



RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Meeting Agenda Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 7:30 PM RHS Learning Commons + Zoom

In Attendance (in-person and ZOOM):

Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Lynn Benson, Tara Briganti, Sheila Brogan, Kelly Buchsbaum, Carol Cho, Kelly Krumenacker-Choong, Sonai Dani, Alyssa Fiol, Christie Fitzgerald, Joan Guerrero, Carolyn Holt, John Kang, Medha Kirtane, Stacey Kliesch, Ajanta Kumar, Karen Kundig, , Nicole Liu, Susan Madison, Erin Mannion, Maureen O’Conner Martin, RoseMary McCotter, Carla Merlino, Mary Micale, Jeff Nyhuis, Julia Park, Sandy Pires, Kristen Plumley, Lauren Radossich, Lisa Sands, Alison Stephens, Cathy Stillwagon, Colleen Tansey, Fran Loshin-Tuerso

*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 7:34 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 October minutes was made by Sandy Pires and seconded by Nicole Liu. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

II. RHS Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane

First marking period ended November 2nd and grades will be finalized by November 15th.

Staff development day on November 3rd focused on four areas of professional development: habits of learning, demonstrations of learning, use of instructional time and effective assessment. Staff also participated in team building and problem solving activities. Thanks to the HSA for the bagel breakfast.

Ms. Wiater's social studies class "Power of One: The Holocaust and Beyond" brought in a Holocaust survivor to speak to over 300 students. Many follow-up discussions were held in individual classes. Ms. Griffith supported this special educational experience.

A Veterans Day assembly and breakfast was organized by Mr. Zaino and Ms. Sieck and held on November 9th for students and staff.

There have been many senior students participating in civic engagements and acceptances into prestigious programs across the country.

Currently there is an essay competition "In Their Own Words" for 10th – 12th graders with submissions being accepted December-March 2022 for monetary awards. Information has been posted by classroom teachers.

In sports updates, there have been many exciting accomplishments for the girls gymnastics and volleyball teams winning county champs. Girls soccer has also won county champs and clinched a state semi-final win. Football plays in the playoffs on November 12th.

The upcoming sports winter season begins November 2nd for wrestling and boys/girls basketball. Bowling, swim, hockey and cheer began November 8th and beginning November 29th, alpine skiing and winter track commence.

New Players had their first production in the theater presenting "Gatsby". They put on three performances that were very well attended.

The RHS Marching Band won second in the USBands Nationals at MetLife Stadium on November 6th.

Maroon and White Recital/Exhibit series is back in-person with the first performance on November 11th.

III. RHS Student Reports: Audrey Shin, Isabella Harellick

Audrey Shin reported student updates by video. She shared the excitement the students are feeling with the recent sports victories in volleyball, soccer and football as well as congratulated the band on their recent second place win in

the USBands Nationals.

Students have been very involved in clubs and committees this year and shared how important it is to be connected to the community through their participation with local organizations.

IV. RHS HSA 2021-22 Budget Presentation: Nicole Liu

Nicole Liu presented and explained the proposed HSA budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Some of the highlights of her presentation included increasing the target for Friends of RHS campaign by \$5,000 this year for a total of \$20,000. Projected revenue is coming from hospitality due to the revenue earned from the back to school barbecue in the fall. There is also additional revenue this year with the return of the Booster calendar. Overall, administrative expenses are down. GroupSpot and Paypal expenses have increased this year. A guidance travel expense was brought back to subsidize travel for the college guidance team. The budget with specific breakdowns can be viewed in the RHS eNews weeks of 11/1 and 11/8.

A motion to approve the budget was made by Lauren Radossich and seconded by Sandy Pires. The budget was unanimously approved.

V. RHS Class Reports

Senior Class Report (class of 2022): Kelly Buchsbaum shared on behalf of Susan Harrison that the next PG 22 meeting is 11/17. The holiday boutique is scheduled for 12/9. PG 22 is still seeking fashion show volunteers.

Junior Class Report (class of 2023): Sandy Pires reports the class is currently running an apparel sale and continuing to sell remaining RHS masks. A GroupSpot page for the class of 2023 is coming. In January PG 23 will be seeking volunteers for future events.

Sophomore Class Report (class of 2024): Colleen Tansey reports the class had a successful spirit wear sale in October with delivery coming the first week of December. Currently the class is fundraising with Piece and Pollen to offer flower arrangements for Thanksgiving. The class of 2024 is now on GroupSpot in addition to Facebook and Instagram.

Freshman Class Report (class of 2025): Lauren Radossich reports that all class information can be found on Facebook, Instagram and soon on a new GroupSpot page. The class had a successful social in October with over 175 attendees and over \$6,000 raised. Currently the class is selling 2025 banners. They offered a spirit wear design contest and will use the winning design for their next merchandise sale.

