

Federated Home and School Association Meeting Minutes November 11, 2021

Welcome: November Meeting

Mary Micale welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:20am.

In attendance:

Mary Micale (Federated President), Amy Gill (Federated 1st VP), Todd Rothman (Federated 2nd VP), Valerie Auyeung (Federated Secretary/Treasurer), Amy Beiersdorf (Federated Member-at-Large), Dr. Tom Gorman (Superintendent), Mike Lembo (BOE), Paul McCarthy (REF)
Jimmy Judge (Orchard), Patty Leung (Orchard)
Nancy Joachim-Ventura (Travell)
Angela Lee (Hawes), Jennifer Pisani (Hawes)
Anna Crane (Willard)
Christine Lear (Somerville)
Jean Whitehead (Ridge)
Carol Waldman (BFMS)
Tasneem Patrawala (GW)
Kelly Buchsbaum (RHS)
Jamie England (LSHSA)

October minutes approved.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Tom Gorman, Superintendent

- RHS women's sports are dominating
- 1st Quarter ended last week
- Senior slide show pasta party occurred this week
- Successful vaccine clinic with 160+ students vaccinated at Village Hall yesterday; another clinic scheduled for Nov 18th
- Postcard will be sent out to inform about Alternative School Day
 - Presentation on Dec 1st at BF to discuss general info regarding Alternative schedule, and survey will be sent out after meeting
 - May have another meeting later, possibly Feb
- Continuing to recruit aides and substitutes; have many on list but often decline
- Teacher grant applications being accepted by REF; still giving money to large projects
- ESSER3 being used for HEPA filters; there are still funds remaining; asking community for input this week on how funds should be used
- Amy B: When will details be announced about Dec 1st meeting? Dr. Gorman: Postcard will be sent out and will also be posted in social media, emails, etc
- Jean: Where are the jobs being posted? Is there a shortage of special needs aides? Dr. Gorman: Jobs are being posted everywhere. Special needs aides

based on number of students with IEPs—not due to budgeting issues. There is no shortage of aides for special needs students. There are no general ed aides; only lunch aides. ESSER3 funds cannot be used for general ed aides since it would not be sustainable after funds run out. Mary: LSHSA can be a good resource for special needs families who need support.

- Gorman: Want to keep students in district; least restrictive and keeping with friends; also less costly
- Kelly: Do applicants need formal background check and teaching certificate for substitutes? Gorman: Only need 60 credits and background check.
- Mike: There is a long list of substitutes who can be called but not everyone wants to work on a day they are requested.
- Gorman: Aides are only used at elementary schools for lunch—fully staffed. However, special ed aides are transitory—need full time aides.
- Mike: Encourage all parents to apply even if they can only work a few days a month
- Nancy: What is the official name of the Ridgewood Foundation? Mary: Will clarify with Paul McCarthy and ask him to give a short description of what REF does.
- Todd: Thoughts on info on vaccination rates survey and how it will be used. Gorman: Unsure if data can be used based on level of rates; mask mandate expires in January but unsure if it will be renewed
 - “Test to stay” policy being discussed: if student exposed, a close contact would test daily to stay in school
 - Vaccination rates based on voluntary survey responders: RHS 98%; MS 70%; entire staff 98%

Board of Education Update:

Mike Lembo, BOE

- ESSER3 funds: deadline on 11/24 to submit for approval; funds are earmarked for specific purposes ex mental health, teacher dev, health and safety; need to follow guidelines
 - Updated presentation on Mon’s meeting
- COVID testing offered at BF every Wed from 3-6pm
- Vaccination clinic successful yesterday
- Alternative schedule: page on district site with info on alternative schedule
- Election occurred last week: unofficial results announced
- 3 Meetings remaining of the year; reorg meeting in Jan with new BOE members
- Nancy: What are you asking of the community for ESSER funds if a specified amount already earmarked for filters in schools? Gorman: Google form sent out last week. Mike: Breakdown is on district website.

President's Update:

Mary Micale, President

- Citizen Safety Action Committee member as liaison to schools: if there are concerns regarding crosswalk safety or other safety issues, can discuss with Mary
 - Stevens field parking: suggested to let parents know where permissible parking is for both home and visiting teams; soliciting input from board members; several showed interest
 - Meetings occur once monthly in Village Hall
 - Parents are welcome to go to meetings

Vice President's Report:

Amy Gill, 1st Vice President

Todd Rothman, 2nd Vice President

- Wizards game 2022 updates: moving forward with dates, January 27 and 28
 - No concessions will be sold at the game; pizza restaurants will be used for no cook night for those 2 nights; send preferences for pizza restaurants
 - 100% masked during games
 - Wizards players are fully vaccinated; optional mask for players
 - Ridgewood's Got Talent competition for National anthem performer selection
 - Need help from HSAs to recruit players esp. for 2 nights (2 teachers per school per game)—discuss with principals; need board members to help working during the game and publicizing to schools
 - 600 Tickets per game
 - Goodie bags a possibility
 - Also need sponsors
 - Nancy: What are the needs now? Amy: Name of preferred pizzeria
 - Mary: No cook nights spreadsheet will be created; will publish and send out in email
 - Amy: Suggest also coordinating list of scheduled holiday fairs and boutiques at the schools

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer

- No new updates

Member-at-Large Report:

Amy Beiersdorf, Member-at-Large

- Notify GroupSpot chairs that Vickie Hoy event will be postponed to next week due to inclement weather
- Use Federated to promote events on GroupSpot
- Insurance riders: can consolidate in terms of outside vendors and coverage of BOE

- Mary will compile list of vendors commonly used for events to see if more cost-effective way to have insurance coverage for vendors
- Amy B. will reach out to insurance company to see if a more cost-effective way is available to obtain riders and COI
- Tasneem: Do fliers need approval from Superintendent's office to be distributed to other schools? Kelly: Need approval from Lucy Papamichael for schools' enews but not for GroupSpot. Mary: outside vendors need approval from Lucy Papamichael
- Tasneem: Can students' pics be used in social media posts? Mary: Must have permission from families in Skyward.
- Nancy: Can a DEI video of kids be posted in social media if parents give permission? Mary: Must be consistent with what parents signed off on in Skyward. May be more complicated and set a precedent for future situations.

Paul McCarthy (President, REF):

- 501c3 organization
- Objective is to raise public funds and offer grants to individual educator or specific dept or school
- Funds not used to cover curriculum; independent of BOE and does not interfere with curriculum but enhance curriculum
- Examples of past funded projects: Funded classroom grants, leadership grants (ex Learning Commons at RHS), Chromebook 1:1 initiative, classroom which expanded to all students; renovated science classrooms at BF and GW to support STEAM program; 4 year STEAM initiative grant ex MakerSpace at RHS now expended to lower level schools
- Community grants: Super Science Saturday sponsor
- Applicants should fill out grant request form and then must be approved by various members
- Website: www.RidgewoodEdinfo.org

Meeting adjourned at: 11:05am

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 9:15 am at Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, 3rd floor

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer