

Ridgewood High School Home and School Association

Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2009

In Attendance – Rola Baddoura, Arlene Sarappo, Ines Bunza, Lynn Granski, Tina Telesco, Ockjoo Baek, Catherine Criss, Traci Du Bois, Sally Ann Felsenstein, Maureen Paternoster, Jane Stone, Carol Rapaport, Theresa Callaghan, Rose Boniello, Audrey Fink, Margaret Kelly, Laurie Goodman, Cathy Brienza, Sheila Brogan, Maryam Alsop, Kate Douglas, Cristy Sippel, Elizabeth Resnick, Sara Erwin, Ruth Parks, Michelle Lenhard, Karen Lorenz, Jack Lorenz, Jeff Nyhuis, Liz Gordon, Deborah Oh, Joyce Suss, Christine Shippee, Donna Turnbull, Cheryl Sabbath, Debbie Castello, Lisa Gobble, Beth Holmes

Welcome and Approval of Minutes – Rola Baddoura, HSA President, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked everyone for attending, and encouraged all to stay involved and connected because “excellence is not static. It is a work in progress”.

The minutes from the September 8 meeting were approved.

Bond Referendum Presentation – Superintendent Dr. Dan Fishbein explained the Bond Referendum which is being presented for a vote on December 8. Two years in the making, the proposed referendum began with an engineering study of all of the facilities in the District. Both current and future needs were taken into consideration when planning the proposed expansions/improvements and the cost of such. Growing enrollment district-wide, (enrollment has increased by almost 600 students in the past 10 years), as well as an increase in special education classrooms were cited as the primary reason for building.

Dr. Fishbein noted that there is a demonstrable need to improve the health and safety of the entire district School buildings.

The net cost of the construction project is estimated at \$38,420,602.

Complete details of the Referendum are available on the District web site: www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Representatives of the **Citizens’ Committee**, Jeff Feagles and Brian Abdoo, are speaking to community groups to raise awareness of the need for the Referendum to pass. They are looking for both citizen input and volunteers for their committee. If you would like to serve on the Citizens’ Committee as a High School Representative, please contact Tina Telesco (remytripp@aol.com)

There will be a community meeting about the Referendum on November 30 at 7:30 pm in the GW Auditorium.

Principal’s Report - RHS Principal Jack Lorenz noted that by approving the Referendum addressing the improvement of the physical plants of the schools, it would free up monies from the dwindling education budget.

Mr. Lorenz encouraged all parents and students to visit the new and improved school web site. As the Daily Announcements have been discontinued, students may check the site everyday for activities taking place that day. In addition, school supply lists are now available on the site.

RHS has adopted a new Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct, which will now encompass all clubs and organizations, in much the same way sports teams have always been handled.

Four RHS students will be traveling to the Shetland Islands under the auspices of the Global Classroom Learning Experience. They will be working on a project researching alternate energy sources for a new school building being constructed in the Shetland Islands. In addition, 100 students from around the world will be visiting RHS in June.

Mr. Lorenz is working with the Ridgewood Police Department to try and address the troubling jay-walking problem around the High School streets.

Guidance Report - Vice Principal for Guidance Jeff Nyhuis reported learning at a recent conference for High School Guidance and College Admissions Counselors that as the economy continues to struggle, more colleges are becoming “need aware” rather than “need blind”.

Mr. Nyhuis explained the major differences between the ACT and SAT tests. More in-depth information is available at both the Guidance area of the school’s web site, as well as on Naviance.

Board of Education Update - BOE Representative Laurie Goodman also encouraged parents to visit the District’s new web site, as it is a great source of information. The Board is in the midst of conducting a complete review of official District Policies.

Faculty Report – Ruth Parks is celebrating her 20th year as HSA Faculty Rep. (Thank you, Mrs. Parks!) Many teachers have noticed a dramatic increase in the use of e mail as a means of communication between both parents and students.

President’s Report - HSA President Rola Baddoura reminded everyone that noted speaker Alan November will be making a presentation on empowering students through technology, and technology’s increasing importance as we move through the 21st century. (NB: Mr. November’s lecture is now available on the District web site as a webcast).

Vice President’s Report – HSA Vice President Arlene Sarappo is continuing to work with all of the Class Reps, coordinating the various fundraising efforts for each PG.

Treasurer’s Report – HSA Treasurer Ines Bunza reported that \$6000 less was collected this year in HSA dues compared to last year. You may still receive your Directory by sending a check to Cheryl Sabath.

Communication Report - Lynn Granski reported that the HSA section of the RHS web site is now up and running, and being updated regularly. Please send Lynn any information you would like to have included in the e-news.

Development – Development chair Tina Telesco said the development letters would be sent out soon. This year’s focus will be on the purchase of laptop computers for student use, smart boards for more classrooms, and docu-cameras for classroom use. Parent participation in last year’s Development campaign was at 10%. The Committee is hoping for increased participation this year.

Directory – Lynn Granski spoke for Linda Willk. Proofreading was set to take place, with Directories being mailed out shortly thereafter. If you have not received your directory, please let the HSA know. Remember, if you have not yet ordered yours, simply send a check to Cheryl Sabath, and she will get it out ASAP!

REF – REF President Liz Gordon reminded everyone of the October 8 College Speaker Series, co-sponsored by REF and the RHS HSA. Grants will be awarded and announced at the end of October.

RHS Cares – Kate Douglass reported that this committee has 80 members who are currently helping three district families. The response to some of the meal deliveries has been very positive. The committee is considering publishing a recipe book as a possible fundraiser.

Hospitality - Maureen Paternoster and Sally Felsenstein are looking for volunteers to supply food and paper goods for the Faculty Halloween Breakfast.

Junior Class – The Class of 2011 will be holding a dinner and raffle on November 20 at the Women's Club. Tickets are \$100 and that includes a dinner for two

Sophomore Class – Audrey Fink advised that the Class of 2012 has published an activities calendar (previously known as the booster calendar) which is available for \$5.00

Freshman Class – Class of 2013 T-shirts may be purchased through Beth Holmes.

Jamboree –Debbie Castello reported that many volunteers are needed to make Jamboree a success. Auditions are being held October 7, 15 and 20. Backstage heroes are also needed. There is a need for 3 additional committee chairs. Please contact Debbie if you're interested.

The President adjourned the meeting at 9:27.

The next RHS HSA meeting will be Tuesday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the RHS Library/Media Center

Respectfully submitted by Vicky Herbert