

**Ridgewood High School**  
**Home and School Association**  
**Meeting Minutes for January 13, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Jennifer Hamlet, Joan Gaidimas, Kelly Gioia, Annette Testa, Laurie Jordan, Tom Gorman, Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Mercedes Vidal. Amy Bachmann, Beth Clay, Anneke Meinardi, Helen Dolan, Kate Mancini, Cathy Stillwagon, Mitra Basu, Kate Yates, Catherine Venturini, Ruth Parks, Joanna Bennett, Beth Blair, Monika Cox, Walter Cox, Cristy Sippel, Lori Weil,. Jeanne Johnson, Laura Miller, Betty Eng, Kristen Walicki, Sheila Brogan, Erin Mannion, Lindsey Barclay, Manoj Chhabra, Gurmeet Chhabra, Vivienne Muldoon, Jeannie Suh, Joseph Carey, Stephen Patrick, Donna Patrick, Cindy Rhee, Brian Marra, Dave Slomin, Chandrika Chowdhry, Rachael Marussich, Sandy Santangelo, Patty Scott, Karen Campbell, Jane Boogaert, Tara Adams, Lisa Rogers, Maribeth Germinario, Marcia Marra, Carol-Ann Baum, Tracey Doyle, Kieran Doyle, Dena Bronowich, Suzanne Gagan, Eileen Feldsott, Alyssa Becker, Stacey Tsapatsaris, Nick Tsapatsaris, Liz Kloak, Eileen Kennedy, Lisa Perez, Jim Curtis, Ritu Chowbey, Joanne Sofia, Sal Sofia, Susan Loccke, Maggie Neilson, Jennifer Eleazey, Amy Zamboldi, Michelle Vaccaro, Shari, Seroka, Nicole Richards, Nora Rahaim, Angela Olson, Grace Yalong, Liz McCarthy, Jan Lira, Tricia Flynn, Tamara Amos, Terry Anzano, Gregg Grider, Gail Conenello, Susan Meyer, Tricia Taylor, Iren Garcia, Robert Garcia, Maria Shammass, Judy Halle, John Karanikolas, Lori Schmidt

**Welcome:** Jennifer Hamlet called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm and welcomed all attendees.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the November 11, 2014 meeting were submitted and approved. First approval by Angela Olson and second by Joseph Carey.

**Faculty Report – Ruth Parks**

Chromebooks are well used.

Learning Commons is always full.

There are a lot of absences due to illness. It's important for parents and students to check Skyward for missing assignments. Students should check with their teachers about work missed.

Midterms start next week. Encourage students to begin studying now.

**Class Reports:**

**2015 Project Graduation – Senior Class**

Joan Gaidimas reported on behalf of co-chairs, Tara Callaghan and Rosie McCooe. There's a raffle of a beach house for the week of August 15. Each raffle ticket is \$100 with only 500 tickets being sold. Funds will be split between PG15 and Jamboree. They are looking for build out space in Bergen County. Space is needed from February - June 19. We pay insurance. Auction items are needed for the PG15 Fashion Show.

### **2016 – Junior Class**

Joan Gaidimas reported on behalf of Rosemarie Chersi, Mary Barnes and Cristy Sippel. Junior parent cocktail party will be held on March 20.

### **2017 – Sophomore Class**

Kate Mancini reported that sophomore parent social will be held on February 21.

### **2018 – Freshman Class**

Helen Dolan stated that they sold 89 banners. On January 23, 2015, there will be a parent social at Park West loft space. Already have 117 parents attending with a cap of 20 more.

### **Special Presentation: Academic Programs and Course Selection -** Informational

meetings for 9<sup>th</sup> graders on each of the programs will be held in the next few weeks. All programs are being discussed in Freshman F.O.C.U.S.

#### **A. American Studies (AMSTUD)**

Mark Ferreri introduced the American Studies program, which is a two-year honors study of history with an English and Social Studies component. Three former AMSTUD students talked about their experiences in the program. Students learn about history through primary sources and literature. The program includes field trips to Williamsburg, Boston, New York and Washington D.C. Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade can apply soon for acceptance as 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Application will consist of writing prompts as well as teacher recommendations. There are normally 2 sections of AMSTUD with 17-23 students in each section.

#### **B. American Experience**

RHS is introducing this new program for 2015-2016. It's tailored to college prep students and replicates AMSTUD but less rigorous.

#### **C. American History & Literature with Integrated Study in the Arts (AHLISA)**

Michael Yannone presented AHLISA, an honors level interdisciplinary two-year program. AHLISA integrates the study of fine and performing arts with a strong academic focus on history and literature. There is an application process to be accepted. Normally, 20-25 students are accepted. Students can apply for their junior year (if space is available).

#### **D. Ridgewood Academy for Health Professions (RAHP)**

Sandy Kunzle introduced RAHP, an academic, three-year program in partnership with Valley Hospital and Bergen Community College. RAHP is an interdisciplinary program with English, Science and Wellness and is designed for students who are interested in pursuing careers in the health and medical fields. The program includes hands on learning through field trips, mentoring and internships. Seniors have a capstone project as a graduation requirement. There is an application process to be accepted. Normally, there are two sections with 18 students in each.

#### **E. DECA**

Sean Kase introduced this business and marketing program. The DECA club members are required to be enrolled in or have taken Entrepreneurship, Intro to Marketing, Sports Marketing, Merchandising or

Accounting Honors. This is a regulation set by the national order of DECA. This club teaches real world skills through role plays. Students attend regional and national competitions. This year, 203 RHS students participated in regional competitions.

**F. New AP course**

RHS will introduced a new AP English class for 11th graders.

**G. Innovation through Design Thinking**

Chris McCullough introduced a new course to be offered in 2015-2016. This course allows students to engage in innovative problem solving with creative thinking. Students will learn to adapt to change by working through the process of failure. Course will be available to students in grades 10 – 12 and will meet every 4 days. In the second semester, students will work with various companies. Credit toward GPA is not given for this course but it looks good on transcript.

**Principal's Report – Tom Gorman**

All of the programs listed above are unique experiences. RHS is trying to think outside the box and be creative. Good examples are the new Learning Commons and addition of Chromebooks.

Working with schedule to add more time to Period 9

State mandates PARCC testing. RHS is trying to consolidate tests to 3 mornings in order to gain back 4 days of instruction.

½ of school year is almost over. Midterms are next Thursday – Tuesday. 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter begins on January 29.

**Assistant Principal Report – Jeff Nyhuis**

8<sup>th</sup> grade parent meeting is on January 14, 2015

Attending SAT and ACT testing training on January 26. Topic to be discussed at future HSA meeting – difference between SAT and ACT

Deadline for seniors to apply for local scholarships – January 16, 2015

Working extremely hard to make PARCC testing schedule. If you compare PSAT test results to PARCC test requirements, 263 juniors have already passed PARCC test. All students in grades 9-11 have to take PARCC unless parents opt out with a letter. All schools are held responsible for students to take the PARCC test.

**Assistant Principal Report – Basil Pizzuto**

PARCC is administered at the end of the curriculum as a way to evaluate teachers.

Dr. Michael Fowlin will be speaking to all RHS students on February 6. He's a psychologist, dramatic theater actor and poet. His "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me" presentation discusses that each person has an inner self to be proud of. RHS student council is working on creating an activity relating to Dr. Fowlin's presentation.

**Board of Education Report – Sheila Brogan**

Board is discussing next year's school calendar at January 26 meeting. May not be finalized until February.

Preparing for contract negotiations with teachers. To begin sessions in late winter/early spring RHS student council made a wonderful presentation to the board.

Super Science Saturday will be held on February 28 at RHS from 9 am – 1:30 pm. Four former RHS students are very involved in this event.

### **Executive Board Updates:**

#### **President – Jennifer Hamlet**

Attended 2 Federated meetings.

Parent training for google docs will be available.

Community Outreach Program - Social and Emotional Learning and Gender Issues was held on January 13

Jennifer attended November Outreach Program - Battling the Prescription Drug and Heroin Epidemic.

Doug Collier, a retired DEA agent, spoke about this issue. There were 49 deaths due to heroin last year. Addiction often starts after an injury. Heroin is a lot cheaper than prescription drugs. Parents are encouraged to dispose of old prescription drugs in a timely and proper manner.

State mandate drug addiction presentations be made to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders

Wizard's game is January 30 at RHS. Ticket price is \$15. Federated board to vote on spending of proceeds.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Kelly Gioia**

Taxes have been mailed.

#### **Development – Laurie Jordan**

Regent Cleaner fundraiser – credits customer additional 10% and rebates back 20% to RHS HSA. You can participate at any time.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Jamboree**

Jeanne Johnson reported that Jamboree shows are on February 4-7 at BF. You can donate, buy a ticket to attend the show, and/or buy an ad.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Respectively submitted by Annette Testa