



RIDGEWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL

RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM):

Tara Adams, Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Sara Beinstein, Lynn Benson, Tara Briganti, Sheila Brogan, Kelly Brown, Kelly Buchsbaum, Linda Chuang, Ed Dabagian, Michelle Taclob-Edmilao, Henriett Harsanyi, Carolyn Holt, Andrea Hutchins, Patricia Kane, John Kang, Oksoon Kim, Medha Kirtane, Karen Kundig, HyunJu Kwak, Yishane Lee, Maureen O'Conner Martin, Rose Mary McCotter, Laura McGrath, Mary Micale, Julie Mchedishvilli, Kelly Nakasone, Jeff Nyhuis, Caroline Oddy, Ashley Onembo, Sandy Pires, Basil Pizzuto, Kristen Plumley, Craig Polk, Lisette Ramos, Cristina Rizzo, Schablik, Karen Schoenherr, Alison Stephens, Colleen Tansey, Bertrand Tchoumi, Suzanne Tripp, Kyeogran Yang

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

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

Carolyn Holt 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. A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Sandy Pires and seconded by Amy Beiersdorf. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

Carolyn Holt shared the directory is being worked on and will be available soon. Please pay your HSA dues so you will have access once it goes live.

Carolyn Holt shared the Ridgewood Education Foundation is holding an Oktoberfest fundraiser on October 15th from 7-10:30 PM at the Women's Club. All proceeds are used to enhance the education of students in the Ridgewood schools.

II. RHS Student Reports:

Student representatives are being identified and will be in attendance at the November meeting.

III. RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane

The PSAT will be held at RHS this Saturday, October 15th.

Students are currently taking the NJ Start Strong Testing in grades 9, 10 and 12. There is an alternate schedule of classes during testing.

AP registration is now open through October 28th.

The faculty is working on writing senior recommendations for college applications.

A new German teacher has been hired to carry on German classes after the retirement of Ruth Parks last year.

American sign language is a new course offering and students have quickly signed-up to take this class.

Teachers at RHS participated in watching CODA for the October 10th staff development day. Thank you to the HSA for supplying the popcorn.

The French exchange program has 17 host families participating and hosting the upcoming visit of French students.

Project Interact is sponsoring a candle fundraiser October 18th through November 15th.

The Marching Band placed first in the recent Band Competition at MetLife Stadium.

In sports updates, the girls and boys soccer teams have qualified for the county finals and the games will be played this week.

Girls tennis won their quarter final.

The choir recently held a carwash fundraiser.

The band will be having a poinsettia sale on October 30th.

New Players will present "Clue" on October 21st-22nd.

Trunk or Treat will take place at RHS on October 30th.

The Cambodia club will be attending a leadership conference at Ramapo College.

The robotics team will host their first competition at RHS on November 19th.

There are some classes at RHS that students can receive college credits for by completing the required paperwork and making payment for credits.

IV. RHS Class Reports / Introductions:

Senior Class Report (Sara Beinstein, Pamela Lobosco, Sandy Pires): Sara and Sandy shared the first fashion show meeting will take place at Erin Pruitt's home on October 12th. The first PG 2023 meeting will take place on October 26th to brainstorm PG themes in the Learning Commons. Dues are due now and are \$150 per student. All announcements will be through the GroupSpot app so please sign-up to receive all class information.

Junior Class Report (Carla Sullivan, Suzanne Tripp): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Junior class. The class had a successful no-cook night with Chestnut Deli and a future fundraiser with Chipotle is planned in January. There will be an upcoming apparel sale at Marigold on October 15th. A portion of the sales will be donated to the class.

Sophomore Class Report (Lauren Radossich): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Sophomore class. A parent social is planned for Thursday, October 13th at the Radossich's home.

Freshman Class Report (Meghan Agatep, Kim Cadaret): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the Freshman class. The class parents are working on some events and fundraisers, stay tuned.

V. Featured Speaker- Ashley Onembo, New Head of the Math Department:

Ms. Onembo answered previously submitted parent questions about the math curriculum.

The first question was about how our district's state testing results were impacted by the sequencing of math education starting with Geometry in 8th grade/ Algebra I in 9th grade and Algebra II in 10th grade. She said that our students have done very well in Geometry and Algebra I testing. Algebra II is where our sequencing may have impacted our scores because the tests incorporate previously learned skills, She is looking into how they can incorporate previously learned skill across all of the classes in order to keep our students fresh on the needed skills.

In addition, there was a question about the impact of students taking Geometry in 8th grade on their ACT and SAT scores since there is a 2-3 year gap from when they are taught the subject. Ms. Onembo noted that the SAT has 10% Geometry and the ACT has 12-15 % and again noted that she is looking in how she can incorporate Geometry review in the Algebra I and II curriculums.

There was a question on why Math Analysis is the only honors level course for Juniors, the only other class offered is a Pre-calc E level class. Ms. Onembo said she will be looking into it and will see how/if that can be changed in the future.

There was a question about what has been done about the district's Start Strong test results which showed that 61% of students needed "strong support" in math. She said that the Middle School students identified by the test did receive 45 mins a day additional instruction in school last year.

Ms. Onembo noted that she is looking at the state standards to identify how she can work with the teachers to help students incorporate the skills they need which will also help them increase their scores on tests.

There was a question about how students get placed into the double advanced math track in 5th grade and there are very little opportunities to get in the advanced track later. Right now, there is 1 assessment given in 5th grade with another opportunity given in 6th grade to get into the advanced track. She is going to look into how to make more opportunities possible.

VI. RPS Board of Education Report Hyunju Kwak:

Ms. Kwak updated where the BOE is with the successor superintendent search process. At this time, the engagement phase is beginning that will allow for public input. There will be public and open sessions to allow the community to give input on the ideal candidate. There will be an online survey and several planned forums that will be supervised by the superintendent search firm. By November 4th the firm

will analyze the community findings and then the private interviewing phase begins with the candidates and will be conducted by the BOE members. By March the candidate search will end. Ms. Kwak reiterated this is a national search and that the plan is for a new superintendent to be in place by July 1st.

Ms. Kwak provided an update on the Later Start initiative. There was a presentation on K-12 insights at the last BOE meeting from last year's Later Start survey. Elementary feedback was that the current start time is satisfactory. 50% of the high school community is in favor of a later start and there is interest in later start by Middle School. The next step is that a team is being built with Dr. Fitts as the head to create a plan of what needs to be addressed in order to implement Later Start. Many areas need to be researched as far as bussing, contract hours for teachers, instructional minutes and how they will be impacted by shifting the start time.

Parking at the village hall library parking lot is not going to be allowed during school hours. Students are instructed to park at the Graydon pool parking lots.

VII. RHS Principal's Report Jeff Nyhuis:

Mr. Nyhuis shared the relationship with the HSA is highly important to the teachers and staff. The transparency between the staff and parents is important to make sure both work as a team for the best interest of the students.

Thank you to the HSA for the mugs to support sustainability at RHS. They will be used in place of paper products at the staff enrichment breakfasts.

During homecoming weekend, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Duffield funded maker space, culinary lab and tv studio. Tours were given of the spaces.

On the Later Start initiative, Mr. Nyhuis shared RHS already has schedules created with adjusted instruction time. Less than 5 minutes of instruction time is taken off the proposed schedules.

Mr. Nyhuis recognized Ms. Kirtane on her recognition as this year's Ashby Award recipient.

VIII. RHS Assistant Principal's Report Basil Pizzuto:

The student government is currently reorganizing and student representatives will be at our next meeting.

The RHS attendance policy is back in place and being strictly reinforced after being relaxed through COVID.

Thank you for the support of the HSA and parents for the welcome back student barbecue on the school track. It was a great success and tied in well with the club fair.

The senior prom is being planned at the Westmount Country Club. This is a new venue instead of the usual boat cruise.

Students received new ID cards and they will be required to use them at the entrances. The ID cards have the suicide prevention number on back because it is state mandated.

Vaping remains an issue at the school and the alarm sensors at school have been helpful in identifying students who vape.

The administration and the Ridgewood police continue to monitor the ways students are getting access to drugs to prevent more use.

CarePlus is running a seminar for parents on October 18th on Relational Aggression: Nurturing Empathy and Citizenship at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

International trips update: The French exchange is in the works with French students visiting here and RHS students later visiting France. There are trips to Spain, Italy and Iceland planned this year for RHS students.

IX. RHS Assistant Principal's Report David Bailey:

Mr. Bailey recognized the National Merit PSAT scholars for Ridgewood High School. 29 RHS students were also commended for their scholar accomplishments.

Mr. Bailey thanked the BOE, HSA and Korean Parents Association for funding three guidance counselors to attend the National College Admissions Conference to learn about the college admission trends and most efficient college programs to assist students with the college process.

There is a College Speakers series Thursday night, October 13th. College counselors will share the recent admission trends. The session will be recorded and shared via Zoom.

Freshman Focus has started. The grade administrators have joined freshman classes over the last few weeks to check-in with students, get to know the students and forge a relationship between the administrators and students.

All freshman received a planner to focus on study and planning skills through a grant with the health department.

Senior Focus is underway and almost complete for the senior class. Senior FOCUS offers time to work through the college application process and review available local scholarships. The purpose of Senior FOCUS is to relieve some of the pressure seniors feel outside of school and to work on it at school.

Mr. Bailey shared some of the data from last year's graduating class at the senior parent night to show where students applied, how many schools they applied to and the rate of acceptances.

The average rate of applications to colleges per students was 10. This is an increase from when students would apply to an average of 5 schools.

83% of students were admitted to one of their top choice colleges last year.

Mr. Bailey shared an update on the RHS Family Ambassador program. There are 63 new students at RHS. The program has welcomed many volunteers who have offered to sponsor and mentor new RHS families. A google form will be distributed to match families and volunteers in the program.

X. RHS HSA Committee Reports:

a. RHS Cares

b. Hospitality

c. Booster Calendar: Thank you to Caroline Oddy for her help with making the calendar this year. Calendars were presold and sold at BTSN and the ninth grade parent meeting.

XI. Questions/Discussion/Adjournment:

Sheila Brogan and Deanna Schablik shared an update on the Municipal Alliance. The group uses money received from the Municipal Alliance grant to fund programs and projects to reduce alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs use and abuse in the community. There are several programs coming up for teens and parents in the community and all can be registered through community pass. Programs range from web safety, mindfulness and leadership training.

Kelly Buchsbaum shared Jamboree audition casting calls are this week, October 12th, 13th and 17th.

Kristen Plumley shared an update on behalf of The Friends of Music program. Friends of Music supports the music program in the schools. They will offer several events throughout the year. Please visit their website to learn more about the organization and programs. One upcoming event is the fourth annual song writing competition for K-12. Participants write a song in standard music notation and record it to be entered into the contest before December 1st.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

*Next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, November 8, 2022 - 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
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