



## RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Meeting

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 – 7:30 PM Zoom Meeting

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### **In Attendance:**

Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Sara Beinstein, Lynn Benson, Tara Briganti, Sheila Brogan, Kelly Buchsbaum, Saurabh Dani, Alyssa Fiol, Julie Hamon, Isabella Harellick, Lara Harellick, Susan Harrison, Carolyn Holt, Hyewon Ju, Leila Kamel, John Kang, Medha Kirtane, Steve Lira, Nicole Liu, Ava Martin, Maureen O’Conner Martin, John McGoff, Carla Merlino, Mary Micale, Jeff Nyhuis, Ruth Parks, Basil Pizzuto, Lauren Radossich, Lisa Sands, Karyn Schoenherr, Alison Stephens, Colleen Tansey

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

### **I. Call to Order/Approval Past Minutes**

Kelly Buchsbaum called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. Meeting information was made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot post. All attendees were accepted through ZOOM meeting. A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Amy Beiersdorf and seconded by Carolyn Holt. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

### **II. Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane and Ruth Parks**

Ms. Kirtane and Ms. Parks thanked the HSA for the thoughtful gifts to the teachers and staff through the holidays. The chocolates and little gifts were very appreciated and were a bright spot to everyone.

An alumni panel of former RHS graduates was held virtually in December. A range of graduates spoke to the seniors about their transition to college. Hosted by Mr. Bailey, the graduates gave advice on time management, study skills, friendships, and adjustment to life after RHS.

Faculty and Staff members recognized 9 students with the Maroon Award at the end of the first quarter. This award is given to students that exemplify and embody what Ridgewood High School is about through simple gestures. These students have done great things in the school and reflect what RHS wants their graduates to look like.

DECA participated in the RHS DECA district competition. 49 out of 145 RHS students qualified for states.

Winter concerts for band, orchestra and A Capella were recently held in-person.

The gracious Duffield Grant has enabled RHS to update its makerspace equipment with a new large format printer, laser printer and 3D printer.

There have been some shifts with the Maroon and White Recital due to the COVID spike and it has been postponed to a later date.

The winter dance concert will be held virtually and pre-recorded.

Mr. Cronk's Architecture classes and Mrs. Mendez's advanced business class are scheduled to participate in the Youth Education Series at Disney January 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

In Fall sports updates, 35 seniors committed to playing sports at the collegiate level.

For the third year in a row, RHS has earned the NJ Interscholastic Sports Association sportsmanship award.

A number of our Fall sports coaches have been named league or county coaches of the year. Karen Mendez was recognized for gymnastics, Jaime Marzocchi for volleyball, Peter Kay for girls soccer, Patrick Ryan for boys cross country and Steve Opremcak for girls cross country.

Girls gymnastics won their league championship, boys and girls cross country won Bergen County Meet of Champions for the fourth year in a row. Girls soccer won the soccer state sectional title for the first time since 1997. Volleyball won state sectional title for the second straight year and cross country won their state sectional.

In Winter sports, the boys basketball team won their holiday tournament and the ice hockey team won the Steve Jaskot memorial tournament.

Due to the COVID surge, the indoor spectator limit at sporting events has needed to be adjusted and everyone is adhering to the new guidelines.

The New Players concert has been postponed to the spring.

Course scheduling is starting for next year. Meetings are being scheduled with students for course selection that should all be in place by mid-February.

### **III. RHS Student Reports: Isabella Harellick**

Isabella reports that students benefited from participating in the recent alumni panel. It was helpful and comforting as a senior to hear from past students to know what is ahead in the college process.

The RHS Leadership project was an opportunity to bring student leaders together from RHS clubs to discuss how to best serve the RHS community.

The in-person concerts have felt normal and spirited to the students and they are thankful to the teachers for all of their efforts to make them happen in-person.

The music honors society is beginning a partnership with the middle schools to introduce the younger students to RHS music programs in an effort to increase the number of students who will participate in music programs in the future at the high school.

### **IV. RHS Class Reports**

**Senior Class Report (class of 2022):** Susan Harrison reports that Senior “dues” are now due. Anyone with a financial hardship should reach out to Meg Schaefer or one of the senior chairs and those students will be marked as paid.

The kick-off for the design and build will be on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to donate any time and talents. The Fashion Show is taking place March 13<sup>th</sup>. Junior parents will be needed for the silent auction and other behind the scenes help. Plans are well under way for this event. The White Dress Committee is seeking dress donations for future wear by RHS students.

**Junior Class Report (class of 2023):** Kelly Buchsbaum reported for the Junior class that they had a successful spirit wear sale in the fall and all updates for the class are always posted on the class GroupSpot page.

**Sophomore Class Report (class of 2024):** Colleen Tansey reports the class has an upcoming no-cook fundraiser on February 11<sup>th</sup> with Parkwood Deli. Details will be posted soon. The Varsity Hues spirit wear sale was a success and all orders were delivered in early December. The Piece and Pollen Thanksgiving flower fundraiser sold out in November.

**Freshman Class Report (class of 2025):** Lauren Radossich reports the Freshman class is offering no-cook dinners at Catchy Café. Order in advance for the last two Wednesdays in January. Orders must be placed by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The class had a successful spirit wear sale in December and plans are underway for a spring social.

## **V. RHS HSA Executive Board Reports:**

Kelly Buchsbaum reports Dr. Gorman shared at the Federated meeting that the Alternate Start Committee is meeting January 24<sup>th</sup>. If parents have questions, please email Carolyn Holt and she will pass them on to the committee.

Please continue to spread the word to join GroupSpot to learn more about activities, dates and important events at RHS.

Carolyn Holt shared that parents are welcome to email questions or concerns in advance of HSA meetings to be addressed by the principals.

Carla Merlino asked that parents please consider donating to the Friends of

RHS Campaign. Thanks to those that have already donated. To date, the campaign is halfway to goal.

#### **VI. RHS HSA Committee Reports:**

RHS Korean Parents Association: There will be an update at the next HSA meeting.

#### **VII. RHS Principal's Report: Jeff Nyhuis**

The COVID cases at RHS were reported between 150 to 200 students since coming back January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Roughly 25 teachers were out. There has been a decline in cases the last few days. The new quarantine rules are now in place and it's a 5 day quarantine period before students can return. Students have been able to log onto class from home the last two weeks if experiencing symptoms and awaiting test results due to a backlog in testing but beginning the week of January 17<sup>th</sup> only students diagnosed with COVID can log on online.

Thanks to the HSA for providing funding for the upcoming Michael Fallin program for the students, new outdoor furniture for the courtyard, the wind screen for the tennis courts, money for the guidance department for travel, the coffee for the enrichment days and the gifts for the holidays.

The live concerts, shows and sporting events that were held in person have been amazing to see. Everyone is trying to keep things going for the students as best as we can during these challenging times.

#### **VIII. RHS Assistant Principal's Report: Basil Pizzuto**

The administrators visited the Freshman Focus classes to meet all of the students and help them feel they are approachable.

Michael Fallin will be presenting to the school a program that will address DEI initiatives and harassment and bullying awareness. Hopefully this program will

take place in-person. Thanks to the HSA for helping to bring this program to the school.

Student government recently held some fun school activities and games for the students such as “Family Feud”.

International trips are scheduled to go as planned. 16 students will be traveling to Switzerland in February and 82 students will be going to Central Europe in April.

### **IX. RHS Assistant Principal’s Report: David Bailey**

The guidance department is trying to share all of their information through different outlets. The guidance website was updated and a monthly newsletter has been emailed to try to keep everyone on pace and informed. A YouTube channel was started to share videos, interviews and other information. Mr. Bailey shared links to these resources.

Scheduling for next year is underway and teacher recommendations are due February 17<sup>th</sup>. Counselors will be meeting with students in February. Class selections are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The academy programs have upcoming informational parent and student sessions to share about the interdisciplinary programs options for incoming sophomores to choose from.

Local scholarships for seniors are due next week. Last names A-K are due January 20<sup>th</sup> and M-Z are January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Guidance is meeting with Juniors to begin the process of selecting colleges for the admissions process senior year.

Sophomore Focus will begin February 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be four sessions over four weeks to meet with students to discuss scheduling, websites and tools for career interest, resume building and a leadership class.

A new student/family welcome committee is being established. The “New

Family Welcoming Team” is seeking RHS families to volunteer to help new parents and students navigate the school and town. Kelly Buchsbaum and Carolyn Holt will lead this committee. The guidance department will reach out to the HSA to put families in touch as they register.

The guidance department will continue to have future alumni panels because it’s been so beneficial to the current students to hear from former students who have been in their place. They will continue to find new opportunities to expand on this program.

Mr. Bailey thanked the teachers and staff for their efforts educating during these difficult times.

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

The BOE reorganized at last night’s meeting. Sheila Brogan, Muhammad Mahmoud and HyunJu Kwak were sworn in for three year terms. HyunJu Kwak was elected BOE President and Michael Lembo will serve as BOE Vice President.

Dr. Gorman communicates COVID information daily through email. Please look at this information as it is very important to keep the school community up to date as information is always evolving.

Weekly COVID testing for the district will continue through Wellcare . They will begin testing twice a week.

The town continues to offer vaccine clinics for children and adults. This information is distributed through the district’s email communications.

The results of the Start Strong testing that was administered in the Fall was shared at the BOE meeting. This test provided data to see how students are performing in Grades 4 and up. At the elementary level, the Link It test will be administered this month. If you have any concerns about your children’s performance in school or on tests, please talk to your teachers.

The BOE will be working on the 2022-2023 school budget and more information

will be reported to the community.

Super Science Saturday will be held virtually this year on March 5th. They are in the process of securing presenters and participants.

#### **XI. Closing/Adjournment:**

Kelly Buchsbaum shared Jamboree show dates have been moved to March 3rd-5<sup>th</sup>. Raffle tickets are available for purchase.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

*The next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, February 8, 2022** - 7:30 PM - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom*