



RIDGEWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM):

Tara Adams, Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Lynn Benson, Tara Briganti, Sheila Brogan, Christine Clay, Deanne Dunne, Carolyn Holt, HyunJu Kwak, Maureen O’Conner Martin, Laura McGrath, Mary Micale, Jeff Nyhuis, Kristen Plumley, Cristina Rizzo, Anna Salerno, Penny Schildkraut, Alison Stephens, Colleen Tansey, Vaibhavi Mistry Udeshi

*Other callers participated in the ZOOM but their names were not registered

I. Call to Order/Approval Past Minutes/HSA Report: Carolyn Holt

Carolyn Holt called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Meeting information was made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot post. All virtual attendees were accepted through ZOOM meeting. A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Mary Micale and seconded by Alison Stephens. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

Tara Briganti presented and explained the HSA 2022-2023 budget highlights before voting. There are no major changes from last year’s budget. The HSA continues to collect dues for this school year. This is the main source of revenue collected for administrative expenses that cover fees such as the HSA meeting zoom account, bank fees, accounting software and some of the HSA programs. For example, the hospitality committee funds teacher breakfasts, the student back to school barbeque and teacher appreciation week. A motion to approve the budget was made by Mary Micale and seconded by Amy Beiersdorf. The budget was unanimously approved.

Maureen O’Connor Martin shared information about the upcoming Friends of RHS campaign at RHS. There will be an email and letter with information on this year’s campaign sent to parents. Thanks to the many parents who supported the campaign last year. The mission of the campaign is to enrich the experience of RHS students. Last year’s campaign funds were used to purchase windscreens for the tennis courts, speakers and author visits, equipment for the band, two laptops for the orchestra and support two new clubs at the high school.

II. RHS Student Reports: Sarah Bronstein, Matthew Carver

Sarah introduced herself to the group as one of this year’s student representatives for the student council. Sarah is a junior and is president of the Oasis club. The club recently held a Halloween drive and a Thanksgiving drive is planned to donate to underprivileged families in Paterson. Sarah is also an advisor for the Letters for Rose club and participates in spring track.

The school has been great with getting the students back to a post-pandemic way of life at school with activities. There have been game days, Family Feud, spirit week activities and a Halloween costume contest. Future games, activities and dances are being planned.

III. **RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane**

Mr. Nyhuis reported on behalf of Ms. Kirtane who was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Ms. Kirtane wanted to thank the HSA for the mugs and bagel breakfast. It was great to see colleagues supporting the sustainability initiative.

A reminder that the first quarter ends November 9th and all grades will be submitted shortly after this date.

Teachers have been busy writing student recommendation letters for seniors as part of the college application process.

On November 16th the orchestra winter concert will take place in the campus center at 7:30PM.

On November 17th the Maroon and White concert will take place. This evening highlights the talents of RHS musicians and artists.

New Players just had a successful run of Clue.

In sports, Girls Varsity soccer won the state semifinal, 2-1, and will play Freehold this Saturday (11/12) at Kean college for the state title.

Boys and cross country won the Bergen county title. Girl cross country won sectional champs.

Girls volleyball won the Freedom division

Boys soccer made it to the Bergen County sectionals.

IV. **RHS Class Reports / Introductions:**

Senior Class Report (Sara Beinstein, Pamela Lobosco, Sandy Pires): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Senior class. A class felt banner fundraiser is currently underway. Banners can be made for any class year. Proceeds will benefit PG23.

Junior Class Report (Carla Sullivan, Suzanne Tripp): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Junior class. The class has had several very successful fundraisers. The apparel sale will be ending next week, 11/20. The class parents are currently securing volunteers for the 2024 fashion show and Project Graduation.

Sophomore Class Report (Lauren Radossich, Daria Linnington Katie Diamond): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Sophomore class. A water bottle and apparel

sale just ended and all orders will be shipped to those who purchased. A banner sale will be advertised soon.

Freshman Class Report (Meghan Agatep, Kim Cadaret): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Freshman class. The first parent social is planned at Stumpy' s Hatchet House on November 16th.

V. Featured Speakers- David Bailey, Laura Vargo- Guidance College Application Updates and Transition from Naviance to Scoir:

Mr. Bailey shared an update on the current senior class and the college application process. There are 440 students in the senior class. At this time 85% of the class has applied to at least one college. There are currently 4,281 active applications and 2,112 early action applications. Overall, the applications this year are over the number sent from last year's class. The teachers and counselors have been busy helping in the application process. Students will begin hearing back from schools beginning in December through the beginning of next year. May 1st is when schools expect students to make a deposit for the school they choose to attend. The counselors will help students through the process of acceptances or applying to other schools as needed.

Mr. Bailey shared statistics in the application and admission trends. The applications submitted to schools has continued to increase. It is expected that this year will be extremely competitive in both the early action and regular application process. Overall the senior class application average has held at around 10 applications per student. Students continue to apply to more schools because of the test optional factor and it's easier to apply with the common application. It's also become cheaper to apply to schools.

In December, RHS will transition from the college platform Naviance to Scoir. RHS is making the switch to improve student, parent and counselor experience. There have been many issues recently with Naviance and their support service. Scoir will improve the college search experience and process to help find the "fit" for students. Scoir provides enhanced features with finding college matches and career exploration.

Scoir is designed to help the students answer three main questions in the college process. It guides students and families with will I get in? Will I fit in? Can I afford it?

The Scoir rollout plan to the RHS community is planned. Counselors will participate in training now through December. The counselors will meet with staff from Northern Highlands and Paramus High Schools who have been using Scoir. A parent virtual presentation is planned for parents on December 13th. Students will receive their Scoir activation in January.

Mr. Bailey shared slides with screenshots depicting some of the features from the Scoir website. Each student will make a student profile page that will allow them to indicate their college preferences. There is a parent dashboard that shows the application status, school information for parents and financial information. Each school has a college profile in Scoir that shares information about the school. Students can search for information on individual schools. There is a scattergram feature that shares data for schools on the applicants they receive and the statistics.

VI. RPS Board of Education Report: Hyunju Kwak

Ms. Kwak shared she and other BOE members attended the NJ annual school board association convention in Atlantic City. It's an opportunity for the board to learn about some of the issues, trends and current status in public education around the state.

Ms. Kwak gave an update on the Later Start initiative. She reports she has been attending the design team meetings with teachers, administrators, Dr. Fitts and BOE trustees. The goal is to present the later start plan with the potential changes in January so the board has the time to work on a budget to support the plan.

Ms. Kwak congratulated Ridgewood's Applied Engineering FireGone team for showcasing their innovative Wildfire Assessor at the NJSBA Steam Tank Showcase.

Ms. Kwak updated where the BOE is with the successor superintendent search process. At this time, the online survey has closed and there have been 534 responses, mostly from parent/guardians. The public input forums have been occurring in person and virtually. The last public forum will be held virtually on November 14th. The firm will analyze the community findings and then the private interviewing phase will begin with the candidates and will be conducted by the BOE members. January 27, 2023 is the deadline for applicants. The number of candidates will be shared with the public.

There will be coffee and conversation sessions at the BOE with BOE members and Dr. Fitts. The dates and time will be shared and advertised at the schools. This is an opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions outside of BOE meetings. The first meeting is being held on November 14th.

Ms. Kwak provided an update on the budget surplus allocations discussion at the November 7th BOE meeting. The surplus is what was generated at the year end, June 30, 2022. The final numbers are not in but the expectation is that there is a surplus of 6.9 million. They plan is to allocate 2.5 million to capital reserve, \$623,000 to emergency reserve, 1.75 million into the 2023 budget, and the rest would go to maintenance.

VII. RHS Principal's Report: Jeff Nyhuis

Mr. Nyhuis shared he is working on the final Duffield STEAM report to share how the donation was used at RHS. The funds were used to build a maker space, culinary lab and recording studio.

There was a Later Start meeting last week to discuss the next steps of this initiative with Dr. Fitts and other district administrators. The district is currently working on bus scheduling. This is the last step in the process of implementing the later start time. Mr. Nyhuis is working on sharing schedules with teachers to look at how they will be implemented. There are currently three possible schedules they will look at with classes starting at 8:20 AM and ending at 3:00 or 3:05 PM. One schedule has 51

seconds less per class, per period and the other has 1 minute and 41 seconds less per class, per period.

First marking period ends November 9th and grades are due a week later. Senior first quarter grades will be sent to the schools they applied to for early action.

Mr. Nyhuis met with HSA members to discuss wish list items to enhance the school. Funding through the Friends of RHS campaign will allow for wish list items to be purchased this school year.

VIII. RHS Assistant Principal's Report: Basil Pizzuto

Dave Bailey reported on behalf of Basil Pizzuto who was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Kevin Feely and Jim Stroker held a leadership summit recently with students to discuss being a leader, how to be a leader and to train students in leadership.

Many parents reported not receiving their student picture proofs by email. The photographer has now sent them to all the student email addresses. If parents still can't access the photos they can contact the main office or Rod Bolton directly.

There will be an informational meeting on the Italy trip planned for Fall 2023. There is a link to this meeting which takes place Monday, November 14th at 7:30 PM.

The RHS attendance policy is back in place and being strictly reinforced after being relaxed through COVID. Parents are asked to familiarize themselves with the attendance policy. An email will be sent with a review of the policy as attendance will be strictly enforced.

IX. RHS Assistant Principal's Report: David Bailey

Mr. Bailey shared the AP testing sign-up registration date has passed. If students still haven't registered they may still do so but there is a late fee. This year six of the AP tests will be administered electronically. The feeling is this will be a better testing experience for students.

There was an eleventh grade meeting on November 2nd to inform parents of the Junior to Senior college timeline.

There is an eighth grade meeting on November 17th to introduce parents to RHS.

The Scoir virtual parent meeting will be on December 13th.

There will be a student panel in December to have some graduates come back to RHS to speak to the senior class about their experiences since graduating.

In January, scheduling for the 2023-2024 school year will begin.

X. RHS HSA Committee Reports:

XI. Questions/Discussion/Adjournment:

Kristen Plumley shared an update on behalf of The Friends of Music program. Friends of Music supports the music program in the schools. The annual Friends of Music concert will be held on January 27th at 7:00PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

Next RHS HSA meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2023- 7:30 PM - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

RHS HSA Executive Board

President	Carolyn Holt
2 nd Vice-President	Amy Beiersdorf
Treasurer	Tara Briganti
Assistant Treasurer	Alison Stephens
Secretary	Colleen Tansey
Communications Director	Laura McGrath
Development	Maureen O'Connor Martin, Valerie Auyeung