VI. RHS HSA Executive Board Reports

Kelly Buchsbaum thanked the executive board for their roles in handling the financials, communications and fundraising for RHS.

The directory is up and running on GroupSpot and is accessible to all who paid their dues and have downloaded the app.

VII. RHS HSA Committee Reports: Kelly Buchsbaum

RHS Cares: The committee has already helped a family in need.

Hospitality: Katrina Dudley and the committee is currently working on planning special things for the staff throughout the year.

Booster calendar: The calendar is back and there are still some more for sale through Venmo/check. Calendars are \$12 and can be delivered! Special thanks to Caroline Oddy for bringing the calendar back this year.

VIII. RPS Board of Education Report: Sheila Brogan

Sheila Brogan shared an update on the current BOE election. Currently, HyunJu Kwak, Muhammad Mahmoud and Sheila Brogan stand as current winners of terms to begin in January. Sheila thanked Cristopher Kaufman for his service and Susan Madison for stepping up to run for a seat.

The HEPA filters are installed in the cafeteria and gyms. They are ordered for the chorus room, campus center and the Little Theater and will be installed soon.

Alternate Start Committee has been working with the BOE and an outside consultant to put together a survey for the community.

The American Rescue Plan ESSER funds are being discussed. The district has approximately 1.6 million to spend within two years. The details are in Stacie Poelstra's presentation. There is a link for parent comments with the presentation online.

The Village of Ridgewood is offering a vaccine clinic for children in town in the 5-11 age range on November 10th and 18th. Registration is required and can be found on the town website.

IX. RHS Principal's Report: Jeff Nyhuis

Wonderful happenings currently going on around the school between the sports games, teachers writing college recommendations, assemblies, student breakfasts and senior celebrations.

There will be surveys coming out for parents, teachers and students on the alternate start plans.

Dr. Gorman's recent letter addressed some anti-semitic graffiti in the school. The custodians cleaned all the bathrooms and the staff is now monitoring these areas to stop more incidents from occurring.

Mr. Nyhuis addressed safety issues around the school with drop-off and pick-up in a recent letter. He's encouraging dropping students off a few minutes earlier, asking students to use crosswalks and parents to obey traffic rules for the safety of the students.

Updates on the Duffield donation include three different areas the school is currently using the \$635,000 funds. A router, 3D printer and format printer have been purchased for the makerspace. Currently teachers are being trained to use the new equipment. In the TV studio the students will be able to make podcasts and videos with new digitalized equipment. The Culinary project is the third space the funds are going towards. They are modernizing the space with updated appliances, new electric and plumbing to make this a state of the art facility to be completed in the summer of 2022.

Mr. Nyhuis encourages parents to email and reach out if they have questions or concerns about things they may hear from students/parents. In many instances the correct facts aren't out there and misinformation is spread. Mr. Nyhuis will always address the community if it's something everyone needs to be aware of when he can and he welcomes parents to reach out to address any concerns.

Friday, November 12th is an Enrichment Day for staff. There will team building activities and interdisciplinary program discussions between staff members.

X. RHS Assistant Principal's Report: David Bailey

There's been an uptick in seizures in the building and the staff has a system in place for what happens in the event of these emergencies. Mr. Bailey shared a presentation on seizure safety and the protocols in place at RHS.

There have been many opportunities for staff to work on team building to improve the culture in RHS and reflect on their roles as educators to be more effective in the classroom and in the development of students.

Mr. Bailey shared guidance updates and upcoming dates:

November 1st: Early admission deadline- 90% of seniors have applied to at least one college.

November 18th: 8th Grade Parent meeting, 7:30 PM

December 1st: Counselor/Student/Parent conferences may begin for juniors

December 9th: 9th Grade Parent Meeting, 7:30 PM

January 20th(A-K)/21st (L-Z): Local scholarship deadlines

Mr. Bailey shared a review of the class of 2021 college statistics. 88.7% of the class attended a 4 year school and 5.8% attended a 2 year school. There is more of a trend now for students to take a gap year.

The guidance department has sent out nearly 4,000 college applications to date.

Questions / Discussion:

Answers to Questions previously submitted from parents (presented by Carolyn Holt) Jeff Nyhuis answered questions:

Why is there not a homecoming dance/parade in connection with current homecoming events? There was in the past and it's really based on student interest. Sometimes the administration organizes and makes effort to make events happen such as a junior formal a few years ago but unfortunately kids just don't always commit or have as much interest when they are organized and planned.

Closing/Adjournment:

Kelly Buchsbaum shared the upcoming fundraiser with the Y Wellness club to benefit Vicky Hoy (class of 2021). This cornhole and spike ball tournament is taking place on November 12th at 3:30 PM at the Ridgewood Y. Ridgewood Crew is planning a future fundraiser as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

*The next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - 7:30 PM - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom***