

## **Federated Home and School Association Meeting Minutes January 6, 2022**

### **Welcome: January Meeting** (Virtual)

Amy Gill welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:23am.

#### **In attendance:**

Amy Gill (Federated 1<sup>st</sup> VP), Todd Rothman (Federated 2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Valerie Auyeung (Federated Secretary/Treasurer), Dr. Tom Gorman (Superintendent), Paul McCarthy (REF)  
Jimmy Judge (Orchard)  
Jess Vartugian (Travell)  
Angela Lee (Hawes), Jennifer Pisani (Hawes)  
Anna Crane (Willard)  
Christine Lear (Somerville)  
Jean Whitehead (Ridge)  
Carol Waldman (BFMS), Mayumi Harada  
Tasneem Patrawala (GW)  
Kelly Buchsbaum (RHS)  
Jamie England (LSHSA)  
Margarita Carmody (LSHSA)

Special guest: Beth Creller (Green Ridgewood)

December minutes approved.

#### **Superintendent's Update:**

##### **Dr. Tom Gorman, Superintendent**

- Many new COVID cases over break but teacher absences are trending down; COVID cases also down---peak was yesterday; RHS has 4 more teachers back; attendance rate going up
- Possible delayed opening tomorrow due to approaching storm
- CDC and NJDOH regarding quarantine: New 5 day quarantine not recommended for schools
- Trend does not indicate that we need to pivot to virtual
- COVID testing clinic on Wed tested 300 people and same number tested over break; majority who were tested were kids
- Vaccination rates in RPS: HS 98%; MS 60-70%; 5-11yo 30%; will send out another survey for updated numbers
- Todd: Booster clinic was scheduled during school hours--- possibility to have one outside school hours? Dr. Gorman: Will discuss with Ridgewood DOH regarding making hours more available to students
- Wizards: Good decision to moving date; principals are moving dates of events by a few weeks instead of canceling
- Chicago shut down schools due to teachers wanting virtual option but in-person learning is the best for kids

- BOE meeting agenda next week will include swearing-in of new board members; election for new president and vice-president
- Jess: Alternate schedule FAQ questions are being collected--- when should the questions be sent in? Gorman: Committee meets on 1/24/2022 so having questions will be helpful for that meeting. The Record has been reporting on discussion that occurred at BF and asking for more info since the meeting but no new info at this time.

**Board of Education Update:**

**Mike Lembo, BOE** (not available at meeting)

**Special Guest: Beth Creller (Green Ridgewood)**

- Green Ridgewood meets monthly the first Thurs of each month; January meeting will be via Zoom at 7pm
- Green Ridgewood is vetted by Village Council, and ideas from Green Ridgewood are forwarded to the Council
- Looking for another member if anyone is interested
- Ridgewood Green Team: subcommittee of Green Ridgewood; maintains Ridgewood's participation in Sustainable Jersey and maintains Silver status (recognized on Dec 12, 2017); re-evaluation this year regarding status and meeting eligibility for status
- Planning Board to update the Master Plan---has not been updated since the 1970s
- Earth Day 2022 will be held on Sun, April 10<sup>th</sup> at Van Neste Square from 10am-4pm. The purpose is to educate town about sustainable choices residents can make in the community and may possibly include the following:
  - Electric Vehicle car show?
  - Student art show?
  - Vendor booths
  - Food and fun
  - Booth devoted to Green Team actions in our local schools
  - Sponsor organizations: Green Ridgewood, Parks and Rec, Water Dept
  - Would like to have 1 booth from each school to showoff photos, videos, posters, demonstrations
- Stable interested in hosting an art show if there is interest
- Refer to slide deck for links
- Jess: Should school's Green Team contact Beth to organize booth? Beth: Yes, have Green Team from schools reach out directly to me.
- Kelly: Consider creating a group on GroupSpot to communicate to schools
- The town will be starting Styrofoam collection at the recycling center

- Angela: Participated in food waste pilot program---will it be continued? Beth: Will follow up with Village Council member who ran the program to see if there is enough interest
- Tasneem: At GW, a Green Team club has formed and has initiated many projects at the school

### **President's Update:**

#### **Amy Gill (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) presenting for Mary Micale, President**

- Nominating Committee needed for Federated Board for next year---let Mary know if interested; if any outgoing HSA presidents interested in positions, let Mary know
- Alternate schedule questions: Publicize in school enews to collect questions

### **Vice President's Report:**

#### **Amy Gill, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

#### **Todd Rothman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

- Wizards game postponed; exploring dates in late March/early April; will need to be postponed to next year if dates don't work out
- Not considering having only 1 game due to disappointment to not all being able to attend

### **Treasurer's Report:**

#### **Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer**

- No updates this month

### **Open Discussion:**

- Kelly: Should HSA meeting in Jan be all-remote? Some schools (BF, Hawes) will be all-remote in Jan
- Kelly: Nominating committee for Federated HSA board should be members who will not be on Federated Board next year
- Kelly: LSHSA having Chipotle fundraiser
- Kelly: GroupSpot---suggest using for clubs; Angela: uses GroupSpot for 4<sup>th</sup> grade GS troop
  - Amy: How does a group set up a GroupSpot group? Kelly: Ask Mark Kossick to help set up. Angela: If you are a member for GroupSpot, can set up own group
- Kelly: Jamboree rescheduled for Mar 3-5
- Margarita: Any info on extended day program that the schools have received funding for from the state---45 minutes each for English Arts and Math. Are all students eligible or only some students selected? Will other students be able to participate? Suggest communicating to parents that this has launched since some students may have been missed based on eligibility criteria. Gorman: Suggest send email to Stacie and Gorman and cc Mary and Amy G

- Jean (Ridge): Virtual bingo planned; fundraiser in Feb with direct request for donations from parents
- Angela: Doing virtual bingo this year using: [www.myfreebingocards.com](http://www.myfreebingocards.com)
  - Prizes are gift cards to local eateries
  - New bakery called: Nothing Bundt Cakes; looking to participate in fundraising opportunities at schools

**Member-at-Large Report:**

**Amy Gill (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President) presenting for Amy Beiersdorf, Member-at-Large**

- Forward vendors that schools will be using for spring events to Amy B. so she can start working on COI for vendors
- Jean: Outdoor block party with vendors at Ridge---do vendors need COI? Amy G: Prob do not need but check with Amy B

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2021 at 9:15 am at Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer