

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: October 18, 2016 at 1:15pm
TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BOARD MEMBERS: Alvarado, Beiersdorf, Boucher, Briganti, Carr, Chudy, Colm, Coviello, Daffron, DiBenedetto, Dolich, Dowling, Fiol, Flynn, Gaglioti, Ginn, Gudmann, Harrington, Harris, Haskins, Holder, Hong, Hutchinson, Kahn J., Kahn A., Katzman, Killeen, Kim, Kong, Kuenzler, Langheim, Latimer, Linnington, McCarthy, Micale, Moelk, Monte, Neumann, Nixon, O'Keefe, Perrin, Plumley, Reilly, Rosenberg, Rubenstein, Sachs, Sharma, Sorabella, Spinello, Springer, Stephens, Stoehr, Teller, Tudda, Wallace, Zachariah

PRESENT: Zachariah, Fiol, Briganti, Langheim, Boucher, Kuenzler, Perrin, Gurbuxani, Harris, Hutchinson, Rubenstein

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Chudy, Beiersdorf, Spinello, Linnington, Latimer, Neumann, Colm, Stoehr, Katzman, Flynn, Coviello, Holder, Kim, Carr, Teller, Kong, Ginn, Harrington, Daffron, Plumley

GUESTS: Dr. Daniel Fishbein, Stacie Poelstra, Jennie Smith Wilson

Motions:

- 1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the September 20, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
- 2. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of October 18, 2016 and the 2016/2017 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.**

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Heather Zachariah

Heather Zachariah, H.S.A. President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:18 pm.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Daniel Fishbein

Dr. Daniel Fishbein conducted a presentation in the meeting regarding the benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten (K). Stacie Poelstra, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Jennie Smith Wilson, Board Ed representative were present at the meeting to support Dr. Fishbein.

Listed below is a recap of the presentation:

The Ridgewood Board of Education conducted studies of the benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten (K) and assembled the results together. All information can be found on our district website at <http://www.ridgewood.k12.nj.us>.

What is the purpose of Kindergarten?

- To prepare students academically.
- To increase socialization. Allow the children to have more time to play in make believe scenarios with each other.
- To discover learning.
- To allow kids to learn more about themselves.

Current/ Future status of Kindergarten:

We are in a highly structured classroom and would like it to be a little less structured.

Studies done to support Full-Day Kindergarten

- Demographic Study
- Facility Study
- Feasibility Study
- Survey with community
- Worked with teachers and looked at best practices

Overall Findings of Studies included the following:

- We do have the space in our buildings for Full-Day Kindergarten because of a decrease in enrollment. Districts around us have also seen a decrease in enrollment. This is cyclical.
- There is not much cost for upgrading the classrooms to meet the State requirements.
- The biggest expense to the district will be staffing and supply needs. Staffing will be about \$750K per year. To do the upgrades to the classrooms, we will need an additional \$180K.
- The total cost is \$111/ yr. per average assessed home.
- Teachers feel that the current program is rushed and that the full-day K gives the kids more time in centers.
- Currently, 71% of kids in our district participate in a second enrichment program in the Kindergarten year.
- 73% of 2,365 people surveyed said they were in favor of full-day K.
- Full-Day Kindergarten is a best practice. We are the only remaining district in Bergen County without a full-day option for Kindergarten parents.

A summary sheet listing the benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/Full-day-K-research-findings>. Highlights of the Summary Sheet include the following:

- There is a big area of gain in the additional unstructured play time to experiment and explore through play.
- Data shows that reading and mathematics achievement skills are greater with full-day K.
- Five-year-old children are more than capable of handling full-day K.
- Teachers get to know the students better and can identify any learning challenges early.
- There is more time for kids to ask questions of their teachers.

Process Going Forward

There will be a question on the November 8, 2016 ballot asking for additional funding for this program, Full-Day K.

If we get approved, we could get the facilities in order in the spring and summer, hire staff, develop programs, and have the new teachers attend new teacher orientation program. The program would commence in Sept 2017.

