



**Ridgewood Avenue Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes**

Friday January 5, 2024 - RAS Cafeteria @ 8:45am

Officers present:

Stephanie Haller- President; Kristina Donnelly – VP

MT Reinert - Secretary

Principal's Report (Dr. Donovan)

First marking period ended- report cards can be found in Skyward.

Fun holiday parties were planned by Class parents and enjoyed by all students.

1/2 day pre-break was mental health day. Reinforced value of slowing down and taught mindfulness strategies- was a great way to start break

New Diversity focus: 'Love your food' - diversity - focusing on different cultures and how kids may eat different things in different cultures. Fun to ask friends about their family traditions.

MAP testing results have been mailed home. Testing will only happen twice this year (rather than 3x as in past). Next testing will be in May. If questions about results, reach out to teachers or Dr. D

On the Horizon:

Winter concert will be held 1/11

No school 1/15.

Seussical Auditions will take place 1/23 & 1/25.

RAS will be the featured school at the next BOE meeting on 1/23.

Updates:

\$76K grant received due to loss of learning due to pandemic. FEV tutoring has been hired and students will be identified via MAP results for targeted tutoring. A selection of 25 3rd & 25 4th graders get specialized tutoring for 6 weeks. Then another group will be selected. Teachers will receive reports.

Phonics First program is continuing in 3rd grade

Morphology continues for 4th grade- teaches Latin and Greek word bases - dissecting words. Kids are loving it.

Spanish- Language Learning Network's virtual program has been implemented due to not being able to hire an in-person Spanish teacher part-time. District realizes this is not ideal. Last year Montclair State had ZERO Spanish teaching graduates. Positive of program is it offers additional languages for the future. Plan is to start searching for part time in-person teachers for next school year.

The Board of Ed / Curriculum committee is discussing.

Guided Math - small group instruction on special skills is being pushed in all grades.

Guided Reading had been focused on in past

Link it - warehouse data program - takes all data/assessments to create groups/subgroups identifying those who need specific help with certain areas of weakness.

Faculty Report (Amanda Goodwin)

Thank you for treats from HSA for National Education Week, Starbucks run, holiday gifts and parent volunteers to help run holiday parties.

Was so thoughtful that entire staff was included this year for holiday gifts (Paras, Related Arts, Special Ed).

BOE Report (Jocelyn Gottlieb)

BOE was reincorporated Wednesday night - 1/4/24. Darius Dehnad is a new representative.

Superintendent search is in full swing. Survey results were collected by town parents.

Survey resulted in 27 pages of parent comments and feedback.

31 Candidates have been identified. Hoping to have a new Superintendent hired by the end of April to start July 1.

Next BOE 1/23 at 7pm and all are welcome. RAS will be the featured school.

Treasurer's Report (Carol Florczak sent in report)**Revenue - \$23,957**

School picture proceeds \$3,452

Visiting Author Book Sales almost \$2k

3rd grade PNO ticket sales almost \$1,800

Teacher Appreciation Week Donations \$950

Miss Chocolate Fundraiser Proceeds \$2,390

Holiday Shop Sales \$13,184 (includes \$600 for cash boxes)

Spirit Wear \$180

Expenses - \$26,537

Teacher appreciation including lunch, pantry snacks, etc. for National Education Week approx \$1,400

Teacher Gift Cards \$600

Enrichment Expenses approx \$2,400 (puppies and Horizons program)

Staff Holiday Gift Cards \$4k

Starbucks Run \$306 on debit card

Discovery Expenses \$685 on debit card

Holiday shop cash boxes \$600

Holiday Shop Inventory Expenses \$5926

EC Blankets \$1230

Visiting Author Books from Watchung Booksellers \$1784

Discovery Reimbursement \$175

Spirit Wear \$6300

Total Bank Accounts Balance as of 12/29: \$76,126

Uncommitted Cash Available for Use: \$32,895

(does not include any checks in-flight which will be accounted for in reconciliation)

President's Report (Stephanie Haller)

Thank you to the following:

National Education Week

Holiday Market

Spirit Wear

Lost & Found

Emily Johnson & Anna Doyle

Tricia Greene & Courtney Glick

Heidi Spitzer & Rachel Klein

Carol F, Laurie Davis & Nicole DeFusco

HSA will sponsor Valentines baskets for Police and Crossing Guards - will be collecting donations

Next Book Fair will be in March. Reach out if interested in volunteering to help!

Squeaky Clean Fundraiser via Exec Council ongoing - 10% goes back to scholarship fund for graduating seniors. Call to book and mention Glen Ridge.

Next school year more of the class dues will be used towards teacher/staff holiday gifts since we usually have excess at the end of the year and used HSA general funds this season.

Committee Reports:

Holiday Store- Tricia Greene & Courtney Glick

Tons of parent volunteers helped make this a huge success! The variety of products was fantastic and raised tons of money.

Community Service- Cheryl Southern & Amanda Mazza

The committee wants to kick off a gratitude project next month. Ideas are still being discussed - but will involve the kids (more than a drive/dropping off donations).

Discovery - Kristina Donnelly

Winter classes have kicked off and have been great! All teacher/staff run.

Classes include: painting ceramics, pickleball, chess, board games

Will run for 8 weeks starting in January from 3:15 - 4:15 and raised more than \$13,000.

Looking for a volunteer to help from 3:30 - 4:20 in the main hall to monitor doors. (Girls' Club, an older Girl Scout, or parent volunteer).

Next Discovery session will most likely happen in the Fall as the building is very busy with TREPS/the play in the spring. If interested in Chairing Discovery, please reach out to Steph or Kristina.

*Parents are reaching out to Police to ask if Crossing Guards will stay a bit later on Discovery Days.

Spirit Wear - Rachel Klein & Heidi Spitzer

Orders arrived in time for holidays. Next sale planned during Seussical the Musical!

NJ Devils- Courtney Marchione

Link for tickets for the event on March 23rd have been emailed out. 50 tickets have already sold. Courtney will request more. This is not a fundraiser as payment goes directly to the Devils Program. We have the Party Zone reserved. Attendees will receive a t-shirt, bag, and kids will get to go on the ice after the game and shoot/take photos.

Library - Deirdre Carlough & Hilary Trevenen

1/23 and 1/24 - Writing Enrichment Program - "The Write Stuff"

Thank you to all those who have volunteered so far. Different than in years past, parent volunteers do NOT need to go through a formal training before signing up for a slot. Anyone is welcome to sign up!

Parents are welcome to sign up during any period, but volunteer slots are listed by class. The teacher that is listed is the class that will be in the library during that time. Mr. Aumack will guide all volunteers with what could be done during the period. Right now the sign-up link has dates through the end of the year, but we will be adding additional dates for 2024 soon.

LINK: <https://signup.com/go/xZVXboT>

Please reach out to Hilary or Deirdre with any questions.

TREPS - Hilary Trevenen & Kearstin Harrington

Program for 4th - 6th grade entrepreneurs. There are 75 openings (based on table space in the gym.) Have a 3rd teacher signed on for this Spring.

Registration link will be emailed out 2/8 at 2pm. Sign ups are first come first served and partners can be named on the Wufoo form. Historically, it fills up QUICKLY. A save the date for registration will be emailed out next week.

Classes for participants will be held Wednesday afternoons starting 2/21. Event will be 4/3/24.

6GP - Rachel Klein & Amy Slovitt

A Kickoff meeting was held pre-holidays and was very successful.

Committees were formed. Contract for the yearbook has been signed. A Wufoo form requesting parent donations will be emailed out. This will determine how much needs to be raised via fundraising. Planning both a parents' night out and a kids' night for 6th grade students. DJ Rob and the venue have been secured for the party. A theme will be decided via class submissions and a student vote.

Pollinator Garden - Amanda McCabe

Planning to plant a garden featuring native plants somewhere at RAS. Amanda, Stephanie, and Dr. D will walk the school grounds and decide placement soon. Will need volunteers to help plant and water the garden over the summer months.

Lost & Found - Carol Florczak, Laurie Davis, & Nicole DeFusco

Next pick up will be February 5th and will run for 3 days. Leftover items will be donated.

Open Committee Positions:

Discovery, Family Game Night

If interested in Chairing either committee - please reach out to Steph.

Important Upcoming Dates:

1/11: 7:00pm Winter Chorus Concert
1/15: School Closed for Dr. MLK, Jr. Day
1/23 & 24: School Musical Auditions
2/15: 12:30 Dismissal for Winter Break
2/16-2/20: School Closed for Winter Break

Meeting Minutes

November's Minutes approved by Maria S. and Kristina D.

Next RAS HSA meeting will be March 1st @ 9am.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05am.