

## **RHS HSA Meeting Minutes November 13, 2007**

### **Welcome and President's Report**

Frances mentioned the recent death of Susan De Zaio, former Ridge HSA President. It is National Education Week; it is not too late to sign up to visit a class this week.

Minutes for last month were approved.

Last month's presentation about Alcohol EDU was discussed by the Executive Board in terms of the amount of funding which the HSA would be willing and able to provide. Frances made a motion that HSA fund it for \$2000. Motion passed.

### **Federated Report**

At the recent Federated HSA meeting, each school presented a wish list regarding safety issues. Michele Lenhard spoke about the role of the BOE.

Valley Hospital Renewal plan was discussed at Federated. They are still in the early stages of discussion.

Frances announced Ridge HSA House Tour, as well as the schedule for the Recreation Center at Village Hall.

### **Principal's Report-Jack Lorenz**

Jack Lorenz spoke about the success of the recent Homecoming Dance, as well as the New Players' performance of Blood Brothers—both events were well-attended.

There are currently Fencing, Step dancing, and Hip Hop groups—all will be performing at Basketball halftimes.

Jack spoke on a new collaboration: the American Dream. Shetland Island visitors will be coming in December and will be compiling a film, together with our students, on the American Dream.

RHS is ready to launch its College in the HS program for next year. Students can take a 3-credit course for \$150 from BCC at RHS. Total of 15 credits can be accumulated, which equals approximately 1 semester of college credit. These credits are accepted at many universities.

Jack announced the first induction of the Distinguished Alumnae hall of fame, which will be taking place at a date to be announced. The inductees will be: Helen Nearing, '21; Catherine Buckley, '29; Chris Economaki, '38; Edwin Walter Hayes, '42; Sonny Igoe, '42; Whitey Mitchell, '49; Thelma Schoonmaker, '57; Dr. Peter Kim., '75; Jennifer Klot, '82; and Kim Ng, '86.

Jack reported that the students' behavior has been great thus far and he is pleased with how the school year has been going.

Jack gave a curriculum power point presentation on **Authentic Assessment**.

There is a strong focus in the district on assessment. He stated that we're all familiar with traditional methods of assessment—e.g. multiple choice tests, true-false, short answer. The plan now is to balance these forms with something new—students are going to be asked to perform real-world tasks that demonstrate meaningful applications of essential knowledge and skills. Jack referred us to the website by Jon Mueller -- “Authentic Assessment Toolbox”—[jfmueller@noctrl.edu](mailto:jfmueller@noctrl.edu)

There is a lot of rubric knowledge imparted to the students so that they understand what skill sets they need to be able to demonstrate. One positive aspect of authentic assessment is that kids end up teaching each other. This helps balance memorization, which is also important, with deeper knowledge of a subject.

“Working toward a system of assessment” is the goal—we need to substitute feedback for assessment. The point of assessment in learning is to advance learning. Relevance is the key word here.

What is being proposed for RHS is a balance between “traditional” and “authentic” assessment. Research has found that when students are exposed to high quality intellectual assignments, they do better on standardized tests. Grading is an incentive for students—if they don't do well at first, it's important to give them another “shot” at it.. This is more “real life”. Assessment should be part of learning, not the *end* of learning.

The new exam format will allow classes to meet with their teachers, making authentic assessment possible during the exam period.

Every Friday, Jack writes a note to his faculty members—“Fridays with Jack”—which gives them something interesting or challenging to look into during the coming week.

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#### **BOE Report-Joseph Vallerini**

Joe Vallerini spoke about the Master Plan discussion which took place last night, discussing the use of the Village's fields and other spaces and facilities. Community members need to give the BOE their input.

Next Monday there will be a discussion of the math focus groups which met recently. Dr. Beth Yoshida will be presenting her findings. The BOE will also be accepting the Audit Report, in which they will be able to see line by line where our \$ is going.

The Superintendent search continues. Residents need to get their comments to the consultants in order to have their voices heard.

David Russo will be replacing Sen. Mc Namara in January. Regarding school funding: Governor Corzine is on track to have school funding driven by the wealth of the community. We stand a real possibility of losing a lot of aid.—close to \$2.5 million from

our budget. The state has, in some respects, decided to lower the bar—we won't have the \$ to achieve a higher standard. Parents need to make phone calls and write letters to our state legislators

**Guidance Report—Peg Loonam**

This Thursday night is a Financial Aid meeting for parents of Seniors.

Marty O'Connell was absolutely wonderful. She is coming back Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to meet with our Juniors. She will also be working with Regina Botsford that day at the Ed Center.

Last night, a college presentation was held for approx. 50 Korean parents.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Invitational was very well-attended--well over 300 students visited RHS on a Saturday. A peer panel was held, as well as a theater performance, and the TV studio as well as the fitness center were visited by the incoming students. Many wanted to see the entire ing, but PSATs were going on at the time.

Revisions for the course catalog are ongoing. Mr. Lorenz is looking at it with a fresh eye. Will be a better document.

Local Scholarship Booklet will be online Monday, December 3. It used to be mailed home, then given out in English class. Now, will be put on the web. Hopefully more students will apply—there are loads of scholarships available.

Lots of kids are applying early—early action and early decision were intended to find the students most interested in attending a particular college. Many kids panic and feel the need to apply early.

**Treasurer's Report—Wendy Wong**

Only 3 checks this month. Directory, College Speakers Series, miscellaneous. Some directories are still available if anyone is interested in ordering them. Thanks to Cheryl Alterman and Rosemary Chersi.

**Project Graduation.—Lori Nash**

Next meeting—January 30<sup>th</sup>. Will be 2 additional meetings before Graduation.

Second fundraiser of the yr. netted \$6000. Check website for current dates. Baby picture deadline extended to Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Fashion show scheduled for March 2 at Sheraton Crossroads.

**Jr Class\_Suzanne Willis**

Picture frame sale is ongoing. Also luggage tags.

**Freshman Class—Lisa Gobble**

Trying to get class emails. Are working on having a social.

**Soph Class Fundraiser**

Keychains

Mango Jam fundraiser will take place on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Will support the RHS HSA. Please shop on that day and support us!

Development—Beth Jorgensen

Have met and are planning the letter to go out to Parents before the end of the year. Will be costs associated with the mailing.

Teacher's December staff meeting—bakers needed—December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Drop offs on Sunday or Monday before noon to Carol Rapaport or Dixie Taylor's homes.

No meeting in December.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06