



RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 – 7:30pm

RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM): Valerie Auyeung, Sheila Brogan, Medha Kirtane, Laura McGrath, Mary Micale, Kelly Nakasone, Jeff Nyhuis, Alison Stephens, Yana Rubin, Ben Strauss, Carolyn Holt, Dave Bailey, The Korean Parent Association President Hyewon Jun and members of the KPA, Isabella Katsaros and 8 Zoom attendees, Danielle Woods

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

I. Call to Order/Welcome: Kelly Nakasone

Kelly Nakasone called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. Meeting information was made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot posts. All virtual attendees were accepted through the ZOOM meeting.

II. Call to Order/Approval Past Minutes/HSA Report: Kelly Nakasone

Meeting notes were approved by Carolyn Holt and seconded by Yana Rubin

III. RHS Student Report: Ben Strauss, Class of 2025

- Ben Acknowledged world events being addressed in School including: Conflicts in the Middle East and reported that there was a class discussion regarding the attack of ships in the Red Sea in Mrs. Kirtane's class.
- Media regarding antisemitism on college campuses
- Dartmouth announced this week that they would return to requiring test scores
- Storm's in LA and effects of climate change around the world
- Acknowledged discussion around school including, college applications and test prep
- Ben's advice to his younger self: Ask more questions as freshman and sophomores
- Students are grateful that midterms are over. Many appeared to be anxious
- Winter sports and clubs are in full swing
- New Players Concert performance also occurred last month
- Announced upcoming Jamboree performances which raises money for scholarships for RHS students
- Encouraged parents to read the RHS weekly view

IV. RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane

- RHS Bands went to CA and returned today. 140 students went on the trip and participated in the workshops and met with various conductors and performers
 - Acapella group, AcaBellas, competed in a recent competition and came in 1st to become the Mid Atlantic Quarterfinal Champions
- ArtBeat features at the Stable until Feb 28 with art of RHS students on display
- Wrestling: NK athlete of the week
- Basketball teams and wrestling team nominate teachers and acknowledge at recent games. The teams also recognized Mental health awareness
- Fencing: RHS students Jaywu Jun and Isabella You advanced to States
- Track: Luke Pash
- Upcoming Events:
 - 3/2:Super Science Saturday
 - 3/3:Asian Festival
 - DECA Competition
 - Trip to Spain
- Thanked the HSA for recent Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and mentioned that the Mask policy may be discussed at state of state address but will need to wait for official documents to be released

KPA Presentation of Donation: President Hyewon Jun and members of KPA

- Presented RHS Principals with a check for \$2000 from money raised
- KPA also helps sponsor the Asian Festival and provides scholarships to students
- Most recent fundraiser was the Dumpling Sale

V. Board of Education Report: Sheila Brogan, BOE President

- BOE reorganized for 2024 with Sheila Brogan as President and Muhammad Mahmoud
- BOE negotiations with teachers are beginning this week and on track
- Roof repair project at RHS was a success with no leaking
- Field Status: Cleanup must wait until March after 1st frost disappears and will take two weeks to complete. Acknowledged spring sports start date March 14. Short term plan is to clean fields. Long term plan will be to work on various solutions which must be in agreement with the DEP.
- J Nyhuis commented: There has been more flooding in the last 3 years than the 10 years prior with 3-4 floods in 2021 and 2 recent floods this year
- The town also need to have a solution for Maple and Vets Fields
- Superintendent Mark Schwarz is working with the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss possible solutions
- Need to consider impact on communities downstream from Ridgewood, like Lodi

- Fields and Facilities committee meeting with architect engineering firms as well
- Super Science Saturday March 2nd
- Impressed by RHS students: 13 teams participated in the past including applied engineering group
- Students are involved in sustainability and solving real problems

VI. Class Reports

PG 24-(presented by Kelly Nakasone)

- Valentines Day Lunch box sales through Parkwood Deli, \$12.95 per lunch package, orders due Sunday, Feb 11th

VII. Principal's Reports

Dave Bailey:

- Thanks the KPA for their support and donation
- Presented the 2024-2025 RHS scheduling timeline
 - In Jan, counselors met with 9-11th graders to discuss the process
 - Feb 8-28: Teachers make recs in Skyward
 - March 1-8: Students create schedule
 - March 11-15: Counselors check schedule schedule requests
 - April 15: Deadline to appeal any teacher recs which are then evaluated by the supervisors
 - Timeline is posted on the Guidance website
 - If parent disagrees with supervisor, parent can go through override process
 - In 2023, parent overrides made up only 1% of initial teacher recs.

