are due on April 10, 2007.

**Principal's Report** – Jack Lorenz reported that the social norms marketing campaign has been launched. The committee is meeting with other community agencies regarding what can be done about underage drinking. There will be a social norms presentation on Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 at the Community Center. The panelists will provide information regarding the campaign.

The college process is winding down for seniors. The girls track shuttle relay team finished second in the nation. Congratulations to them on this accomplishment.

**Guidance Report** – Peg Loonam reported that HSPA testing is finished. The college speaker series meeting on financial aid was a success, and over one hundred colleges are coming to college night. On April 19, the college speaker series will continue with Chuck Bachman, Director of Admissions at Lafayette College, addressing the changing trends in college admissions.

**Vice-President's Report** – Deborah Edghill attended the play held in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She reported how well received the program was by the students.

Two condolence books were purchased by the HSA through the Legacy Program, one in memory of Deborah Cornell, and one for the Baik family in memory of Ms. Baik. The books will be added to the Ridgewood High School library collection. A bookplate will commemorate each of the memorials, and a card will be sent to each family.

**President's Report** – Beth Jorgensen reported that the money raised at the Wizards fundraiser was used to continue to help two Katrina families.

Beth emphasized that the HSA plans to continue to highlight and support things that go on in the classroom at RHS, such as the history department presentation on performance based assessments in November, and the art department presentation in January.

**Board of Education** – Joseph Vallerini reported that the superintendent search is coming to a close, and there should be a new superintendent of schools in place by July 1, 2007.

**Candidate Comments** – Candidates for the Board of Education, Michele Lenhard and Joseph Vallerini, spoke to the HSA members regarding their candidacies.

**Ridgewood Education Foundation** – membership form is online on the HSA website.

**Cirriculum Communication Committee** – Eileen Haynes reported for the committee regarding their first two meetings of the year. At the first meeting in January, the state testing scores were reported and discussed. At the second meeting in February, the subject was Reading, Writing and Critical Thinking K-8. At the next meeting, social studies will be the subject.

**Project Graduation** – the fashion show fundraiser was a huge success.

**Junior Class Reps.** – Panico cut-athon takes place on April 24. The kickoff party for Project Graduation 2008 takes place on March 22. The Project Graduation Chairs for 2008 are Beth Abbott and Lori Nash.

**Jamboree** – The fundraiser was a big success, raising \$112,000 for scholarships for 2007 graduates. The producers for 2008 Jamboree are Greg Stewart, Lori Howard and Allison Wey.

**Webmaster** - Submissions to newsletter should be kept under 100 kb. Everyone should consider whether in the future, we should stay with the newsletter format or switch to another format for announcements. At some point, we will ask for opinions and have a discussion regarding which would be the best approach.

**Faculty Reps.** – Ms. Parks attended a meeting for the proposed school calendar for the 08-09 school year. Although the calendar has not be finalized, Ms. Parks reported that the February and April breaks will be basically the same. The November teacher convention days and election day may be combined for a 4 day holiday.

The Legacy Program, coordinated by the Library Media Center and Project Graduation, allows individuals to donate \$25 or more to the library for new books to be added to the library collection. A special gift card and a bookplate will be provided for each donation.

**Hospitality** – the Hospitality committee provided food for the teachers for St. Patrick's Day.

**Budget Presentation** – Dr. Arilotta, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Mr. DeSimone, Assistant Superintendent for Business, and Dr. Carlo Ritschl, Director of Management Information Systems, made a presentation regarding the proposed school budget. They also answered questions from attendees. Everyone is encouraged to vote on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE LIST FOR 3/20/07 MEETING**

Kathleen DePlautt  
Eileen Haynes  
Marge Geraghty  
Paul Arilotta  
Carlo Ritschl  
Sally Ann Felsenstein  
Dixie Taylor  
Michele Lenhard  
Jaime Frederick  
Angelo DeSimone  
Tracy Autera  
Lori Nash  
Ruth Parks  
Margaret Loonam  
Jack Lorenz  
Joseph Vallerini  
Margo Smith  
Cheryl Alterman  
Beth Jorgensen  
Deborah Edghill  
Wendy Wong  
Anne Robinson

Joanne Delaney  
Beth Abbott  
Debbie Castello  
Joanne Stolfo  
Vickie Hamilton