

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MEETING DATE: November 15, 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, Hutchinson, Plumley

**ABSENT BUT VOTING:** Chudy, Beiersdorf, Spinello, Linnington, Latimer, Neumann, Stoehr, Katzman, Flynn, Coviello, Holder, Carr, Teller, Kong, Ginn, Harrington, Daffron, Rosenberg, Springer, Sharma, Harris, Sachs, Daffron, Nixon, McCarthy, Micale, Rubenstein

**Motions:**

1. **A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 18, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
2. **A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 15, 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 1:24 pm.

**Principal's Report**

Jean Schoenlank

*Executive Board and Meeting Attendees Visit Classrooms to View New Spanish Curriculum*

Jean notified the board and meeting attendees that we would be visiting classrooms, 4D and 5O to view the children working on the new Spanish Curriculum from the "Middlebury Interactive Languages Program".

Jean talked briefly about the goal of the new curriculum which is to give the children in grades 2-5 exposure to Spanish for 30 minutes a week with a focus on vocabulary through stories and games. She discussed that some advantages of the program are that it is interactive, and it allows the children to move at their own pace.

The board and meeting attendees enjoyed visiting the classrooms to see the software package in action. This new curriculum is an improvement over our previous Spanish Curriculum which included Rosetta Stone for the older children and videos for the younger children.

### PARCC Results

Jean presented the 2015/2016 Ridge PARCC results to the board which included the following:

- Jean's main goals for the PARCC testing are "Are we keeping pace within the District and are our children improving from year to year?"
- For 2016, in Grade 3, Ridge scores in both categories of English and Language Arts/ Literacy (781) and Mathematics (783) were above Ridgewood's overall scores (778/779). Likewise, Ridgewood's overall scores in English and Language Arts/ Literacy and Mathematics (778/779) were above the State average (746/750).
- From years 2015 to 2016, from grades 3 to 4, the ELA/L (English and Language Arts/ Literacy) overall score went up for Ridge from 768 to 778.
- Ridge's overall score also went up from year 2015 to 2016 from grade 4 to grade 5 in mathematics (767/ 772).
- Jean concluded that overall Ridge is performing well in a strong district.

### Community Outreach Programs:

Upcoming community outreach programs:

- Wednesday, November 16, "There and Back: A Personal Story of Addiction and Recovery"
- Tuesday, December 6, "How, When and Why to Talk to Your Kids about Money"
- Tuesday, January 10, "Just Talk About It: A Suicide Prevention Program"

### Mindfulness in the Schools - Presentation Tonight at Somerville Elementary at 7 pm.

Jean talked about how schools are excited about mindfulness because it finds that it calms down not only adults but children as well.

Last Month, Beth Sandweiss conducted a presentation about the benefits of mindfulness to the Somerville and Ridge faculties. The presentation was well received, and Ms. Sandweiss will be presenting a similar presentation for our parents at Somerville Elementary at 7 pm tonight, November 15. Jean is looking forward to seeing our parents attend tonight's presentation.

In addition, in support of mindfulness, this month we are reading the book, “Lemonade Hurricane” which is about a girl who is very calm and a boy who is not.

Next month, Jean will visit every classroom to talk about breathing and how the children can use it to calm themselves down.

## **President’s Report**

Heather Zachariah

### Important Dates

#### *November*

11/16 Parent Visitation, 9-11 am  
Book Fair, 8:30am -3:30pm  
Wellbeing Series: “There and Back: A Personal Story of Addiction and Recovery.”, 7pm, GW Middle School  
11/17 1st Grade Colonial Craft Day, 9-12pm  
Book Fair, 8:30am -3:30pm  
11/23 Early Dismissal 12:45pm  
11/24-25 No School

#### *December*

12/2 Holiday Show, 9:30&1:30  
12/6 Author Visit: Chris Grabenstein  
12/9 5th Grade Met Visit  
12/12 5th Grade Met Visit  
12/13 Spelling Bee  
12/15 Spelling Bee  
12/16 Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
12/26-Jan 1 December Recess

No HSA Meeting this month

## **Vice President’s Report**

Maria Hutchinson

### Enrichment Update

- All enrichment programs are scheduled.
- Kindergarten just finished up their Yoga Program.
- Last week the second graders had a presentation on Bats.
- Joe Lennox is scheduled for the third graders in January.
- The fourth graders attended Circus Week in October.

### Friends of Ridge Campaign

Maria noted that 25 families have already donated a total of \$4,025. We are at 7 ½ percent campaign participation. This is a great start for the Friends of Ridge Campaign.

## **Secretary's Report**

Alyssa Fiol

**Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 18, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**

- Motion was approved by Jen Boucher and seconded by Maria Hutchinson.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Maureen Kuenzler

**A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 15, 2016, and the 2016/2017 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.**

- Motion was approved by Caren Langheim and seconded by Maria Hutchinson.

## Financial Statement Update

- We paid \$2800 for the final playground repair of the zip line.
- We made \$2000 on ads for the directory.

## **Planning and Development's Report**

Jen Boucher

## Retail Sales Fundraisers Update

- We conducted our second pizza fusion fundraiser.

## **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Caren Langheim

## Update

- The Book Fair is occurring today.
- The upcoming volunteer activity is the LEAP program (Lunchtime Enrichment Activity Program), occurring January 9 – February 3. Information will be going out in an email about LEAP. This program is dependent on parents who volunteer their time to a particular theme or class.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Fiol

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

**NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 1:15pm in the Teacher's Lounge.**