



RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 28th, 2023– 7:30 PM

RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM): Valerie Auyeung, Sheila Brogan, Medha Kirtane, Laura McGrath, Mary Micale, Kelly Nakasone, Jeff Nyhuis, Anna Salerno, Alison Stephens, Ben Strauss, Michelle Strauss, Stephen Strauss, Yana Rubin, Laura Waisnor

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

I. Call to Order/Welcome: Mary Micale

Mary Micale called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. Meeting information was made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot post. All virtual attendees were accepted through ZOOM meeting.

II. Call to Order/Approval Past Minutes/HSA Report: Mary Micale

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Anna Salerno and seconded by Laura McGrath. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

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

Ben began by acknowledging that there's a lot going on in the world, but students at RHS are given the opportunity to remain focused and engaged and supported by the staff. A wide variety of clubs are offered and it's easy for students to join and participate. Recently, to name a few exciting events in Quarter 1, there was a Diwali celebration, a trip to Italy, many assemblies and a very successful ArtBeat concert. The football season was a huge success and the marching band performed at the games. They have been getting ready for wrestling meets and basketball games which are popular events for students to attend. A class of 2025 Apparel fundraising sale was launched.

IV. RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane

Ms. Kirtane began by thanking Ben Strauss and congratulating Mary Micale and Saurabh Dani on being elected to the BOE.

-Friday 12/1 is the deadline for Fall Recommendations.

-Scholarship recommendation season follows the recommendation season and there are many opportunities for students.

-Midterms will take place at the end of January, students should be mindful of pacing themselves to prepare for the exams.

-Course Placement- What are teachers looking for in a placement? Commitment to the course material and a desire to improve.

- Since we last met, there was a Winter Orchestra concert, Maroon and White performance and RHS Jazz Day
- Choir had an 8th grade participation day and it was a success with students from both BFMS and GWMS
- There was a successful Acappella Concert and Sharing of the Arts Performance
- The Marching Band finished their season and will celebrate with a banquet and plant sale this weekend.
- The New Players will present their new show Amadeus in two weeks.
- Crew earned a gold medal at their last regatta to close out their season
- Fall Sports- ended on a high with 4 Sectional Champions between tennis, cross country and soccer.
- Winter Sports are now in full swing and the Athletic Department is celebrating 17 athletes who signed to play sports in their college which is a huge testament Mr. Cook and the entire department.
- Faculty got together to celebrate the life of Basil Pizzuto last Tuesday. It was a memorable and touching celebration.
- There is a Cambodia club fundraiser at Steel Wheel on Thursday
- Friday 12/1 is Downtown for the holidays- Various student groups will perform including a new program where ASL students will sign the carols.
- Thank you to the NHS students who have been volunteering all Fall with elementary students.
- Thank you to the HSA for the breakfast- not only was the food delicious, the breakfast provides faculty the opportunity to come together and collaborate which is incredibly beneficial.

V. Board of Education Report: Sheila Brogan

- On Jan 8th, the BOE will reorganize and welcome Mary Micale and both Mary Micale and Saurabh Dani will take their oath which will be very exciting. On December 18th, we will thank Mike Lembo for his service and commitment to our schools.
- World Language Programs- Three Spanish teachers began work earlier this month in the elementary schools. The schools have been welcoming and there has been much excitement about the program and great feedback from parents.
- The College Presentation from 11/20 will be rescheduled to this upcoming Monday 12/4.
- Ridgewood received a grant for \$154,000 for high impact tutoring through the New Jersey Department of Education. These funds are from the New Jersey Learning Acceleration Program and are intended for use by students most disproportionately affected by Covid. The funds will be mostly directly towards students in 3rd and 4th grade for ELA and Math coursework, although the district does have some flexibility in identifying other students who may benefit from the program. The hope is that the program begins in January.
- The District has an RFP for a tutoring vendor. The state has identified vendors who can apply for these grants. We will put out the RFP and see who applies and meets the criteria set by the state.
- We recently released an RFP for architect services with a deadline of 12/15. The BOE will conduct interviews of the applications after the 12/15 submission.

-The 2024-2025 Budget Process has begun. The principals and administrators are processing their requests and budgets and the process is ongoing. It will be discussed at the February and March BOE meetings.

-The District Website is under revision- Christine Corliss is our Public Education officer who is working on this along with a group of stakeholders who are also giving input. The design is streamlined and will be more user-friendly.

-Superintendent Coffee- 12/14 at 7pm

It's convenient that different staff members from the Education center are present to assist with answering questions directly. If you can't listen to the discussion live, they are archived on the district website.

VI. Class Reports

PG 24-Anna Salerno

-There will be a "Shop and Mingle" fundraiser on 11/29 from 3-7pm at Glow Boutique. Mary O'Reilly is hosting the event and will give a percentage of the proceeds back to the class.

