

**Ridgewood High School Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes for June 02, 2020**

In Attendance: Sara Beinstein, Sheila Brogan, Kelly Buchsbaum, Christine Chanley, Alwyn Cheng, Joanne Cheng, Lena Christinger, Madison Colin, Kristin Conneen, Alessandra Corcoran, Kathy Cowie, Gail Cutler Christina Dunican, Deanne Dunne, Laura Essex, Rita Familant, Daniel Gluck, Hayley Gluck, Tom Gorman, Meryl Graham, Theresa Gregorio, Susan Harrison, Carolyn Holt, Ondrej Kalny, Steve Kim, Medha Kirtane, Patricia Lee, Susan Lee, Isabelle Leluc, Nicole Liu, Carla Merlino, Mary Micale, Anneke Meinardi, Jeff Nyhuis, Christine OMeara, Basil Pizzuto, Ruth Parks, Alexander Ruhl, Ian Ryan, Gina Sanchez, Smilon, Claire Sullivan, Gwen Sullivan, Alison Stephens, Evelyn Tantalean, Fran Turso, Waez Umer, Ridgewood Wrestling.

- I. **Call to Order:** Susan Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:30. Meeting agenda had been made available via eNews and emails. All attendees were accepted through zoom meeting.

- II. **Principal's Report: Tom Gorman**

The school year has gone well. It's been more than 100 days of virtual learning.

Thanking teachers, faculties and students for adapting so quickly to online mode. It helped to have the 1-1 Chromebook initiative in place, and it made the transition to remote instruction much smoother.

The school is currently working on next year plan for reopening; there are currently several plans: virtual learning, full back in school, A and B schedule and in school for a month and back to virtual. It's hard to develop a plan as there is no specific guidance from the state; only social distancing and nothing more. There are a lot of questions, do we have to take temperatures of students, where and how do we do that, it's very complex.

By the end of the week, there will be a plan formulated for returning books, instruments over a 3 days period for each grade so that they can return their books and Chromebook.

Graduation date keeps on changing. There could be a virtual graduation where kids walk the field and parents watch a livestream from home. There could be the possibility of photos being taken with parents, but it will have to follow the rules and regulations that the state provides.

The school budget was defeated and it's now between the Village Council and the BOE. There are three options: 1. Leave as is 2. Village Council adds more money 3. You need to reduce the amount by x amount. There have been

subcommittees set up to look at the different options. Assessment needs to be done by 06/04 or 06/09.

III. **Assistant Principal: Basil Pizzuto**

There is a lot of angst about the senior class, the graduation, the prom, PG20 and all the other events associated with the seniors. There is going to be a virtual prom, this will not replace the regular prom though. Still waiting to hear more about guidelines from the states for gatherings.

Student government and GA have been meeting to support students. Basil's team meets every week to talk about students.

IV. **Assistant Principal / Guidance Report: Jeff Nyhuis/Alumni Student Panel**

The financial aid meeting was virtual. The college meeting was virtual too; 4 schools came.

The senior survey needs to be completed. Helping seniors at risk of failing to graduate because of missing classes.

Waez Umer, Madison Colin, Alexander Ruhl, Daniel Gluck and Meryl Graham talked about their experience as freshman in college. Their first semester was great and then everyone was sent back in March. RHS prepares you well for college. There is a lot of free time between classes and you need to learn how to manage your time. The preparation at RHS in time management helped to move from clubs to athletics. Looking back, they appreciate how great classes were at RHS. One of the struggles at the beginning is to find ways to make your free time meaningful at the beginning. The free time and open campus helped to acclimate to college. Colleges have different classes, but one student felt that the computer programming program was a little bit behind at RHS. More lecture classes would be great at RHS as well as some out of classroom experience.

Some schools handled the pandemic well and others didn't. Most of them will be online for the fall and some southern schools will resume school in person. Some are trying to have less people on campus. They are waiting for guidance from the state.

Having a dehumidifier, bringing a fan are important depending where you are located. Finding roommate on IG or FB is easy. Join club, organization, Greek life or a fraternity. It was easy to meet people. Get involved.

AP acceptances depend on schools. It helps because you go to the next level. Dual credits are not always accepted.

V. **Faculty Report Ruth Parks/Medha Kirtane**

Thank You for dinner for the Teacher Appreciation Week.

Virtual school was challenging. Not the same as person to person contact. Students have problems with note taking.

Thursday is the final Maroon award. Citizenship will be awarded where a staff member will recognize a student.

The band had a wonderful tribute Memorial Day.

The Social Studies department is inviting students Friday via video conferencing to talk about the state of the nation. This will be a 90 minutes session. Civic responses, responsibilities will be discussed.

Coaches and athletes have ongoing meeting.

VI. **BOE Report:** Sheila Brogan

3 new board members this month. Mike Lembo is the president. The new student rep is Zoe Kovec. Frustrated by the change in announcements by the state. Lack of direction by NJ state of education, NJ dept of Health. A lot of unknowns.

123 votes defeated the budget. The Village Council will discuss tomorrow what they recommend; they will review the budget. The Council is looking at the tax rate.

A week ago, the NJ treasurer announced that state funding would be flat and that the proposed increase for school districts would not be funded. Ridgewood could lose 650K in state aid. The exact state aid numbers won't be known until the end of August after our budget.

The September state aid payments will be delayed until October and the Extraordinary Aid funding payments will also be delayed until October. Under the Federal CARES Act. NJ will receive \$310 million dollars and from this NJDOE will allocate \$279,000,000 to the school districts that received Title 1A funding. Ridgewood should be eligible for \$116,000.

VII. **Executive Boards Updates:**

President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary and Communications: No updates.

Development: Friends of RHS campaign collected \$3,700 through PayPal. It's way down from the previous years. A school wide email was sent out as a reminder.

Mary Micale asked for anyone that wants to get involved; be a class rep or committee chair to contact her.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Isabelle Leluc, Secretary