

MINUTES

Ridgewood High School Home and School Association
September 19, 2006 – Media Center

Call to Order – Beth Jorgensen welcomed members and guests, principal Jack Lorenz and his wife and children to the meeting. There will be a reception immediately following the meeting for Mr. Lorenz and parents.

Secretary's Report – The June minutes were approved with one correction – under treasurer's report, remaining funds should be \$1440, not \$1140.

Treasurer's Report – The RHS HSA proposed budget for 2006-2007 was presented. The money left from last year (2005-2006) was rolled over to this year as beginning balance, and will be used to fund requests from teachers as teachers apply and needs are determined. A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed budget, and the motion was passed.

Principal's Report – Jack Lorenz, the new principal, introduced himself and his family. He presented some of his goals as principal, including motivating students, physical repairs to building, and health and safety concerns. He welcomes visitors to his office, and would like questions and feedback from parents.

Guidance Report – Peg Loonam reported that the first day of school went well. About 58 students new to the district signed up over the summer. There is a new computer system that caused some problems, but glitches are being worked out. The freshman class has more than 450 students, and everyone is working hard to make their transition to high school successful. The 9th grade club fair was very successful. There is a freshman parent meeting in September.

Reminders – There is a Bergen County College Fair in Teaneck on September 21. Back to School Night is September 26. Senior parent meeting is October 12, and counselors are busy meeting with seniors. Guidance is also preparing for 8th grade Invitational in October. On October 26, the College Speaker Series begins with Bruce Hammond, former managing editor of the Fiske Guide to colleges and co-author of several books on the admissions process. Claire Cafaro, formerly with Guidance and now an independent college counselor, will also be speaking. They will walk parents through the admissions process and provide information about online resources..

Regarding a question about classes being large, especially AP classes with over 30 students, Peg Loonam explained that they anticipate a few students dropping back to honors instead of AP, so the classes should soon be under 30.

Hospitality – Nina Vaccaro asked anyone interested in helping to indicate on sign-up sheet.

Project Graduation – Senior representatives Laurie Goodman and Tracy Autera reported that the first senior class fundraiser, gift wrapping sale, is underway. People can order wrapping

paper from a senior or online on Innisbrook website, Innisbrook.com, and use Ridgewood High School number 119724. The Project Graduation web page has all the information.

Junior Class Representative – Marge Geraghty reported that the junior class fundraiser, sale of flannel clothing, is underway. They are also selling cutting boards.

Sophomore Class Representative – Michele Lenhard reported that they are planning a social event for sophomore parents.

Freshman Class Representative – No report.

Newsletter – Ann Malaspina reported that any information to go in the newsletter should be sent to her. The newsletter will now be posted online on the district website (www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us). Also, parents can subscribe to a new email announcement service which enables them to receive the RHS HSA newsletter by email. Parents can subscribe by going to the high school website (rhs.school.ridgewood.k12.nj.us), or by going to the district website (www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us) and clicking on “Our Schools” and then Ridgewood High School.

Faculty Representatives – Ruth Parks encouraged parents to be proactive, call teacher if you think there is a problem. Do not wait for a progress report. Donna Antonellis reported that freshman class will receive library orientation, and information regarding the library will be in the newsletter.

Directory – Sara Erwin reported that the directory is being proofed on September 21.

Jamboree – Debbie Castello reported that the dates for Jamboree are February 8, 9 and 10, 2007. Auditions are October 3, 10, and 16. Anyone interested is asked to come to auditions. They can use all kinds of help. Also, Jamboree fundraiser is Lord and Taylor Shopping Day on October 26. Details on Jamboree website.

Board of Education Representative – Joseph Vallerini reported that the board is in the process of hiring a firm to help find a new superintendent. They are hoping to hire a permanent superintendent by June, 2007.

President’s Report – Beth Jorgensen reported on attending the Federated meeting, where Dr. Paul Arilotta, the interim superintendent, introduced himself. There are over 50 new teachers in the district this year. Also, there is a “Drive 25” safety effort underway, and everyone will see signs and bumperstickers.

Old Business – None

New Business – Everyone approved of new seating arrangement at meeting as a way to encourage more interaction and discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m. Reception followed for Jack Lorenz and parents.

Attendance List for September 19, 2006 Meeting

Caroline Barr
Sally Felsenstein
Marge Geraghty
Joanne
Michele Lenhard
Elizabeth Resnick
Diane Lynch
Angie Magwili
Eileen Mullen
Yvonne Francis
Eileen Haynes
Caryn Follender
Liz Gordon
Sara Erwin
Yukari Sayanagi
Nina Vaccaro
Suzanne Donovan
Wendy Wong
Lisa Miller
Debbie Castello
Dixie Taylor
Carol Rapaport
Tracy Autera
Laurie Goodman
Diana Lyandvert
Jaime Frederick
Ruth Parks
Donna Antonellis
Ann Malaspina
Jackie Holder
Vicky Herbert
Maureen Burke
Colleen Kossoff
Cheryl Alterman
Beth Jorgensen
Vickie Hamilton
Jack Lorenz
Karen Lorenz
Matthew Lorenz
Jake Lorenz
Margaret Loonam
Wendy Broadbent