Spring testing Schedule:

- 3/11-3/14: NJGPA(graduation assessment) for 11th graders only:delayed opening for other grades.
- 4/29-5/2: 9th Grade ELA Math; delayed opening for other grades
- 5/5-5/17: AP Exams
- 5-20-5/21: 11th grade NJSLA Science; delayed opening for other grades

Sophomore Focus started last week and will have 4 sessions:

- Session #1: Scheduling for 2020-2025
- Session #2: Grade 10 timeline and Scoir
- Session #3: Resume building and 11th grade planning
- Session #4: Leadership and legacy: process and results
- Emphasis on "Focus what you can control"
- Sessions will end by early March
- Feb 8-10: Jamboree with 50/50 raffle-parents encouraged to attend and participate in the raffle to raise funds for scholarships
- March 7th: Grade 10 Parent Meeting at 7pm
- March 19th: College Fair in Gym 1 from 7-9pm

Danielle Wood:

- Safety is a priority: Encouraging all students to use Proximity Cards to swipe into School to increase safety in the school.
 - December special:\$5 for Proximity Card replacement (still continuing)
 - Report of Students who have not used their cards all year in specific grades, and parents were notified via email:
 - 10th grade: 48 students
 - 11th grade: 76 students
 - 12th grade: 67 students
- Bell at main entrance is intended for visitors only, not students
- Starting next year all 9th graders will receive cards either at orientation or within the first few days of school
- Students receive proximity cards(no photo) to be used for all 4 years and student ID which is required by law(with photo) annually
- Will continue to run reports
- Last resort:Disciplinary actions(detention)
- Jeff Nyhuis commented that there 6 entrances that students can swipe to get into the school. If they do not have a card they must enter through the main entrance.
- Parent asked if the QR code can be stored in a students phone instead. Danielle Wood will check with IT but the safety concern is that if the student loses their phone, IT would have to somehow disable the QR code.
- A student informed the parents that card pockets for phones can be purchased at the school store. Then the students just have to put the phone to the swipe and the door will unlock.
- New time for Attendance Alert: Parents will receive calls at 10:30am if student misses 1 or more of the first 2 periods of school. This is only if the parent has not called in the absence in the am.
- Upcoming dates:
 - 4/11: 9th grade Dance at RHS
 - April/May: 10th grade Dance: venue TBD
 - 4/9: 11th grade Dance at the Brownstone
 - 6/7: Senior Prom at The Grove

Principals Report: Mr Nyhuis

- Teachers were recognized by seniors of both basketball teams as well as the wrestling team who nominated the teachers; great idea buy Keith Cook(AD)
- Maroon awards will be given out by Mehta Kirtane and Mike Troy at a breakfast
- Acknowledged Dr Schwarz's letter regarding antisemitic graffiti found in a RHS bathroom
 - Mr Nyhuis made an announcement to all students that these incident are not condoned and will not be tolerated
 - Other reports followed the next few days most likely from increased awareness, and police were called in to investigate as hate crimes: difficult to find the responsible parties due to unknown time of incident
 - Possibly considering installing a swipe system for a few of the bathrooms as a pilot

-Midterms: Although stressful, RHS alumni have always expressed value to having midterms in HS; the midterms helped them prepare for college exams

-Jeff Nyhuis has upcoming meeting with MS principals to discuss possibly increasing the rigor on 8th grade so that they are prepared for 9th grade

-The Midterms help the students learn how to focus for a longer exam and not be distracted by phones or other things; also teaches them how to organize and learn large amount of information

-Midterms allow teachers to assess progress of their students and identify where improvement is needed and also make recommendations for next year

-Brianna Scurry assembly today, sponsored by the REF; she discussed life skills and importance of setting goals and being able to visualize these goals every day

-Fields Situation: May not be ready for March 14th start date for spring sports. Will continue to have open communication with parents and will look for potential alternatives in other towns

OPEN QUESTIONS:

-Parent asked where to find info on Academy Programs especially for the new ones; Dave Bailey responded, Info is available in the 2024-2025 Program of Studies on the Guidance website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Meghan Agatep, Secretary

*Next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, March 12, 2024- 7:30 PM** - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom*