



RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Education Committee of the Whole Meeting (NOTES)

Monday, October 23, 2017 Agenda
7 pm
Community Room

I. Call to Order – 7:01 PM

In attendance were Board Members Laura McGready, Lisa Malicki, and Chris O'Leary; Jennifer Kelsall, superintendent and Chris Uhle, principal.

II. R-Gen 2.0 (Students)

Justin Gates and a group of five students were present to discuss their experiences (to date) in R-Gen 2.0. Justin began by explaining the overall concept of the program which focused on provided supports for a personalized, student driven experience. Justin projected the R-Gen schedule, which highlighted workshop and seminar time, offered in a college format. Justin also showcased the key components of the program, including the student portfolio, passion project, and graduation by defense (students will present to the superintendent, principal, R-Gen staff, and parents to defend their readiness to earn their diploma). The program has doubled in size for the 17-18 school year. Justin also discussed the TMA cohort, which is housed in R-Gen. Lastly, each student spoke about their individual experience (which cannot be recreated through words). The student highlights included: choice, flexibility, senior instructional leadership core classes, self-paced, TMA, personalized learning, passion projects, internships.

III. Project Lead the Way (Eric Lasky)

Eric Lasky was pleased to announce that Ridgewood will be offering STEM dual credit for the 18-19 school year.

Part one of the presentation focused on the STEM initiative with districts 80 and 86. Three Union Ridge students (Angela, Pat, and Matt) were in attendance to discuss their project, which focused on designing walking implements to assist and support kids with cerebral palsy. The students presented on the design process, the materials used to create their prototype, the testing and redesigning process, the research, and reflection. Each student expressed their satisfaction with the project and enjoyed working hands on with a team. They also expressed how the design challenge forced them to think differently.

Next, two RHS students discussed their toy solar car project. The students were given a solar car and asked to make it more efficient. They had to

first diagnose all of the issues and then make modifications. A few of the modifications include converting the car to rear-wheel drive, moving the solar panel to the top of the car, and creating their own parts using the 3D printer. They are still working on some challenges including designing the motor mount. They are also about their next project, creating a mini-drone.

The next presentation was also from RHS, as a student described her Unabox project or puzzle box project. She utilized 3D modeling software for the design and then print her materials using the 3D printer. She also laser cut wood to include in the design. She expressed most of her difficulties were measuring and getting all of her pieces to fit perfectly.

We also had a student present her basswood truss bridge. The student and teacher (Derek Caepart) discussed the beauty and perfection of the bridge. The student utilized such skills and drawing, planning, and the trial and error process to build her perfect bridge. She spoke about utilizing math concepts to lead her through the design process and also studied forces on different bridge designs.

Lastly, we had a passionate RHS student present on "GAgET" (girls in engineering). She discussed her experience in Triton's summer program which encourages students to create personalized, student driven projects. She is currently mentoring in the program and would like RHS to be a host site this summer for the program.

- IV. Other Matters That May Properly Come Before the Committee**
- V. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
- VI. Adjourned – 8:51 PM**

Submitted by: Chris Uhle

APPROVED:

Lisa Malicki, Secretary

Laura McGready

Chris O'Leary