

Ridgewood High School Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2020

In Attendance:

Jean Alvarado, Amos Family, Sanjukta Basu, Sara Beinstein, Lucia Betelu, Alec Brito, Sheila Brogan, Kelly Buchsbaum, Tracy Burns, Dawn Calvetti, Yessie Camano, Christine Chanley, Joanne Cheng, Young Cho, Carol Cho, Barbara Clarke, Beth Clay, Elena Conn, Lauren DePinto, P Desai, Kirsten Dickson, Helen Dolan, Lucia Donahue, Alyssa Fiol, J Franklin, Garry, Jeff Gluck, Tom Gorman, Susan Harrison, Lorraine Haskins, Carolyn Holt, Stacey Jacobs, Hyewon Jun, Zach Kim, Jenny Kim, Kei Kiuchi, Mark Kossick, Kelly Krumenacked, Ajanta Kumar, Sookyung Lim, Nicole Lui, Stephanie Lodish, Kathy Marshall, Anne McAskin, Rose Mary McCotter, Laura McGrath, Carla Merlino, Mary Micale, Eunju Mo, Jeff Nyhuis, Ruth Parks, Basil Pizzuto, Kristen Plumley, Andrea Rademacher, Rebecca Rubenstein, Anna Salerno, Lisa Sands, Karyn Schoenherr, Allyson Sklar, Maria Small, Kumiko Suzuki, Colleen Tansey, Allison Teller, Fran LoshinTurso, Vaibhavi Udeshi, Mike Vigliotti, Jill Williams

**Other Callers were on the ZOOM – but their names were not registered*

I. Call to Order:

Mary Micale called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting information had been made available via eNews, emails and GroupSpot post. All attendees were accepted through zoom meeting.

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Carolyn Holt and seconded by Anna Salerno. Meeting notes were unanimously approved.

III. Class Reports:

Senior Class (Class of 2021): Planning for PG21 is underway, there is a meeting Wednesday 10/21.

Junior Class (Class of 2022): Susan Harrison reported that the 2022 apparel sale started 10/13.

Sophomore Class (Class of 2023): Sophomore Class is currently running a mask fundraiser.

Freshman Class (Class of 2024): Lucia Donohue reported that the Freshman Class had a successful Chipotle Fundraiser and is now running a YETI fundraiser. They have a Facebook and an Instagram page.

IV. RHS Grapevine: Susan Harrison

The RHS Grapevine is being setup as a google sheet for families to share information – i.e. tutors and other helpful resources.

V. Principal's Report: Tom Gorman (Reopening update)

There have been 4 cases of Covid-19. Each have been connected to a college visit of some sort.

Students are more than halfway through the 1st Quarter already, and off to a good start.

Sports started 3 weeks ago and are running successfully. The seasons have been cut to roughly 8 weeks.

Winter sports are expected to proceed as planned – most likely there will be no spectators allowed.

The hybrid model is working and Period 9 has been added.

Phase 2 has been pushed back from October 19 to a tentative date of November 6. A major factor for moving to Phase 2 at the High School is lunch/open campus. It is not mandatory to move to Phase 2, we can remain in Phase 1. College kids coming home for the holidays will also factor into the decision.

All of the supportive notes and feedback are very much appreciated by the teachers and administration at the High School.

VI. Assistant Principal Basil Pizzuto and Coordinator for Mental Health - Lauren DePinto

Student Government elections are underway, results will be discussed at next meeting.

Senior Slideshow is being planned for outside.

There is a major focus on the mental health of the students and teachers during this pandemic.

A survey was sent to the students in the beginning of the school year. Any student that reports they do not feel mentally prepared and ready to be back in school will be checked on.

Initial overall findings include less mental health issues since students are “less busy”.

As the year progresses, students are feeling more comfortable to reach out virtually if they need counseling.

Staff meetings are going on to determine the level of stress among the staff during this time.

There is a plan to add a Mental Health hub to the RHS website.

VII. Assistant Principal / Guidance Report: Jeff Nyhuis

A lot has been learned during this period of time. For some kids, less is more. This is a good concept to remember when things begin to look more normal in the future.

Senior Focus is going well.

Senior College Applications are going out.

Parents should inquire about scholarships with their kids. There are roughly 67 available (some need based/some merit based). Information is available at school.

250 Students took the SAT at RHS on 10/3

Upcoming dates:

PSATs will be held this weekend at RHS for Juniors

10/24 – ACT

10/29 7:30 (zoom) - 11th Grade Parents meeting

11/7 – SAT

12/8 7:30 – 9th Grade Parents meeting (to discuss the application based programs and what has happened so far this year)

8th Grade parents meeting will be moved up this year

VIII. Faculty Report: Ruth Parks/Medha Kirtane

Overall, the students are very happy to be in school.

Teachers are dealing with stress of teaching different groups with hybrid learning. Also struggling with childcare and the worry of exposure in the school and going home to their families.

The majority of teachers would like to keep the schedule as it is. Lunch and open campus raise concerns for additional exposure and the inability to contact trace.

IX. Board of Education Update: Sheila Brogan

The Board of Education is busy.

This year the BOE launched a program at BF for Special Education Students aged 18-21. This had been a plan for a long time and it finally came to fruition this year.

The BOE is in the process of interviewing a new Business Administrator.

Dr. Fishbein is retiring December 10, 2020. The BOE is searching for an interim Superintendent. Applications are due 10/16/20.

The search for a new Superintendent is in the early stages - the first step is to hire a search firm.

The process will take some time to complete.

Each year the BOE reviews its outside professionals. This year they are reviewing the Board Attorney and Architectural and Engineering services.

X. Executive Board Updates

Mary Micale (President) – Sign up for Group Spot (the app is free). The directory will be out next week via Group Spot. You must pay for access to the directory.

Sara Beinstein/Carla Merlino (Development) – Thank you to TLC Landscaping for donating and installing mums at RHS.

Development is selling ads for the online directory.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Chanley, Secretary