

**Federated Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021**

Welcome: May Meeting

Kelly Buchsbaum welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:19am via Zoom.

In attendance:

Kelly Buchsbaum (Federated President, incoming RHS), Colleen Tansey (Federated 1st VP), Amy Gill (Federated 2nd VP, incoming 1st VP), Valerie Auyeung (Federated Secretary/Treasurer), Kathy Marshall (Federated Member-at-Large), Dr. Tom Gorman (Superintendent), Mike Lembo (BOE), Juliane Cho (GW), Christine Malloy (Travell), Jimmy Judge (Orchard), Francesca Parker (Somerville), Sarah Traband (Somerville), Ashley Minetti (Ridge), Kelly Ashford (Hawes), Elena Croy (RED), Paul McCarthy (REF), Mary Micale (RHS, incoming Federated Pres), Jamie England (LSHSA), Mayumi Harada (BFMS), Lauren Dunleavy (Willard), Carol Waldman (BFMS), Jess Vartugian (Travell), Jen Giammarella (Hawes), Angela Lee (incoming Hawes), Jennifer Pisani (incoming Hawes), Amy Beiersdorf (incoming Federated Member-at-Large), Nancy Joachim-Ventura (incoming Travell), Anna Crane (incoming Willard), Lucy Papamichael (assistant to Dr. Gorman), Christine Lear (incoming Somerville), Jean Whitehead (incoming Ridge), Patty Leung (incoming Orchard), Tasneen Patrawala (incoming GW), Todd Rothman (Orchard, incoming 2nd VP)

April minutes approved.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Tom Gorman, Superintendent

- Lucy Papamichael discussed calendar for next year: Google link for district calendar to be sent to HSA presidents; will check for conflicts before approving requests; will also send documents with district events to include in school calendar
 - Dates need to be approved before submitting facility use application
 - Any outside organization distributing flyers through enews must have flyers approved by Dr. Gorman (must be sponsored by approved groups in Ridgewood); top of flyer should have who the sponsor is (eg School HSA, Federated, etc)
- Friday, May 28th, is an extra vacation day due to unused snow day
- Teacher contract is in memorandum and contract; awaiting ratification; approval by both sides obtained ahead of schedule; both sides compromised to come to agreement
- RHS Principal hired and will start July 1st.
 - Jeff and Basil will continue at RHS; new principal to be announced today (Note: Mr. Jeffrey Nyhuis was named new RHS Principal.)
- Ridge Principal search has started and will take about 2 weeks

- Survey to be sent to community tomorrow to assess phase 2; will ask about concerns with moving to phase 3; for example, elementary students may need to be shuffled around again, etc. Three challenges---kids would be eating lunch without masks inside and 6 feet apart with staggered lunch; would need to use other spaces; teachers may need to be changed if virtual kids return as well
- Alternate schedules committee survey to be sent out to solicit parents who want to be involved
- Likely will be able to move to full day school in September---no specific guidance from governor yet
- Guidance just changed for proms and graduation but 6 feet distancing still needs to be maintained outside
- NJ does not mandate vaccines if religious exemption; may be like flu shots
- Ridgewood HS fields have had kids from various towns gathering (from as far as Sloatsburg to as close as Wyckoff) over the past two weekends, mostly older teens; vandalism has occurred; security hired to patrol ALL school fields and work with local police, and RHS fields will be closed after 6 PM
 - Somerville vandalism: swastika discovered outside of building; police notified; was drawn with chalk that was lying around; camera could not catch the area where this was done
 - Cameras on Stevens did catch a few kids who vandalized the property, and the kids were charged and made restitutions by paying for the damage
- Nancy J: Will Dr. Gorman be speaking to psychologists before moving to phase 3? Gorman: Guidance counselors and principals and mental health professionals will be providing input with phase 3; remote kids having the most difficulty; do not want to underrepresent 3400 families by listening to only 20 emails
- Ashley M: Will there be an option to do an anonymous survey? Feedback from some parents that they did not feel comfortable answering questions to call out teachers.
- Ashley M: Ridge has low K enrollment—do other schools also have low enrollment? Is it due to uncertainty of return to school full-time in the fall or possibly due to some families enrolling kids in private schools?
 - Gorman: Hawes is also low; could be an off year; communicating to community that Sept will be full-time if allowed by governor; concerned about apartments being built---unsure if there will be an influx of kids
 - Some K classes will be removed if low enrollment continues, but every effort will be made to have teachers absorbed in other schools or classes

Board of Education Update:

Mike Lembo, BOE

- Appreciated the work of all the HSA presidents
- Budget decision turned out well

- Monday BOE meeting: Alumni presentations
- Presentation by Basil Pizzuto and Lauren DePinto for Mental Health awareness month
- Will be voting on and signing teacher POA

Special Guest: Mr. Scott Bisig (RPS School Business Administrator)

- Budget accepted by BOE and Bergen County and kept under 2% increase
 - 2nd largest school budget in the county (Hackensack slightly higher but larger school system)
- State aid from COVID will be used up in the next year---needed to adjust budget to account for not having those funds
- 3rd round of stimulus funds will be received soon but uncertain of amount at this time---cannot plan for these funds in future years
- State aid was cut for Ridgewood in past years

President's Update:

Kelly Buchsbaum, President

- HSA introductions (see above)
- HSA basics and best practices
 - Federated role: Provide info from each school to Dr. Gorman and Mr. Lembo
 - Every parent is member of HSA; HSAs support schools and principals
 - Share ideas and best practices (eg Bingo night; Willy Wonka One Book One School event)
 - Mary M: Primary goal is to protect the integrity of the organization
When writing into the Board or any public editorials, be clear that your views are not representative of your HSA or of the rest of the school
 - Kathy M: Be aware of 501c3 guidelines of a nonprofit; cannot express political views and not violate guidelines; cannot endorse political candidates
 - Tasneem: Do by-laws change every year? Mary M: By-laws do not change every year but if changes need to be made, an amendment can be made, sent to the community, voted on, and changed; check by-laws for amending them
 - Jimmy: As presidents, we should consider ourselves an extension of the administration
 - Mayumi: Will HSAs try to plan all the usual events?
 - Kelly B: When HSA meetings were moved to online, more parents were able to attend. Should discuss with your HSA members and principals regarding the planning of these events for next year.

Vice President's Report:

Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice President

Amy Gill, 2nd Vice President

- Crossing Guard gifts for this year replaced reception. Due to inability to have reception, distributed Visa gift cards and individually bagged Stop sign themed cookies this week
- Wizards game 2022 updates: Planned for January 27 and 28, 2022.

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer

- Total of \$8464 remaining from Wizards 2019 fundraiser after allocating funds to RHS fitness center, Hope trees, STEPSS, Anti-Vaping Middle School program, and crossing guard gifts for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 school years
- Other payments made this month: LSHSA contribution, Crossing guard gifts, Teacher Recognition Awards contribution, and mascot/school promotion

Member-at-Large Report:

Kathy Marshall, Member-at-Large

- Will most likely renew contract with GroupSpot for next year; recommend having a GroupSpot volunteer on board of each school
- Federated Insurance policy: Federated holds General liability policy for all school HSA boards; any events require liability insurance including liquor liability
- Reach out to Amy Beiersdorf (new Member-at-Large) if any questions or if riders are needed
- HSA-sponsored events on BOE owned properties are covered by BOE liability policies
 - If 3rd party vendors providing service (eg DJ, tents, etc), vendors must carry own insurance and name BOE under insurance policy
- 4th of July parade: If floats are allowed, construction on school grounds is covered by Federated HSA; if floats are constructed on homeowners' property, homeowner's insurance may cover but homeowners have the option to request a rider
- No alcohol ever allowed on school property
- Parent socials at homes---can be covered under homeowner's insurance; can purchase rider for liquor liability rider as well as homeowner rider, estimated ~\$500
 - Cannot advertise in enews and GroupSpot that there is alcohol being served
- Carnival companies for bouncy houses, etc, usually have own liability insurance

Open discussion:

- Ashley: Beautification project---Ridge is the only school without a sign on the building and would like to have one installed
 - Kathy: Ask Scott Bisig if district put the signs in on other schools--probably was not an HSA initiative at the other schools

Meeting adjourned at: 11:19 am

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 9:15 am—via Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer