



RHS HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 – 7:30 PM
RHS Learning Commons and Zoom Meeting

In Attendance (in-person and Zoom):

Valerie Auyeung, David Bailey, Amy Beiersdorf, Lynn Benson, Sheila Brogan, Saurabh Dani, Patsy Dort, Syndyse Fanda, Alyssa Fiol, Isabella Harellick, Lara Harellick, Carolyn Holt, Hyewon Ju, Leila Kamel, John Kang, Sue Kim, Medha Kirtane, HyunJu Kwak, Nicole Liu, Maureen O'Connor Martin, Laura McGrath, Agnes Minn, Jeff Nyhuis, Ruth Parks, Karyn Schoenherr, Cathy Stillwagon, Alina Swanson, Colleen Tansey, Jill Vigliotti,

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

I. Call to Order/Approval Past Minutes

Amy Beiersdorf called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Meeting information was made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot post. All attendees were accepted through ZOOM meeting. A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Carolyn Holt and seconded by Nicole Liu. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

II. Faculty Reports: Medha Kirtane and Ruth Parks

Medha Kirtane thanked the HSA for their food and drink contributions at the enrichment mornings.

The staff expressed appreciation for parents respecting the safety guidelines in the parking lot and the security guards have really helped everyone to get dropped off in a safely manner.

The faculty and staff have really risen to the challenges this year with COVID and adjusting to partial remote learning with students and teachers needing to be out during quarantine periods.

The loss of Anthony Albergate has been felt by the staff and students. The faculty supported the GWMS staff with a luncheon and offered support to RHS students.

Amy E. Herman presented to the RHS faculty and a seminar for parents on “The Art of Perception”. Her presentation discussed the power of perception and how it impacts our craft.

Course scheduling is currently underway for students through February 17th. Students have met with guidance counselors and now they're following up with their teachers and getting recommendations for next year's classes.

36 architecture students in grades 9-12 combined together with the advanced marketing students went to Disney World the weekend of January 27th to participate in the Youth Education Series.

The Small Ensemble concert was held last Wednesday, 2/2 and the first Jazz Ensemble concert will be tomorrow evening, 2/9 at 7:30PM.

The next Maroon and White recital will be held February 17th at 3:45PM in the Learning Commons.

The three A Capella groups from RHS competed this past weekend in the International Championship of High School. The groups will be participating in “Singing Grams” the week of February 14th at RHS. Staff and students will be able to sign up and make a \$5 donation for a singing gram. The groups will go around the school singing during various times of the week.

The RHS performing arts calendar is filling up with auditions and programs.

The Asian festival has been switched from the end of February to April 1st and 2nd.

The Cheer Team competed last Saturday and Sunday, facing nine competitors and took first place in both competitions. They will move onto Nationals this weekend.

Cross country and track student-athlete Olivia Shattuck is the RHS honoree for the NJSIAA National Girls and Women in Sports Award.

Winter sports are currently underway and are beginning county and state-level competitions.

Joe Grasso won the first annual Steve DiGregorio Young Man of the Year Award. He received the award at a ceremony at MetLife Stadium and received tickets to attend the Super Bowl.

On February 17th the next round of Maroon Awards will be given out to students who do the right thing at RHS. Nine students cross grade level will be honored.

Christina Huang is part of a “Make us Visible” campaign addressing the Asian American Pacific Islander curriculum in the schools and was recently featured in the news.

III. RHS Student Reports: Isabella Harellick

Isabella reports that students are grateful for the staff being so accommodating with class options in January in response to the COVID spike.

In club news, the Ridgewood speech and debate team qualified to the tournament of champions in April.

Orchestra has begun preparing for their ensemble concert as well as for the celebration of the arts.

The Chinese club recently held a luminaire and snack sale during lunch periods.

The Civic Youth Club has partnered with Ridgewood Stigma Free to make

valentines for the seniors.

The second student leadership conference was held at RHS to allow students to explore leadership positions, roles and exercises.

The AP Latin and Art classes will be participating in a trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

National History Day is competing next week to hopefully qualify for Nationals.

Students are excited the spectator limits have been lifted at sport programs. The student spirit is felt at the games.

Students are looking forward to the mask mandate being lifted in March and are hopeful to have a more normal experience at school.

IV. RHS Class Reports

Senior Class Report (class of 2022): Carolyn Holt reported on behalf of the class. Senior “dues” are now due. The RHS Fashion Show is taking place March 13th. They are still looking for donations for the auction. Senior parents will be able to order additional tickets for the show beginning February 9th and other classes can purchase after if there are tickets left.

Junior Class Report (class of 2023): Colleen Tansey reported for Sandy Pires. The class is looking for assistance with the RHS Fashion Show. Interested parents should email Sandy at Sandypires@me.com.

