



**RIDGEWOOD**  
HIGH SCHOOL

## RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 7, 2023– 7:30 PM

RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

#### **In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM):**

Ann Alvarado, Charles Appel, Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Tara Briganti, Sheila Brogan, Michelle Cho, Luke Dolby, Carolyn Holt, Hyewon Jun, Sookyung Lim, Minjung Kim, Laura McGrath, Jeff Nyhuis, Alison Stephens, Colleen Tansey

\*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 7:35 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 January minutes was made by Amy Beiersdorf and seconded by Tara Briganti. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

Jamboree's "JamboTales" shows are February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM and February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at BFMS to raise funds for need-based college scholarships. Please support these fun shows!

The sophomore class will have a semi-formal on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The RHS Ambassadors program that pairs existing families to new families at RHS is currently reaching out to participating families via email.

The RHS Korean Parents Association (KPA) proudly presented a check to RHS in the amount of \$2,000 to be used by the guidance department for college visits. The president of the Korean Parents Association, Sookyung Li, shared that the KPA educates and supports the Korean families at RHS and fundraises through ad sponsorships and dumpling sales to support Ridgewood High School by donating money to Guidance each year, custodian gifts and offering two college scholarships each year.

#### **II. Presentation of Learning Through a Global Classroom: Luke Dolby, Charles Appel**

Mr. Dolby provided an overview of the Global Classroom program he has piloted at RHS with Mr. Appel. His experience working in Africa, India and England have driven his desire to bring communities together to offer different perspectives to enhance student learning. Mr. Dolby spearheaded building a school in Lilongwe, Malawi with power, electricity and necessary technology. Leveraging his contact with the school, and using the Peer Village program, two classrooms from Malawi and Ridgewood were connected for a reflective, international conversation. Mr. Dolby shared a video that shows how the students in Lilongwe, Malawi and RHS interacted in their respective classrooms through technology to engage in meaningful conversations.

The conversations allow the students to discuss current events, their own life experiences as well as art, literature and music in a way that has never been done before. Given the success of the pilot program, RHS hopes to use the technology for different subject areas and classes.

Mr. Appel shared his experience with Global Classroom and the curriculum. The goal is to expand and identify curriculum subject matter that can lead to meaningful and engaging conversations with students in other cultures to expand student learning. Some of the classes that have been identified to participate in the program include environmental science, marketing, economics and science courses. There will be many opportunities in the future as the program grows for teachers to identify subject matter to participate in these global conversations to enhance courses.

Project Graduation Class of 2022 provided funds in conjunction with the HSA to purchase two OWL cameras to support this programming.

### **III. RHS Student Reports: Sarah Bronstein, Matthew Carver**

Sarah shared that students at RHS are currently hearing daily announcements in honor of Black History month. The information that is spotlighted each day has led to many conversations and discussions in the classes.

The RHS Acapella groups will be providing singing grams on Valentine's Day at RHS. This is always a highlight of the year that students look forward to in February.

The Asian Fest is coming up and it's a celebration of cultures through student performances.

The spring musical, Something Rotten, will take place in March and rehearsals have started.

The Iceland, Cambodia and Spain trips are scheduled for next week.

Spring sports begin in a few weeks. Track, tennis, lacrosse and golf are some of the sports Sarah highlighted that students are looking forward to participating in and watching in the warmer months ahead.

The Junior class is planning a semi-formal for a date in late April.

Students are finalizing class schedules for next year.

### **IV. RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane**

Ms. Kirtane thanked the HSA for nourishing the staff at their enrichment days.

Over the recent enrichment days, teacher cohorts have been focused on sustainability, celebration of the arts, grading policies, portfolios and cultural development.

The Asian Festival is being held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Super Science Saturday will take place March 4<sup>th</sup> at RHS.

Spring sports begin March 16<sup>th</sup> for most sports. The Summer sports non-contact period is set for July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Jazz ensemble has a concert on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

The RHS recording studio and TV club will have a series that focuses on musical groups in Ridgewood.

Students at RHS, the middle schools and parents had the opportunity to hear Michael McCreary speak about his experience as a comedian and being autistic. Michael is the author of the book, "Funny, You Don't Look Autistic". Thank you to Susan Nold for bringing this program to the district.

Ms. Kirtane thanked Taylor Varcasia and Olivia Best who researched and presented the announcements for Black History month. Fred LaFemina has been instrumental in seeing this project come to life this month.

There will be an African American Literature reading that will be a read-in for students and faculty across the school.

There will be another round of Maroon Awards given to students who do the right thing at RHS when no one is looking and pus our community in the right direction.

Mid-terms were a learning experience for teachers and staff. There have been discussions with students and faculty about how to improve future testing, weighting the grades and using them as a diagnostic tool to help guide class recommendations for students for the following year.

## V. **RHS Class Reports / Introductions:**

**Senior Class Report (Sara Beinstein, Pamela Lobosco, Sandy Pires):** Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Senior class. The Senior Fashion Show is taking place March 4th. Tickets are on sale now. Junior parents are asked to volunteer at the show and a sign-up link will be sent out February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Junior Class Report (Carla Sullivan, Suzanne Tripp):** Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Junior class. The class has a parent social on February 8<sup>th</sup> at Park West Tavern. There are some umbrella and hats still available from the apparel sale this month.

**Sophomore Class Report (Lauren Radossich, Daria Linnington Katie Diamond):** There were no updates to report.

**Freshman Class Report (Meghan Agatep, Kim Cadaret):** Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Freshman class. The first parent social was held at Stumpy's Hatchet House. There is a Freshman Disco Dance being held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the student center. Future socials and apparel sales are being planned.

## VI. **RPS Board of Education Report: Sheila Brogan**

Ms. Brogan shared the Michael McCreary presentations to the district were a great success. Michael presented and shared his experience shared in his book, “Funny, You Don’t Look Autistic”. High school classes and parents were able to attend his presentations.

Ms. Brogan updated where the BOE is with the successor superintendent search process. Ms. Brogan attended a meeting earlier in the day to review the forty applicants for the position. The BOE is using the characteristics defined by our community in the online surveys and public forums held in the Fall by the Superintendent search firm to inform their candidate selections. These qualities and characteristics are available to view online in the Board of Education section. The interview process will begin at the end of the month. The BOE is on target to have a new superintendent by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

April 21<sup>st</sup> will be a school day off in observance of EID.

The results of the Fall parent satisfaction survey have been made available and can be found on the BOE website.

Budget planning for the next school year will begin this month. The BOE will begin budget talks after the governor gives the state aide figures to the district.

The Late Start Initiative schedule was shared by Jeff Nyhuis and Dr. Robinson at the February 6th BOE meeting. The BOE is planning to vote on the Later Start resolution at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Ridgewood Parks and Recreation, Health Department and West Bergen Mental Health along with the Stigma Free Campaign have partnered to present a program on March 8<sup>th</sup> about how to spot school based student anxiety. The in-person workshop will include a discussion on signs, symptoms, causes and offer coping strategies and resources for parents to support their children.

Super Science Saturday will take place at RHS on March 4th. RHS students in the engineering club will be participating and sharing their innovative projects. Liberty Science Center will be presenting and there will be some remote interactive programming through the Marine Lab in Woods Hole (The University of Chicago) and NASA.

## **VII. RHS Vice Principal Report: David Bailey**

Mr. Bailey thanked the Korean Parents Association for their generous donation and support of the guidance department.

The calendar change with April 21<sup>st</sup> being a school day off in observance of EID, April 24<sup>th</sup> will remain a 2 day and it will be skipped over like a snow day.

Mr. Bailey shared the Spring Testing timeline:

March 14-17- NJ State Graduation Proficiency Assessment for 11<sup>th</sup> graders  
May 1-12- AP Exams

May 22-23- NJSLA Science Administration for 11<sup>th</sup> graders

May 22-25- NJSLA ELA and Math regular spring Administration for 9<sup>th</sup> graders

Mr. Bailey shared the 2023-2024 scheduling timeline. Counselors have been meeting with students to review the scheduling process since January. Skyward has been open for teachers to make course recommendations. Students need to submit their schedule request in Skyward from February 24<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Counselors review schedules in March and the deadline for students to appeal any teacher recommendations is April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Bailey shared some of the statistics of past school year appeal processes and addressed the appeal process at RHS.

Mr. Bailey shared the outline for current Sophomore FOCUS sessions. Session one addresses the course scheduling process. Session two is an introduction to SCOIR. Session three is about resume building and eleventh grade planning. Session four focuses on leadership and legacy.

Mr. Bailey shared some current statistics of the early decision applications submitted by RHS students this year in comparison to past years. The number of applications is very similar to last year with 93% of the senior class applying early decision. More deferrals seem the new normal.

Mr. Bailey shared his support of the Later Start plan and is confident under the leadership of Mr. Nyhuis that this will be a great success at RHS.

#### **VIII. RHS Principal Report: Jeff Nyhuis**

Mr. Nyhuis shared the Project Graduation 2023 upcoming fashion show on March 4th is always a highlight of the school year for students and staff. The administration met with the chairs to plan Project Graduation.

Jamboree shows are this weekend to raise money for senior need-based scholarships. Mr. Nyhuis, Ms. Brogan and Mr. Bailey will be at the shows to accept checks.

Mr. Nyhuis is starting conversations with students on the Later Start schedules. Students are excited to see this initiative finally being implemented at RHS.

There are some details of the Later Start plans that still need to be worked out as far as bussing and scheduling but the ball is rolling at RHS to get this done.

The therapy dogs visited the school this past week and its always a big hit with everyone. These visits are arranged through Mr. Kilday.

Mr. Nyhuis shared the Michael McCreary presentation was a great success and enjoyed by students and staff. He and his father were fascinating to listen to and it was great for the students to get a better perspective on inclusion.

**IX. Questions/Discussion/Adjournment:**

Carolyn Holt encouraged parents to support the Later Start Initiative as it's voted on as a resolution at the February 13<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

*Next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, March 14, 2023- 7:30 PM** - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom*