

Federated Home and School Association Meeting Minutes March 3, 2022

Welcome: March Meeting

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

In attendance:

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

Guests: Kevin Feeley, Beth Creller, Mike Faherty

February minutes approved.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Tom Gorman, Superintendent

- Mask guidelines have changed 3 times since announcement made by state; will put out guidance when final guidelines released
 - Will continue contact tracing on Mon 3/7/2022 after mask mandate is lifted; must be boosted in order to avoid quarantine if over age 12
 - All mask guidelines subject to change based on changes in COVID-19 rates
 - Currently at low risk level (green zone) with high vaccination rate in schools
 - Cleaning procedures will continue to remain in place
 - No vaccine mandates currently
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Board of Education Update:

Mike Lembo, BOE

- May reorganize the committees and structure of the committees; also trying to get more community and school involvement
- Audit will be presented at this Mon's meeting

- Prelim budget to be presented at special meeting on 3/14 with plan to adopt budget on 3/24
- On 3/8/22, state of state address to discuss school aid—missing from district budget at this time
 - Budget will not go to a vote on unless it is over 2% which is not planned for this year
 - No additional budget presentations at schools this year due to timing of release of state budget
 - Can watch recorded meeting if unable to attend
- Mask policy may be discussed at state of state address but will need to wait for official documents are released
 - Mask optional starting Mon
- Kelly: Will alternative start times be discussed? Dr. Gorman: Will be discussed on next meeting; this meeting was a training meeting.
 - Kelly: Was it not brought up because bus contracts already in place? Dr. Gorman: No.

Guest Speaker: Kevin Feeley (Mental health clinician for RPS)

District Anti-Vaping Efforts, including Tim Shoemaker Assemblies

- Tim Shoemaker (law enforcement officer, motivational speaker) will be coming in May (either 24th or 25th)
- Cost being partially funded by Municipal Alliance via grant received for that purpose (\$1900)
- Requesting additional funds from Federated (~\$600) to fully cover cost of presentation
- Vaping may be declining but may be used for marijuana which is concerning
- Jess: Will the presentation be live-streamed and in person? Kevin: Will plan to have in-person if possible and will also be live-streamed.
- Mary: contract states one day to speak to MS students and virtual parent presentation. Will older elementary kids be able to watch a pre-recorded version? Kevin: will discuss with Tim.

Guest Speaker: Beth Creller, Mike Faherty

Earth Day Update/Ridgewood Project 1000 Acres

- Gas blowers, mowers, fertilizers not good for environment
- Website sponsored by Green Ridgewood
- Program built around 10 actions: Align with town, EPA, Rutgers
 - All voluntary actions:
 - Commit, convert, plant a tree, remove invasives, no gas mowing, no gas blowing, reduce toxicity, fertilize organic, compost leaves
 - All have resources on how to implement actions
- Examples around town of the actions being implemented: Children's sensory and butterfly garden (behind The Stable)
- 1000 acres: Goal to manage 1/3 of Ridgewood's town land more sustainably
- Will be launched at Earth Day

- School properties can be used to implement actions
- Mary: League of Women Voters planning on banning gas blowers. Is this part of town's 20 year Master plan? Beth: Yes.
- Jess: How does this affect the school district's landscaping contracts due to higher cost to maintain a garden vs a lawn? Mike: will need support from parents and schools; would start small with a garden at the schools; can involve Green Teams at the schools
- Tasneem: If space and volunteers available at schools, would members of 1000 acres team be able to provide education and/or funds? Beth: Unable to provide funds but schools may want to consider fundraising
 - Green Team has club meetings every other week—would like to have speaker discuss 1000 acres initiative
 - Mike already involved in clubs at RHS; would like more contact with MS and elementary schools—Mary will pass on info
- Mike: Requesting contact teachers for Green Teams at schools to coordinate planning. Mary will collect contact info and forward to Mike.
- Christine: Somerville also coordinating Green Team and applying for grant
 - Green Fair on 4/21—Ridgewood recycling team paying for speaker and having school-wide planting
- Kelly: Suggest having 1000 Acres speak at HSA meetings
- Beth: Start small with projects
 - Earth Day will be celebrated on April 10th in town; can highlight what schools are doing and would like to have all schools participate; Project 1000 acres, electric vehicles, and school projects will be the 3 things that will be highlighted
 - Green Team Meetings currently on Zoom; next one is tonight
 - Casual informal meeting at Bulldog at 11am
 - Mary: Suggest having an HSA rep at meetings. Beth: need someone from BF
 - Forms to be submitted by 3/25 if possible but will make room for schools at event even if submitted after the deadline

President's Report:

Mary Micale (President)

- Citizen Safety Advisory Committee: need volunteer to help with parking map for Village—reach out to Mary
 - Age-friendly Ridgewood: pedestrian concerned about kids riding bikes in town on sidewalks (which is illegal) and dangerous for pedestrians
 - Suggestions made to make Ridgewood Ave a one way street or close completely to make pedestrian walkway
- Vote on Donation request:
 - Kevin Feeley request for \$600 for anti-vaping
 - All voted yes; none opposed

Vice President's Report:

Amy Gill, 1st Vice President

Todd Rothman, 2nd Vice President

- Wizards game: Sold out in 2 ½ hours for both nights 3/30 and 3/31
- No major complaints regarding the ticket sales
- Still looking for sponsors and working out details for volunteers
- Volunteers needed for souvenirs, setup, checkin, cleanup
- Dr. Gorman will be coach for team for 1 night
- Preshow being coordinated
- Reached out to acapella groups to perform at preshow and for National Anthem
- Will line up pizza restaurants for no-cook-night on 3/30 and 3/31
- Will release rosters for teams before the games
- If extra tickets needed, check social media for people selling tickets
- For teacher guests, each teacher player receives 1 free ticket. If more than 1 needed, contact Amy and Todd to be put on list.
- Keith Cook instrumental in arranging 2 nights for Wizards to play at RHS
- Need coach for 2nd night, possibly Mike Lembo or Keith Cook
- May be mask optional but will defer to Dr. Gorman
- Funding for various requests will be voted on after the games
- May encourage attendees to have tickets on phone instead of printing out tickets

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer

- Check written to accountant in amount of \$75 for filing of 1099

Member-at-Large Report:

Amy Beiersdorf

- No update

Federated Nominating Committee:

- Slate presented: President Mary Micale, Amy Gill, Todd Rothman, Jess Vartughian, Amy Beiersdorf; will be voted on in April meeting

Open Discussion

- Kelly: Support Jamboree by going to the show or buying 50/50 raffle

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:15 am at Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, 3rd floor

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer