

## Benjamin Franklin Middle School Home and School Association

### Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023

#### Attendees:

Anna Salerno, Claudia Fortunado, Laura Waisnor, Laura McGrath, Valerie Auyeung, Rachael Yang, Devletsah Ozan, Sarah Traband, Jahae Kim

**Zoom Attendees:** Ada Yung, Kristin Massey, Ktanya Schwartzberg, Cinthya Herrera

#### Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM. The BFHSA Co-President Anna Salerno welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The December 2022 minutes were approved. 1<sup>st</sup> Approval- Devletsah Ozcan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Approval- Claudia Fortunado

#### Agenda Items:

- **Principal's Report**

- Student council is starting to prepare for Spirit Week
- Teachers are preparing course recommendations for 8<sup>th</sup> graders heading to RHS in the fall
- Double accelerated math program eligibility being reviewed for 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Q: What does Late Start for RHS mean for BF?  
A: In discussion for rescheduling middle school, one proposal is to eliminate or reduce homeroom given no instruction is taking place
- Special thanks to Paola Nadi for revamping the Media Center at the BF Library
- Q: Will there be better communication update for club cancellation?  
A: Updates to be available online and via messages, but no communication from the school should be expected
- Q: Why is Wikipedia banned on Chromebooks?

- A: Complaints were made by elementary school parents on Wikipedia content and links to external websites
  
- **Student Council Report**
  - No update
  
- **Treasurer's Report (Valerie Auyeung, Laura McGrath)**
  - Sent details for 1099 preparation to the accountant for 4 vendors who received more than \$600 from HSA
  - As of today 57 total of 7<sup>th</sup> graders are signed up for Humdingers
  - 25 books sold for Kelly Yang author visit
  - HSA dues will remain open
  - 198 tickets sold for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Winter Wonderland dance
  - 45 travel mugs sold for flash fundraiser
  
- **President's Report**
  - **Old Business**
    - **Federated meeting**
      - Preparations for next year's budget is underway and there are no reductions planned for staff nor eliminations of programs
      - RHS is currently looking to fill the position left vacant by the loss of assistant principal Basil Pizzuto
      - Work environment for paraprofessionals being discussed to offer same day benefits as salary contract employees
      - Board of Education to review for approval RHS's Late Start for upcoming 2022-2023 school year

- Facilities manager to prioritize capital expenditure needs at RHS including roof repair and need for new water filters
- Tickets for the Harlem Wizards games are sold out (1/25 – 1/26), proceeds to go to mental health programs
- **Cailin Bracken**
  - Cailin was a guest speaker to BF 8<sup>th</sup> graders about mental health, eating disorders, and OCD including asking for help and signs to look for. Kids responded well to the Ridgewood alum.
- **Kelly Young Author Visit**
  - Sold 10 books of her new release, commitment was for 19 sales as compensation for her virtual visit with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders on February 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Her book “Finally Seen” will remain on sale Cheddar Up
- **No Cook Fundraiser (Turmeric Bistro)**
  - Thank you to Rachael Yang for organizing the event
- **New Business**
  - **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mixer**
    - At Humdingers for two hours from 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday February 2nd
    - Cost is \$40 per person and includes arcades, batting cages, laser maze, two slices of pizza and a drink
  - **Super Science Saturday**
    - 35th year anniversary of the event, back in person after virtual events last two years
    - To take place on March 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM – 1:30 PM at RHS
    - Shows to include Science Circus presented by Liberty Science Center, NASA’s ICESAT-2 Mission, Ridgewood Police Fire & EMS

- **STEM Day Volunteers**
  - Parent Volunteers needed for March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:50 – 3:00PM to share STEM related career hobby information with students
- **Winter Concerts**
  - Concerts were a success. There were concerns about attire but everyone looked fantastic
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade: January 12 at 2:00PM
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade band and chorus: January 19 at 7:00PM
  - 7<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band, chorus, and orchestra: January 24 at 7:00PM
- **HSA Communications: Thursday Flyers**
  - Weekly deadline for flyers are Thursday, flyers for non-BF events require approval from superintendent office
- **Drop off Procedure**
  - School is finding hazardous situation from drop offs as cars are idling for 15 minutes in the cutoff. Parents need to stop idling in front of the school
- **Service Initiative**
  - Projects to offer students a chance to serve the homeless, environment, animal, and disability
  - Looking for ideas and feedback programs are not yet fine tuned
  - Email: Claudia Fortunato ([claudiafortunao@gmail.com](mailto:claudiafortunao@gmail.com)), Anna Salerno ([annasalerno@verizon.net](mailto:annasalerno@verizon.net))
- **GW Partnering**
  - Joint apparel sale to meet quotas, add economies of scale
- **Wizards 1/25 and 1/26**
  - Need more volunteers, but no tickets provided

- **Yearbook (ads due 1/20)**
  - First part is to order books, second is to order ads
  - All ads are the same size and the same price
- **Author Visit 2/8 (1/13 orders due)**
  - New release to be on sale until quota of 19 books are met
- **Backpack Committee**
  - Administration offered lockers for 6<sup>th</sup> graders after 2<sup>nd</sup> period
  - However, the kids are not using it due to culture of being locker-less
  - No changes are taking place and concerns of physical ailments remain
- **Open Discussion**
  - BF HSA website has been updated with meeting minutes for the first half of the year

**The meeting was concluded at 10:48 AM**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Jahae Kim, Board Secretary**