Questions from the audience

1. What if we need additional facilities to accommodate a growing population as the years go by?
Answer from Dr. Fishbein: We would have to put the funds requested on a ballot to be voted on.
2. Do we have a plan B if the vote doesn't pass?
Answer from Dr. Fishbein: We will address it if needed.

Principal's Report

Jean Schoenlank

Jean was not present for her report; however, she did share her updates through the monthly Ridge Report.

Important Dates

October

10/24	Circus Week
10/28	7pm Circus Show
10/31	1:00pm Halloween Parade

November

11/10-11	No School
11/15	Book Fair All Day
	1:15pm HSA Board Mtg.
11/16	9-11am Parent Visitation
11/17	9-12pm 1st gr Colonial Craft Day

President's Report

Heather Zachariah

Heather thanked everyone for their support on Back to School Night. Heather did get positive feedback regarding the Friends of Ridge Campaign.

Playground equipment

The Playground Spinner has been fixed.

Replacement of Teacher Microphones

HSA purchased 3 replacement microphones for the teachers.

Upcoming Events

- The first Wellness series event will be held at George Washington Middle School tonight. The topic is "Fostering Family Closeness & Respect".
- Circus week is coming up next week. The 4th graders will have their performance on Friday, October 28.
- The Halloween parade will be held on Monday, October 31 at 1 pm. The children can go home for lunch to change into their costumes.
- Jean and the principal of Somerville Elementary, Dr. Lorna Oates-Santos will be hosting a seminar on Mindfulness on November 15 at 7 pm in the Somerville School. Beth Sandweiss will be talking about how to be present and how to reduce stress in kids.

Vice President's Report

Maria Hutchinson

Enrichment Update

- The circus will take place on October 28. This is a Friends of Ridge (FOR) sponsored event.
- Second graders will have the Bats Stock Project which is about migration and the importance of bats.
- Kindergarten will have a Yoga Program in November.

Friends of Ridge Campaign

- The first letters for starting the fundraising campaign will be going out after the directories are distributed. Maria will be working to put this letter together.
- Heather is going to put a Friends of Ridge Update in Enews. In addition, we are considering making a push for the campaign on Parent Visitation Day.

Playground Update

There are additional repairs that are needed for the blacktop such as replacing the rotten wooden beams of the zip line. The parts have been ordered.

Other

The cost of the three microphones was \$3075.

Secretary's Report

Alyssa Fiol

Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the September 20, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Maureen Kuenzler

A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of October 18, 2016, and the 2016/2017 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

Financial Statement Update

- The Bake sale on Bingo Night made \$350.
- We made \$2000 on ads for the directory.
- We took \$50 out of the Bill Ward fund for a child who wants to take an art class.

Financial Audit Update from Rebecca Rubenstein

We conduct a financial statement audit every 5 years based on the recommendation by our accountant. The results of this past audit were that we have good financials. Rebecca will put the financial statement up on the Front board in the school.

Planning and Development's Report

Jen Boucher

Retail Sales Fundraisers Update

- We are halfway through the wrapping paper fundraiser.
- Box tops are due this Friday. The classes that collect the most box tops win a popcorn party.
- We are still struggling the Stop N Shop program – only 49 families enrolled. Jen will check to see if we have to re-enroll yearly.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Caren Langheim

Open and filled positions 2016-2017

- Caren will follow up to see if we have gotten additional red zone volunteers.
- Tic Toc
 - Caroline Perrin, parent rep from Tic Toc, mentioned that there will be a survey coming out in an email about the Tic Toc Program. The survey will be brief, only two minutes to complete.
- LSHSA
 - Geeta Gurbuxani, parent rep from LSHSA, addressed the board and discussed the following issues:
 - Parent enrollment is going up in the LSHSA group.

- There will be a brainstorming session regarding kids who have issues with reading and writing. Julie Hamon will coordinate the brainstorming session and present the findings to the district.
- LSHSA offers a scholarship of \$1000 for someone who is helping a special needs kid(s) or the learning disabled. If interested, please contact Geeta Gurbuxani.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Fiol

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 1:15pm in the Teacher's Lounge.