

Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes - May 18, 2022

Attendees:

- Carol Waldman, Mayumi Brescia, Meghan Agatep, Jen Tesseyman, Laura McGrath, Valerie Auyeung, Anne McAskin, Jade York, Angela Atehortua, Claudia Fortunato, Lily Farhang

Welcome:

- The Meeting was called to order at 9:35AM. The BFHSA Co-President Carol Waldman welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The March 2022 minutes were approved. 1st Approval - Meghan Agatep; 2nd Approval - Claudia Fortunato.

Agenda Items:

- Principal's Report - Mr. Orsini:
 - Mr. Wu Update:
 - Different Abilities Awareness Week "Choose to Include":
 - Rock Your Blue Monday - wear BLUE shirts
 - Team Up Tuesday - wear favorite sport's team attire
 - Warm Cozy Wednesday - wear pajamas
 - Thoughtful Thursday - wear GREEN
 - Feel Good Friday - wear workout gear and crazy socks
 - Friday May 19th - Mental Health Awareness Walk
 - "Character Talks" with RHS Students.
 - May 17th - Grade 7 - Discuss being Kind/Nice
 - May 18th - Grade 6 - Discuss School Spirit and Being a Leader
 - May 19th - Grade 8 - Discuss the High School, etc.
 - Clubs are winding down and ending May 19th. Only "volunteer" clubs will continue
 - June 17th and June 20th - 8th Grade Promotion Practice
 - June 21st - 8th Grade Promotion and 5th Grade visiting BF
 - Guest Speaker, Tim Shoemaker coming next week to meet with the 7th Grade and discuss Vaping.
 - May 25th - Memorial Day Assembly - will have a Holocaust Survivor come in and speak with the students.
 - June 8th - RHS Counselors will speak with the 8th Grade
 - June 15th - Film Festival
 - Mr. Ordini Update:
 - Student Council - in the process of having elections for next year.
 - Anyone can run for an Executive position
 - Vote in Homeroom
 - Need to obtain Teacher recommendation
 - Campaign on TVs and in Homerooms
 - Narrow to the top 3 in each position (President, Vice-President, Secretary) and then a debate is held, video-taped and shown in the Homeroom. Each candidate is asked the same 3 questions (out of a possible 12 questions) by a Moderator.
 - We just recently joined the NJ Student Council Association - plan to receive a philanthropic award next year
 - Annual Request of the HSA for assistance to keep the Journalism BF Bolt running. BF Bolt is the student-run online newspaper. The Webhost fee is \$400. Can send the invoice and payment information.
 - Ms. Stovell Update:
 - 8th Grade Mystic Trip - June 1st - 3rd.
 - Parent information Meeting - Virtual, May 23rd 7:00pm

- 6:10am - arrival time for the Bus
 - Great group of Staff/Admin attending including Mr. Orsini, Ms. Stovell, the Substitute Nurse, a PE Teacher and a Teacher from every Team including Selective Teachers.
 - 4 students per room
 - 5th Grade Transition - 5th Graders visiting BF on June 21st - in the afternoon after Promotion - meet teachers and see the school.
- Mr. Orsini:
 - Mr. Ordini was the BF Teacher of the Year. Mr. Ordini runs Student Council, the Memorial Day Remembrance Assembly and the Film Festival.
 - Thank you to Carol and Mayumi as well as the Board for a great year.
 - Discussed the year - it's been both amazing and difficult. A Lot of events came back, strong Student Council and many clubs and testing. Covid cases spiked after the play which led to testing make-ups which was logistically difficult
 - DEI Culture Initiatives:
 - Teachers will be sitting down with Rosetta Lee to discuss what we've been doing and highlighting things to work on.
 - RHS Students as Leaders - RHS Students coming to talk to BF Students regarding navigating school, friendships, etc.
 - Mehta Kirtane, RHS Teacher - SOCL - Students of Colored Lines - putting something together to give perspective to teachers/administration regarding their experiences of going to High School
 - Plan to have a Parent DEI Meeting before the end of the year.
 - School Safety - a letter was sent to parents regarding the recent security issue. School procedures were followed which included local law enforcement and child protective services.
 - In discussion regarding obtaining Security Guards for the next school year (unarmed)
 - Currently, RHS has two Security Guards on campus.
 - Security Guards would have training and a direct line to the Ridgewood Police.
 - BF currently has cameras upon entering the building and different sections of the building. Cameras are checked periodically to make sure they are working and at the correct angle. Lockdown buttons are located in different areas of the school. Teachers also have the ability to lockdown from their phones.
 - School Assembly on Safety - discussed being an "upstander", safety is everyone's responsibility and it's ok to speak up if you see something.
- President's Report:
 - Motion on Technical Secretary / Communications Position - Mayumi Brescia:
 - Responsible for updating E-News, Facebook, Groupspot, Social Media for communications and updates.
 - First Approval - Laura McGrath ; Second Approval - Meghan Agatep
 - Carol Waldman - Thank you to the Current Board Members for their leadership and professionalism.
- Nominating Committee Vote -Proposed 2022-2023 HSA Board was Voted and Approved - Lily Farhang:
 - President - Anna Salerno & Claudia Fortunato
 - Vice President - Laura Waisnor & Maria Penava
 - Treasurer - Valerie Auyeung & Laura McGrath
 - Secretary - Jayhee Kim
 - Technical Secretary - Sarah Traband

- Treasurer's Report - Valerie Auyeung & Laura McGrath
 - 8th Grade Semi-Formal that was held April 22nd 7-9pm at BF - any money raised from this event will go towards the 8th Grade After Promotion Event being held at Space to help cover costs not covered by the ticket price.
 - 8th Grade After Promotion Semi -Formal - Space in Englewood, NJ
 - Bussing there/back
 - 170 Tickets sold to date
 - Deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, May 20th
 - Includes Food, Bowling, Arcade, Music
 - 8th Grade Lua - Graydon Pool - June 9th 12-3pm - tickets are now available for purchase
 - Swimming, pizza, smoothies, DJ, and prizes
 - BF Yankee Stadium Day vs. Cleveland
 - Saturday, April 23rd at 1pm Yankee's Game - raised \$1,000
 - Clothing Drive - raised \$250
 - Spirit Wear Store - April 4th - 22nd - Raised \$625
 - Current Expenses incurred are related to the RHS Graduation Lawn Sign, Crossing Guard Gifts and Teacher Appreciation Lunch.

- New Business - Meghan Agatep
 - 7th Grade Event - Wednesday, June 8th 6:30 - 8:30pm - Humdingers
 - Tickets - \$40 - includes pizza, water, dessert, 1 hour bowling and 1 hour arcade
 - Next Year- possibly have an 8th Grade Trip in the Fall and a 7th Grade Trip in the Spring.

 - Parent Questions to Administration and Other Discussion:
 - Need for Parent Volunteers
 - Next Year's Incoming Board is working on hosting a Social on July 15h and August 9th. Stay tuned for details.

Meeting was concluded at 10:38 AM
Minutes respectfully submitted by Anne McAskin, Board Secretary