Sophomore Class Report (class of 2024): Colleen Tansey reports the class has an upcoming no-cook fundraiser on February 11th with Parkwood Deli. Please place orders before noon on Friday. The class has an upcoming parent social planned for April 22nd at Park West Tavern.

Freshman Class Report (class of 2025): Amy Beiersdorf reported on behalf of the class. A parent social is being scheduled for the spring.

V. RHS HSA Executive Board Reports:

Amy Beiersdorf reported for Kelly Buchsbaum that the HSA is currently seeking volunteers for next year's 2022-2023 executive board. Open positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, development chairs and communications. Please reach out to Kelly if you are interested. We also are in need of a nominating chair. The new slate will be announced in April and voted in at the May meeting.

Thank you to the parents who volunteered to help with the new Family Ambassador program.

Carla Merlino asked that parents please consider donating to the Friends of RHS Campaign. Thanks to those that have already donated.

VI. RHS Korean Parents Report: John Kang

The Korean Parents Association works to improve communication between the Korean community and the school. They have provided services to improve education and services since 1998. They run seminars, help with Asian festivals, and provide scholarships to students. They presented a check to the HSA in the amount of \$2,000 for guidance.

VII. RPS Board of Education Report: HyunJu Kwak

Ms. Kwak shared that the NJ mask mandate will be lifted on March 7th and the BOE will follow NJ and local health guidance to align the district's guidelines.

The 2021 audit is being conducted and the BOE is currently working on the 2022-2023 budget which is due to the state on February 21st.

The AAPI Inclusive Curriculum bill requires districts to provide instruction on the history and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as part of the NJ student standards in NJ.

Recent legislation passed that requires a BOE student representative be selected to attend public BOE meetings. The district has already had this role in place.

Mallory's Law was passed to provide guidance and provisions for anti-bullying in schools.

Ms. Kwak highlighted the importance of persevering, uniting as a community and treating others kindly.

VIII. RHS Principal's Report: Jeff Nyhuis

Dr. Michael Fowlin spoke to the RHS community. His powerful message was well-received by students and staff.

Thanks to the HSA for providing funding for the Michael Fowlin program for the students, new outdoor furniture for the courtyard and materials to refurbish outside furniture under the guidance of Mr. Cronk and his interior design class.

For black history month the English classes will be reading literature and participating in an all-school read-in on February 15th.

With the mask mandate ending in March the RHS community will follow guidelines and be prepared as a school before it expires. The next couple of weeks will be critical in developing plans for how to make students feel comfortable if they choose to wear a mask and be respectful of the mask choices everyone makes.

The passing of Anthony Albergate was difficult for the RHS community.

The boys Varsity basketball game last week against Ramapo was amazing to watch as they made quite a comeback and the school spirit was greatly felt.

The school community is embracing the different cultures and celebrating them in many different ways across the departments throughout the school year. Some of the highlights include student projects and presentations celebrating women's history month, black history month and Spanish

history.

IX.RHS Assistant Principal's Report: David Bailey

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

Scheduling for next year is underway and teacher recommendations are due February 17th. Counselors and teachers are currently meeting with students to make recommendations for core classes, languages and electives. Students can access Skyward beginning February 17th to make selections. Class selections are due March 1st.

Seniors are hearing back from colleges. Many have been accepted, deferred or waitlisted so they are all at different places at this time.

Guidance is tracking the college trends they are seeing to compare to previous years. While the data is still coming in and not complete, they are seeing more students deferred this year. Overall, students are applying to more schools than in the past because of the ease of the common application as well as the test option.

Mr. Bailey shared data from previous years to show which colleges students applied to, how many were accepted and how many actually attended. He also shared which schools the top 20% of the class of 2021 attended. All of this data drives how the guidance department helps the next year's class to be aggressive and help with the application process.

The New Family Ambassadors program has over 25 families signed-up to sponsor new families. The volunteers will assist new parents and students navigate the school and town. Kelly Buchsbaum and Carolyn Holt have helped launch this new program.

The guidance department continues to communicate with families through monthly newsletters to keep parents and students up to date and make finding information and resources easily accessible.

The new high school 11th grade graduation test will be administered this spring as well as state testing for the 9th and 10th grades.

X. Super Science Saturday: Sheila Brogan

The 34th Super Science Saturday will take place virtually on March 5th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The interactive program will be live-streamed on the district website. There will be presentations, videos and virtual zoo visits across the country.

NASA scientists will be introducing the Mars Rover and the Columbia observatory will be presenting about climate changes.

The RHS engineering club will be sharing their recent projects.

The annual rocket launch will end the day's activities.

XI. Questions/Closing/Adjournment:

Carolyn Holt shared the Jamboree show dates are March 3rd, 4th and 5th. Last year over \$200,000 was raised for scholarships.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Colleen Tansey, Secretary

*The next RHS HSA meeting: **Tuesday, March 15, 2022 - 7:30 PM - RHS Learning Commons + Zoom***