

**Ridgewood High School**  
**Home and School Association**  
**Meeting Minutes for October 7, 2014**

**In Attendance:** Jennifer Hamlet, Joan Gaidimas, Kelly Gioia, Annette Testa, Kim Lucky, Laurie Jordan, Tom Gorman, Jeff Nyhuis, Basil Pizzuto, Rosemary Chersi, Jennifer Bottiglierio, Mercedes Vidal, Carmen Morrow, Shashi Pathman, Amy Bachmann, Gloria Katz, Beth Clay, Anneke Meinardi, Andrea Rademacher, Keri Hwang, Helen Dolan, Nadine McArthur, Kate Mancini, Cathy Stillwagon, Mitra Basu, Kate Yates, Ajanta Kumar, Catherine Venturini, Ruth Parks, Angele Ekert, Kathy Marshall, Edie McCarthy, Joanna Bennett, Kim Reis, Maggie Holland, Beth Blair, Lynn Granski, Gina McDade, Monika Cox, Ann Cabay-Walsh, Tom DeVita

**Welcome:** Jennifer Hamlet called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm and welcomed all attendees. Introduced Executive Board. Thanked Carol Olson and Lori Weil, past HSA presidents, for their support. Thanked Ajanta Kumar and Bonnie Cornell for directory work.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the June 17, 2014 meeting were submitted and approved. First approval by Amy Bachmann and second by Lynn Granski.

In an effort to save paper, multiple copies of the HSA minutes will not be printed. HSA minutes will continue to be posted on our website and sent through eNews.

**Class Reports:**

**2015 Project Graduation**

Jennifer Hamlet reported on behalf of co-chairs, Tara Callaghan and Rosie McCooe. Theme, budget and fundraising goals for PG15 have been set. They are looking for build out space closer than last year's warehouse in Rutherford. Space is needed from February - June 19. We pay insurance. Local car dealerships not available. Two years ago used space in Allendale.

October 18 – fundraising party at Christ Church

**2016 – Junior Class**

Rosemarie Chersi, Mary Barnes and Cristy Sippel are Junior reps. They are planning a parent cocktail party as well as flag and t-shirt sales.

**2017 – Sophomore Class**

Lynn Granski and Kate Mancini are planning a parent social and small fundraising event.

**2018 – Freshman Class**

Helen Dolan and Kate Yates are class reps. They are holding a Freshman parent coffee on October 9<sup>th</sup> at Helen's house. On January 23, 2015, there will be a parent social at Park West loft space. Selling Ridgewood banners – deadline November 5, 2015.

**LSHSA**

Angele Ekert was selling Lord & Taylor coupons to benefit LSHSA.

**Student Liaison Report:**

Sam McCarthy and Will Holland are the student reps.

Chromebooks are working well. Teachers and students are experimenting with Google classroom.

Next Tuesday – Friday (October 14 – 17) is Spirit Week. Events will be held during lunch followed by a Pep Rally on Friday. They are selling class t-shirts for \$10.

Junior class created a RHS crest that is being used on apparel. Will also be on the cover of this year's directory.

**Principal's Report – Tom Gorman**

The launch of 1700 Chromebooks was successful. Tom encourages teachers and students to find a balance.

RHS Alumni Association was launched last week with election of board and trustees followed by dinner at a local restaurant. The Alumni Association will be an umbrella for reunions and all alumni events. There will also be a fundraising component. They are trying to locate alumni out of state. Tribute to Charlotte Samuels was held last Thursday before the RHS football game. Charlotte spoke about her ordeals and is trying to use her notoriety as a platform to help others.

Our next HSA meeting will be in the new Leaning Commons. Furniture installation and book shelving will begin on October 13.

**Assistant Principal Report – Basil Pizzuto**

He has been busy with student government and activities.

The Freshmen started the year with a barbeque (not a dance) which 300 students attended.

The Club Fair went well. A senior student is trying to organize a Club Fair for all grades.

Trying to organize lunchtime entertainment with different bands/musicians. Contact Basil if you know anyone with musical talent who would like to perform.

Some students have already left their Chromebooks unattended and staff has collected them. Use of Chromebooks is new for staff. Some new teachers have asked for students to turn in homework earlier than class meets. Speak with Basil if there is an issue. Staff is trying to find the right balance.

New Players group may travel to Scotland to perform in Fringe Festival. Grade Administrator group is going to support performers.

Met with Ridgewood Police regarding heroin in our community. Studies show heroin is directly related to certain pills that kids take due to sports injuries. Could spiral out of control.

Backwoods is October 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents should speak with their kids to discuss pre-gaming. Event is chaperoned by 11-14 police and 10-15 parents. Police patrol dance while parents collect tickets. Kids who appear to be intoxicated are placed in a pen and dealt with by police. Police may administer

breathalyzer and parents will be called. If dance were held at RHS, intoxicated students would have to go to the hospital.

Former Prom space in Jersey City is under renovation. This year's Prom will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> on a large boat that docks in Hoboken. Boat will go around city once all guests have boarded.

### **Assistant Principal Report – Jeff Nyhuis**

The Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> faculty meeting will include a discussion of best practices and concerns about Chromebooks. New teachers need to comprehend the purpose of class rotation so they understand balance of work. They are experiencing network slow down which they are addressing before PARCC test. Questioned if parents have heard of any issues with online books.

Seniors are busy with college applications.

Held parent meetings for 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Met with all Seniors – 70% are applying either ED or EA so most applying by November 1<sup>st</sup>. SAT's are this weekend.

HSPA test for Seniors who did not pass in their Junior year and new Seniors is next week.

Attended NACAC Conference in Indiana. Madeline Levine who wrote "The Price of Privilege" was a speaker. Visited Notre Dame.

### **Concussion Report - Nick Scerbo, RHS Athletic Director, and Nick Nicholaides, RHS trainer**

Nick Nicholaides received a Seton Hall grant and created Concussion Awareness Program video, which can be watched on YouTube.

- Brain needs to rest when you have a concussion. Not necessary to wake up a sleeping child but should check in on them.
- Tylenol is good.
- Our school policy is that student needs to see a doctor.
- Baseline testing is now used as an evaluation and useful tool but not as important because of brain growth in high school years.
- RHS has been doing baseline testing for 8 years.
- Studies show that it's better to take baseline after a concussion.
- Hospitals are competing for baseline tests as a way for athletes to come back when injured.
- This winter, Freshmen who participate in impact sports will be given baseline tests.

- How many concussions are too many? Depends on severity and sport played.
- Important to teach tackling and heading techniques to decrease risk.
- Athletes have to be asymptomatic, pass cognitive testing, be off pain medicine and go through 5 days of physical exertion to ensure they are ready to play.
- Often times, mental stress after concussion is more difficult than physical portion. Need more mental rest.
- Nick communicates with teachers to let them know what students can and cannot do. Each case is treated differently.
- Most concussions heal within 2 weeks period. CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) research shows that rest is no longer needed after this time period. Aerobic exercise and activities to build up the brain are recommended. Be more proactive.
- When concussed, students should stay home for first couple of days away from activities.
- How many RHS kids on average have concussions? It varies year to year. Increased hydration of athletes seems to have decreased concussions.
- Studies show multiple concussions and head trauma affect you later in life.
- Average concussion lasts 7-10 days.

### **Faculty Report – Ruth Parks**

Thanked HSA in advance for October 13<sup>th</sup> refreshments.

On Thursday, 19 students and 2 chaperones from Germany will be at RHS. This exchange program has existed since 1997. It's the 10<sup>th</sup> time German students have come to RHS.

It's hard for teachers to monitor what students are doing on Chromebooks. Have to trust that students are doing their work.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Jamboree**

Tom DeVita spoke about how Jamboree raises scholarship funds for RHS students.

Auditions are October 28 and 30 and November 5. There are 5 weeks of practices followed by performances in February.

It's a good way to meet people.

## **Smart Balance**

Jeff Nhyuis reported that he meets every 2-3 weeks with a group of students. Kids tell him what's happening in school with homework and tests. There's a rule that students cannot have a test first period and period right after lunch. Purpose is to make sure students do not have 6 tests in a day.

Discussing extending length of Period 9. Reviewing Period 9 to see how many students attend. Most teachers wanted 2 minutes less per class – 59 minutes from 61 minutes. If changed, Period 9 would be 20 minutes long.

One week in summer, free of all school activities will continue working with athletic schedule to try to extend length.

Anne Robinson has been working on initiative of student health and well being for 5 years.

Focus on time (practices not longer than 3 hours, homework free breaks), support (how well supported are kids in classroom) and communication (are we using technology well).

Working to support family wellness.

Sports will start a week later next year.

All sports can begin the day after last spring championship game. Summer has been diminished due to sports commitments.

May hold meeting with parents to discuss Smart Balance.

Questions, contact Lori Weil at [Weils5@me.com](mailto:Weils5@me.com).

## **Backwoods**

To be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 – 11 pm. Cost is \$15 (in advance) or \$20 (at door). Theme is pink out and portion of proceeds will be donated to breast cancer. Planning other activities, such as tubing.

## **Hospitality**

Provides refreshments for teachers and staff on professional days. If you would like to join the Hospitality committee, contact Janice Mazzo at [jmazzo5041@aol.com](mailto:jmazzo5041@aol.com).

## **RHS Cares**

This committee provides support to RHS families in crisis. Contact Andrea Stier at [andreastier7@aol.com](mailto:andreastier7@aol.com) to volunteer.

## **Board of Education Report:**

Sheila Brogan reported that district is holding Community Outreach Programs at BF from 7 – 9 pm:

- October 16 – Technology in Our Schools
- November 18 – Battling the Prescription Drug and Heroin Epidemic

- January 13 – Social and Emotional Learning and Gender Issues
- March 5 – Exercise and the Brain
- April 21 – Raising Financially Literate Children
- May 26 – Special Education Learning Issues

### **Executive Board Updates:**

#### **President – Jennifer Hamlet**

RHS 2014 directory is at the printer. Should be in the mail next week. If you would like to order a copy, contact Jennifer Hamlet at [jhamlet3@verizon.net](mailto:jhamlet3@verizon.net).

RHS HSA is a liaison between faculty, administrators and parents. We do not have a lot of fundraising efforts. Directory is the biggest revenue generator.

#### **Development – Laurie Jordan**

Regent Cleaner fundraiser – credits customer additional 10% and rebates back 20% to RHS HSA. Laurie completed comparison shopping and discovered that Regent is cheaper than most local cleaners. Stop & Shop – register your Stop & Shop card online and RHS HSA will earn money.

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

- 2014 RHS HSA budget was discussed.
- Directory sales amounted to \$18,395; cost of printing less than last year.
- Paid \$250 to LSHSA.
- Paid \$300 for Federated dues.
- Purchased new laptop and QuickBooks software for \$1017.
- Working with Tom Gorman on list of priorities to spend money on RHS.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Respectively submitted by Annette Testa

