



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

Friday November 3, 2023 - RAS Cafeteria @ 8:54am

Officers present:

Stephanie Haller- President; Kristina Donnelly – VP

Carol Florczak – Treasurer; MT Reinert - Secretary

Principal's Report (Dr. Donovan)

Lots going on at RAS since last meeting including Week of Respect, School Violence Awareness, Red Ribbon Week, Abilities Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Breast Cancer Awareness

Halloween Celebration with costume contest and parade were a huge hit!

SEL Counselor, Gail Ryan, has started at both RAS and Central and has formed Worry Warriors.

Bring your Parents to Work Day was awesome! Roughly 22 staffers had a parent in for the day.

The Student Council Induction Ceremony was this past week.

On the Horizon:

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be mid November. Sign ups were emailed home.

Both Bring a Veteran to School Day & Author Visit will happen 11/15.

An Adoption Awareness breakfast will take place later in the month.

MAP testing window opens 11/27 and teachers will email parents about dates per classroom.

Marking Period 1 ends on 12/4.

STILL SEARCHING- for a Paraprofessional and Permanent Sub - will take all recommendations!

Curriculum:

Spanish Language Learning Network - now offered via Zoom with a teacher present to oversee - and is going well so far. 6th graders voiced they prefer in person classes. Students may be able to take different languages in future with the Zoom program.

Other programs in use: LinkIt, Guided Math (parents are encouraged to ask about it), Phonics First (2nd year of use with 3rd grade), Morphology (1st year with 4th grade - teaches Greek/Latin roots of words). Science Curriculum is being reviewed.

Debit Cards for HSA:

The Executive Council is reviewing rules/practices for use of HSA Debit Cards and will be voting on new procedures.

Funding Request:

\$800 for Creature Comfort Therapy Dogs

Faculty Report (Amanda Goodwin)

Thank you for treats from HSA for teachers and parent volunteers to help run Halloween parties.

BOE Report (Jocelyn Gottlieb)

Upcoming BOE meeting - 11/17. All are welcome!

Board is working on finalizing their and the District's goals for the year.

Voting on National Schools of Character Program focusing on SEL.

Concentrating on professional development and better training for future BOE members.

Working on a teacher/student climate survey.

Treasurer's Report (Carol Florczak)

Spirit Wear sales from Back to School Night made \$650

School Supplies fundraiser brought in \$4,665

\$39,187 available in uncommitted cash

President's Report (Stephanie Haller)

Thank you to the Community Service Team for SockTober Drive. Huge success!

School photos taken 9/12 - 9/14. Photos will be backpacked home next week.

3rd grade Parents' Night Out took place at Tierney's and had a great turnout.

Spirit Wear purchased Jibbitz to add to the collection.

Sheets & Treats raised over \$2,000. Thank you to Pamela Cooledge!

Next Lost and Found will be announced pre-Thanksgiving break. Thanks Carol, Laurie, and Nicole for organizing.

6GP is working on forming Committees and solidifying dates for events.

Committee Chair openings include: Enrichment, Discovery, NJ Devils

Committee Reports:**National Education Week- Emily Johnson & Anna Doyle**

Week of 11/13-11/17

Parents could donate via Venmo.

Committee will provide breakfast one day, catered lunch another, and will stock the teachers' lounge with snacks/drinks. Parents are encouraged to donate leftover/unwanted candy!

Holiday Store- Tricia Greene & Courtney Glick

Tons of items ordered and delivered to Tricia. Items range in price from \$1 - \$10 and the store will take cash only. Volunteers will be needed to help kids shop and also to gift wrap. Video will be posted to Facebook to showcase inventory. Store will be restocked after class visits so nothing sells out day1. Wrapping paper has been donated from Sheets & Treats fundraiser.

Discovery - Kristina Donnelly

A winter selection of teacher run classes will be offered.

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

Will run for 8 weeks starting in January from 3:15 - 4:15.

Spirit Wear - Rachel Klein & Heidi Spitzer

Orders will arrive in time for holidays. Sale at BTS night went well!

Library - Deirdre Carlough & Hilary Trevenen

Thank you to all those who have volunteered so far. The library is in the process of having books recategorized and physically reorganized and Mr. Aumack appreciates all the helpers who are able to come in. 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.

New Business:

Vote on \$15k for entire years worth of Enrichment Planning including:

Creature Comfort Therapy Dogs, 6th Grade Horizons Day, 5th Grade writing workshop, 3rd Grade Poet visit in March, Slam Poetry event, BMX assembly in May focusing on safety/anti-bullying - APPROVED

Important Upcoming Dates:

11/9-10: School closed for NJ Teachers' Convention

11/13-17: National Education Week - Teachers' Conferences

11/15: Bring a Vet to School Day/ Visiting Author - Chris Harris

11/22: 12:30 Dismissal/ New Horizons Program for 6th Grade

11/23-24: Thanksgiving Break

12/4-6: Holiday Market

12/22: 12:30 Dismissal

12/25-1/1: Winter Break

Meeting Minutes

September's Minutes approved by Heather S & Tricia G.

Next RAS HSA meeting will be January 5th @ 8:45am.

Meetings moving forward will offer a Google Meet / Listen in option for those working.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:42am.