

**Ridgewood High School Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2020**

In Attendance: , Sara Beinstein, Sheila Brogan, Gina Butler, Lisa Chao, Joanne Cheng, Lena Christinger, Kristin Conneen, Gail Cutler, Deanne Dunne, Eli Goto, Deidre Groehnert, Susan Harrison, Carolyn Holt, Leila Kamel, Isabelle Leluc, Kathy Marshall, Bridget Misevski, John Misevski, Caroline Oddy, Christine OMeara, Ruth Parks, Sandy Pires, Sandi Pleeter, Evelyn Tantalean, Fran Turso,

I. **Call to Order:** Susan Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:30. Meeting agenda had been made available via eNews and attendees were reminded to sign in.

II. **Approval of January Minutes:** A motion to approve the November meeting minutes was made by Gina Butler and seconded by Sandi Pleeter. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. **Class Reports:**

Senior Class (Class of 2020): The theme is secured. PG20 Holiday Boutique was a great success. They netted 5K. They have chairs for every committee and the next big event is the fashion show; they have over 250 models.

Junior Class (Class of 2021): Gina Butler, The Blue Moon fundraiser didn't work very well, not worth doing again. There is a Fitness Fundraiser going on but not very much interest so far.

Sophomore Class (Class of 2022): Absent

Freshman Class (Class of 2023): Sandy Pires No Cook Night went well, lots of people got fed. There are planning a Lunch Fundraiser soon.

IV. **Student Liaison Report:**

No report.

V. **Principal's Report: Tom Gorman**

The referendum for the whole district will affect the school. There is a plan to add an Art Centre and expand the music room.

VI. **Assistant Principal: Jeff Nhyuis for Basil Pizzuto**

Central European trip planned for next year

02/28 is the Sophomore Semi-Formal

47 students will be traveling to Greece

The Senior Prom will be on the cruise again.

Basil is working on a fundraising calendar for the entire year.

VII. **Assistant Principal / Guidance Report: Jeff Nyhuis**

Next week, 8th Grade parent meeting: Tom, next year Grade Advisor, and Jeff will be present as well as Peer Leaders.

01/23 is the 11th Grade parent meeting. Jeff will be speaking first and then parents will be breaking into groups with their guidance counselors.

Course process scheduling for next year is approaching. The window opens in February for students to choose their courses.

Last of college application are going 01/15. Many kids already have schools' decisions

VIII. **RHS academy Programs**

The American Experience Program is in its third year running. It's an interdisciplinary program, primarily discussion base. It comprises English and History. Teachers work collaboratively. They went on a field trip, historical sites of all Bergen County. This is a two-year sequence of English and history classes, which correlates American literature with American history. The course is an alternative to the traditional English and social studies core course offerings for grades 10 and 11. The program is open to a limited number of college prep level students who have demonstrated passion for history-related subjects, task commitment, and general creative thinking and intellectual curiosity Prerequisite: Recommendations from grade 9 English and world history teachers. Students not currently enrolled in the American Experience I course may apply for entrance into the junior year American Experience II course.

The AHLISA program. This is an interdisciplinary course that creatively integrates study in the fine and performing arts with a strong academic focus on the study of both history and literature. With instructors from the English, History, Art and Design, and Performing Arts departments, students will explore the complex interrelationship between history and literature not only through traditional means, but also through exposure to and analysis of the visual, musical and theatrical work of the various time periods. Students will be expected to demonstrate their growing knowledge through the creation of images, musical compositions, creative writing and theatrical performances that both intellectually and artistically assimilate and synthesize historical and literary material. This

honors level course meets the requirements of U.S. I, U.S. II, English 10 and English 11. Students participate for two years. Art instructors visit English and History classes to coordinate study of contemporary arts with historical periods and works of literature. There is no test. They use Art to illustrate History. There is a field trip going to see West Side Story on Broadway. There is an application process. Kids Have to write pieces to introduce themselves, how they see themselves as an artist. Students can come in the 2nd year of program as well.

CPM(Career Pathways in Medicine Program) The Ridgewood Career Pathways in Medicine Program is a two-year program for students who have an interest in pursuing a career within health or medical professions. The goal of the program is to integrate participating high school students' academic college preparatory curriculum with real life learning opportunities for basic skills required to advance to further studies at the technologist level. This program will align with the college preparatory sequence of courses at RHS and offer students the opportunity to explore careers and programs in the health and medical sciences. This is a program for career in science health minded. They discuss aspects of medical programs. Year 1 is basic healthcare. Year 2 is healthcare from birth to death. There was a field trip organized to a fertility center to see how it is done. The students are going to see how x rays are being done. It's a 3-credit class and a two year program.

RAHP(Ridgewood Academy for Health Professions) program This is a three year program developed in partnership with The Valley Hospital and Bergen Community College. It is designed for students who are interested in integrating their honors level academic courses with experiences and content in the healthcare setting. Admission to the program is by application and selection by the RAHP committee. In tenth grade, students will explore the many departments within the operation of The Valley Hospital through field trips. In eleventh and twelfth grades, students will participate in internship and mentorship programs. Students can earn college credit for certain courses. The application process is rigorous. They take 25 students; they have to write an essay. 01/22 RHAP information meeting at school.

Mock Trial, American Studies Program. This is a two-year sequence of English and history classes, which correlates American Literature with American History. The course is an alternative to English 10 and 11 and to United States I and II and is open to students who have demonstrated both the interest and ability to handle a demanding program. English and History classes meet consecutively, so that if the teachers wish, students can be grouped for special instructional purposes. In the History section, a wide variety of primary sources supplements the regular textbook. In the English section, poetry, drama, novels and essays are contemporary with the period being studied in history. Included are most of the important American writers. Assignments in the program are usually long-term rather than daily. Emphasis is placed on composition, analysis, and research. In the History section, many assignments result from position papers or

essays that stress a solid grasp of factual material plus independence of judgment. English papers and tests task the student to evaluate critically the literature studied. Students go on 4 field trips (Monticello, DC, Williamsburg and Newport). The trips are very focused. It's a collaborative work, very discussion and project based. They learn how to take notes. It's a 2-year program. Next year, a research component will be introduced in 10th grade. Digitalized version will be kept at the end of year. In 11th grade documentary film project and essay.

IX. **Faculty Report: Ruth Parks**

End of first semester. Going to Germany, this is the 11th trip to Germany. Students are staying for 2 weeks in Germany and will be visiting Switzerland as well.

2nd French exchange about to go in April.

A small group of students will be traveling to Spain

Discussion about empathy and resilience at the faculty meeting. Big emphasis this year on recognizing social emotions among students at school.

BOE Report: Sheila Brogan

Next Year calendar schools will be closed on election day. There will be a professional day instead for staff.

There will be 2 days off next year for the February break, Feb 15-16 and Feb 17 has been moved to Nov 3 (professional day).

April 21st is election day. This is an off-cycle election. Ballots will be up to 3 seats: 2 open for 3 years and 1 for 2 years. Petition for people to run are due last Monday of February.

Presentation for the budget will be done at all HSA's and talk about the bond referendum possibilities. They are talking about heating systems for all schools except RHS. Windows. Old age issue. 5 schools still need new windows. Furnaces at Glen and Ridge are not replaceable. It's forced air. The Performing arts Center would incorporate parking, seats and for there would be a new band room. Watch the presentation about the referendum on the BOE online.

X. **Executive Boards Updates: Susan Harrison**

Attend 11th grade meeting. Very beneficial and important ones for college process application.

Nominating for next year Board will happen. Contact Siobhan Winograd if you are interested in a position on the Board.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Isabelle Leluc, Secretary