- The Holiday Photo Shoot is underway and will take place on 12/2 and 12/3. There is a signup sheet available in the enews.

- **12/4- Holiday Boutique-** There are 16-18 exciting vendors and this is a great opportunity to support PG 24 as well as getting your holiday shopping done. There is additional information available in the enews.

-Please pay your dues- families who have not yet paid will be called in January for a reminder.

Class of 25- Mary Micale reported that there were a few successful fundraisers this Fall and there will be a social in the Spring. Soon, parents will be asked to volunteer for events for Class of 2024, in turn, they will be supported next year.

Class of 26- Mary Micale reported that there was a Fall Social on 10/18 and a No Cook night at Panera Bread on 10/11 as well as an apparel sale. All events were a success.

Class of 27- Mary Micale reported that there will be a WECO no cook fundraiser beginning on 11/30 and that they also had a successful apparel fundraiser.

VII. HSA Board Updates:

President: Mary Micale announced that this will be her last HSA in the role of president as she will soon begin her role on the BOE. Kelly Nakasone will transition from VP to President and Laura Waisnor will transition from secretary to VP. The Board is looking for a volunteer to fill the role of Recording Secretary. Please contact Kelly or Mary if interested.

Treasurer: Allison Stephens confirmed that everyone had a copy of the proposed budget. Attendees on zoom as well as all RHS parents were provided a copy via e-news, both last week and this week.

A detailed overview was provided:

-Yana Rubin is the assistant Treasurer

-The budget runs July 1-June 30

Each class has their own account and the HSA has its own account. The budget presented tonight represents the HSA only, not individual classes.

There is a QuickBooks account to manage expenses and there is an accountant who assists and prepares our tax report.

-Project Graduation has its own budget and is not part of this budget. Remaining PG funds are donated back to the school.

-Major Fundraisers include: Friends of RHS campaign, Dues and Directory, Booster Calendar. Friends of RHS campaign has a goal of \$10,000 this year. It has been lower the past few years possibly due to the pandemic.

-There is a line item for wish list items. There is often an unexpected need that comes up during the year.

- The HSA has funded the College Speaker Series. The HSA has also provided funds for Guidance Department Travel to help provide opportunities for learning and growth.

-Hospitality Expenses include enrichment coffee days for staff and teacher appreciation breakfast.

- The goal is to spread the funds across different groups (sports, arts, music and academics) to make sure that all students are benefitting from the funds.

Mary Micale put the budget up for a vote. Anna Salerno made a motion to approve the budget. Laura McGrath seconded the motion and all in attendance voted unanimously to approve the budget.

Development Chair: Valerie Auyeung

- The Friends of RHS campaign was launched today on Giving Tuesday. The campaign was advertised on GroupSpot and in the e-news.
- The funds collected last year helped with the following projects: Campus Center updates, the purchase of a new AV system and new Projector, Courtyard Seating, Speaker Series.
- The goal is to use the funds in areas that will impact all students. Our goal is \$10,000 this year to be used to make more substantial updates to the campus center as it is widely used by all students.

VII: Principals Report: Mr Nyhuis

Mr Nyhuis began by thanking Mary Micale for her service to the HSA. It's not too often that HSA have returned for a second term on the HSA and he is grateful for all of her efforts. He congratulated Mary Micale and Saurabh Dani on their elections and thanked Kelly Nakasone for taking over the role of RHS HSA President.

-Thanked the HSA for the new projector. There are constant events in the campus center and this improvement will benefit many students. He thanked the HSA for their support.

-Luke Pash, Class of 2025- The Cross Country runner finished 5th which qualified him to go to Portland Oregon and represent RHS this weekend. Thanks for a quick board approval to help send him on his way. RHS is very proud as this is the first time in 30 years that RHS has sent a runner to the competition.

- Coach Stroker has been invited to speak to the faculty and provide an uplifting and motivating speech on Monday. This will be funded through SEL Spending. There is a teacher shortage and we are seeing the effects here at RHS which can affect morale.

- Medha Kirtane and Mike Troy will honor 15 students who will receive acknowledgements from the staff. This event occurs a few times a year and is a great opportunity to recognize students who go above and beyond in different ways throughout the school.
- An alumni panel will occur on 12/22 to talk to the Seniors about what they can expect during their Freshman year of college.
- On Monday 12/4 at the Board of Ed meeting, there will be a presentation on The State of College Admissions presented by Mr. Bailey and Mr. Nyhuis.
- On 12/14, there will be an 8th grade parent meeting- all the supervisors will be present and will give an overview of 9th grade courses and what to expect.
- Mr Nyhuis is looking forward to attending the band banquet on Thursday 11/30

Mary Micale asked if there were any questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Waisnor,
Secretary

*Next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, January 9th, 2024- 7:30 PM** - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom*