

Date: May 27, 2020

Location: ZOOM

Time: 3:45 to 5:25

1) President's Report:

a) Lori Cebelius reported the notes from the highlight from two BOE meetings:

Highlights from April 29th BOE Meeting

- Pathways: New lease was approved; Pathways has variable enrollment (8 Transition students, 5-6 "Pathways" students)
- 2021-2022 School calendar was reviewed; no decisions made (2 options: start before Labor Day or start after Labor Day); Christmas is on a Saturday so break will be shorter

As of this writing of these RHTA minutes the update for the school calendar is the following: They have approved the 2020-2021 calendar change, teachers will return August 31 students on September 8. October 9 and November 3 originally PD days will now be no school days for teachers and students. The last day of school will be June 17, 2021.

- Special Education report – staff has been amazing; majority of students are participating; feedback has been positive
- Financial Report – will end the year with a surplus; restart of school year will be costly due to unknowns
- Budget going to the Town Council May 7th
- COVID School Lunch distribution – free meals started at 160 now at 250 meals per day
- Assistant Superintendent Report – complement to all staff; Interim Learning in full swing; Live sessions beginning
- Technology Report – grades 2-12 have 1:1 chrome books; grade 1 has iPads; K is beginning to get devices (iPads)
- Grading for report cards was reviewed; rationale rejecting pass/fail for grading at secondary level explained (student who gets a 'pass' with a 95% average is very different from a student who gets a 'pass' with an 80% average)
- SDE suspended all state testing (NGSS, SBAC, etc.); AP exams will be on-line from home
- Dr. Zito expressed appreciation for the hard work of teachers, building-based administrators, and central office staff
- Discussion of plans for graduating class – a possible mix of virtual and live event to provide students with memories

- Facilities work on-going during covid shutdown – RHHS: installation of motorized bleachers, gym flooring. West Hill: new shades to replace drapes on large window, painting. Stevens: wall and door frame painting. GMS – painting, new secretarial layout. Moser; warrantee work. All buildings being disinfected daily.
- Chairman expressed gratitude for the fabulous job being done from the top down.

Highlights from May 21st Board of Education Meeting

- Honoring this year's retirements: RHHS – Linda Ceruzzi (science). Moser – Nancy Forte-Dugay (5th grade). Stevens – Mary Laing (Bright Beginnings). Rocky Hill Police Youth Officer – Frank Danahy.
- Announcement – Valedictorian – Connor Choptij. Salutatorian – Krisha Patel
- Curriculum Committee – plan to pilot 7th and 8th grade math program next year
- Facilities Committee – new roof for Stevens submitted to state; ready to begin work on RHHS stairs
- Policy Committee – discussion on hazing policy
- Financial report – there will be a surplus at the end of the year; Town Council cut education budget by \$200 thousand – special committee meeting to come to work through this cut
- Assistant Superintendent report – grateful for teachers' hard work; grading updates sent to families & posted on website; RHHS will offer optional SAT in October to make up for cancelled test due to covid
- Dr. Zito's report – continuing to receive positive feedback on Interim Learning; thank you to teachers, Jahala & Ron (a lot going on); knows how hard everyone is working. Special meeting to be held for adoption of long-range goals for Board of Education
 - *DISCUSSION – next year's calendar – may have to adjust dependent upon how the situation with covid develops; possibility of having students start after Labor Day with frontloading of 5 out of 6 Professional Development days for teachers

b) Michelle Bartha has received communication back from our insurance rep who was looking into the cost increase. He indicated that while the cost increase was steep, it was justified.

2) Committee News:

- a) Treasurer's report: Next year's budget was voted on and accepted.
- b) Grievance Committee New-no active grievances
- c) Membership report-the membership list will be updated for the fall to include new teachers
- d) Social Committee- the RHTA Fall Social will be determined on a later date dependent on the start of the school year.

3) Elections: As we posted on the RHTA website on May 3,

Due to circumstances pertaining to the coronavirus and social distancing, RHTA would like to not hold officer elections this year. Instead we would like to keep things as they are and hold elections next year. If this proves to be unacceptable to you please contact your school representative. If we do not hear any objections by May 15th we will proceed accordingly.

Since there was no objection to the above statement, a motion was made to retain the same officers for the 2020-2021 school year. A second motion was made in agreement. Your officers have been kept the same for the 2020-2021 school year.

RHTA Officers for 2020-2021 are:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Co-President | Lori Cebelius (Stevens) |
| Co-President | Michelle Bartha (GMS) |
| Vice President | Kirsten Hassett (Moser) |
| Secretary | Adele Gali (RHHS) |
| Treasurer | Brie Mangiaracina (RHHS) |

- 4) **Building Reps.** Thank you to Nancy Forte-Dugay who has been served her RH teachers at Stevens then Moser as a building rep. Nancy is retiring from teaching 5th grade. The new Moser building rep will be Carissa Lastrina.

RHTA Building reps for 2020-2021 are

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| RHHS Rep | Dave Fortier & Doug Russell |
| GMS Rep | Karla Harding & Laura Litke |
| Stevens Rep | Laura Montgomery & Thomas Cassello |
| West Hill Rep | Liz Tuttle and Marra Whaley |
| Moser School | Carissa Lastrina & Heidi Kokoska |

Other RHTA positions 2020-2021:

Grievance Chair
Membership Chair
Web Master

Brian Schlosser at RHHS
Sarah Sherman (Moser)
Laura Litke (GMS)

5) New Business:

a) Status of the Stipend Negotiations:

The committee was actually on a path toward completion of the negotiations when the COVID situation came up. Dr. Zito got approval to table the negotiations until this crisis is over. The 20-21 year stipends will most likely remain the same. Once the stipend committee reconvenes and a final resolution is obtained, the stipends will potentially go into effect the next school year.

b) Annual Wage Agreement:

They are mailing out contracts to sign or doing it through email to return

c) Paychecks

- The last paycheck for teachers for the 2019-2020 school year for teachers will be June 12
- The first paycheck for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year will be August 21, 2020.
- A note about your paycheck in May: While your 3rd paycheck of a month usually does not take out for TRB, this one did because payroll divides our TRB contributions amongst 20 paychecks, two per month, Sept-June. This June, there is only one paycheck, so TRB was taken from the 3rd paycheck of May to make up for the lack of a second paycheck in June. This was the 19th paycheck from which they took your TRB contribution. The 20th TRB contribution will be taken from your June 12 paycheck.

- d) **RHTA's yearly \$100 contribution to Project Graduation:** this year will not be put towards the party, but towards photography costs.

~Be sure to check the RHTA website regularly so you will be up-to-date with what school will look like in the fall~

School news

West Hill School: Two West Hill students will be going to Nationals for their Invention Convention work!

Shrirang Danve, Grade 3- West Hill

Invention Name: Cozy Helmet

Description: Shrirang was tired of going on bike rides in the winter and having the cold air cause pain to his ears. Therefore, Shrirang created a helmet with earmuffs attached that will protect people's ears and allow them to ride their bikes during the cold weather months comfortably.

Juliet May, Grade 3- West Hill

Invention Name: Cubes 4 All

Description: Juliet felt that it was unfair that some people with disabilities are unable to play with Rubix Cubes. Therefore, Juliet created different versions of Rubix Cubes that have been adapted for people who are blind or have low vision using Braille, Bright Colors, or Textures.

Rocky Hill High School:

Valedictorian: Connor Choptij

Salutatorian: Krisha Patel

RHHS CABE Award Winners: Elizabeth Stockman, Brandon Onyejekwe

Rocky Hill Teachers' Association Scholarship: Maya Salamone

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