

**RIDGE H.S.A. INC.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 at 1:15 pm  
TEACHERS' LOUNGE**

**BOARD MEMBERS:** *Albano, Ardito, Beiersdorf, Bender, Bosch, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Bruno, Chudy, Daffron, DeVincenzo, Dowling, Flynn, Freeley, Gershenson, Gross, Harris, Holder, Hong, Kahn, Katzman, Killeen, Kong, Kupiec, Langheim, Lindenberg, Long, Losquadro, Maltin, McCarthy, Minetti, Monte, Muselli, Nadeau, Neuman, Patrawala, Pilchik, Sandora, Seyfried-Clark, Singh, Sorabella, Steketee, Stephens, Strohmenger, Sullivan, Tobaccowala, Twilliger, Wall, Wallace, Williams, Wright*

**PRESENT:** *Dowling, Flynn, Gershenson, Minetti, Monte, Patrawala, Kong, Langheim, Maltin, Neuman, Singh, Barnstable-Brown, Orellana, DeAngelis, Konzelman*

**ABSENT BUT VOTING:** *Albano, Beiersdorf, Bender, Briganti, Chudy, Freeley, Gershenson, Holder, Hong, Katzman, Kupiec, Lindenberg, Pilchik, Sandora, Strohmenger, Twilliger, Wallace*

**Motions:**

1. **A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 11 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
2. **A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Statement of Financial Position as of September 17, 2019 and the 2019/2020 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.**

**WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Barbara Dowling

Barbara Dowling, H.S.A. President, thanked everyone for attending and called the meeting to order at 1:22 pm. Barbara introduced the board and said they've had a busy start to the year. She thanked the Social Committee (Kristen Daffron, Meaghan Nadeau, and Miriam Steketee) for a job well done at the first day of school welcome breakfast.

**President's Report**

Barbara Dowling

Important Dates

**September**

9/17 – HSA Public Meeting (1:15 pm)  
9/19 – New Family Coffee (9:00 am)  
9/20 – Frosty Friday  
9/25 – Photo Day  
9/27 – Frosty Friday

**October**

10/2 – Photo Day Rain Date  
10/7 – Week of Respect  
10/14 – Professional Development Day  
10/15 – Executive Board Meeting (1:00 pm)  
10/18 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch  
10/18 – Bingo Night (7:00 pm)  
10/22 – H.S.A. Public Meeting (1:15 pm)  
10/31 – Halloween Parade (1:00 pm)

### Fall Fundraisers

Barbara explained that the H.S.A. raises funds for programs and events. The Family Picnic was a great success and netted approximately \$4200 (\$550 more than last year, beyond goal of \$2800). This was made possible by volunteers and parents. Thank you to Picnic Chairs Caren Langheim and Garima Singh; baking chair Lauren Kupiec; and Kerry DeVincenzo in charge of gift baskets. There were too many parent volunteers to name—they set up, cleaned up, sold tickets, etc. Thank you also to Bernadette and Pat Riley (owners of the Fireplace Restaurant on Rt. 17) who generously donated all the hot dogs. New this year at the picnic: a lemonade stand and lots of 7<sup>th</sup> grade Ridge alumni volunteers.

### Ridgewear

Barbara said we started selling Ridgewear on September 5. This year we are trying an online format instead of pop-up shops. The online store is found on our website [ridgehsa.org](http://ridgehsa.org) and also linked in Enews. The store closes Sept 30 when selling ends for the year (unless surplus items are available). Ridgewear is great for showing school spirit—for R.O.C. assemblies and on Ridge spirit days. We have cute new designs that you can personalize with your child's name. We will have a table out front on select days (listed on website) so you can check out sample sizes before ordering (not the exact designs but the actual product in terms of fabric and sizes).

### Wrapping Paper

Barbara said we are selling today through October 15. Packets were sent home showing all goods available for sale. There is a holiday shop with gift wrap and food items. Last year we tried an online format. This year we brought back the promotional packet in backpacks. You can order online through the vendor or on the order sheet sent home.

### School Directory

Barbara explained that this is another fundraiser. This year we will use an online format; previously we had printed directories. The Federated H.S.A. board voted last year to move to an online format to save trees and also for the convenience of accessing it from phones, computers, or any other devices. Online directories can be purchased for \$25 which also includes H.S.A. dues. There will be a link in Enews when they are available. Federated H.S.A. is working with Mobilearq and hopes the directories will be ready by the end of September. It will include useful information such as lists of teachers, committee chairs, family contact information, and the school calendar. It's an indispensable tool—a great way to connect with other families, plan playdates, carpool, volunteer, etc.

### Website

Barbara said the H.S.A. has a beautiful website created by Mindy Muselli, a Ridge parent and Web designer with many years of experience. It's user friendly and provides important information: events, gala tickets, volunteer opportunities, the H.S.A. store, how to donate—please check it out.

Enews is the best way to stay informed about what's going on at Ridge: volunteer opportunities, events, etc. It comes out every Tuesday afternoon; to sign up to volunteer, click on links where help is requested.

### Other Updates

- Red Zone still needs volunteers in both mornings and afternoons. This year we lost about 30% of the volunteers (because of students graduating) and it can't function without them. Please contact Mark Bruno to sign up.
- New Family Coffee is this Thursday. It's a nice way to meet people and learn about the school in a small setting. Dr. Schoenlank, Ashely Minetti, and Barbara will be there.
- Frosty Fridays are a favorite H.S.A. fundraiser (2 in fall and 2 in spring).

### **Principal's Report**

Dr. Schoenlank

Dr. Schoenlank explained that at H.S.A. meetings she shares information about what's going on at school. The theme for this year will be "choose to be nice." Each class has signed the "choose to be nice" banner. Our new guidance counselor Lindsay Rubin was there to welcome students and make sure that they understood what they were signing, that they were pledging to do their very best. No one is perfect but we are aiming for everyone to choose to be nice.

Lindsay Rubin has also visited almost every class to explain what her job is since she's our first guidance counselor. She will eventually have a box on her door for students to leave notes about any concerns. She has sought out new students so they have someone they can come to for help and to listen to concerns. We are enjoying working with her and excited for what her presence will mean for the school.

We will continue read aloud books of the month. The H.S.A. has purchased nine books. The book for this month is *Your Fantastic Elastic Brain* with informational text on what your brain does. Kids benefit from understanding how their brains work and what the different parts do. The discussion can be tailored for each age group. It explains that there is a part of the brain that controls emotions, which is an important part of what makes us unique. It also explains that the brain is "elastic" and can be stretched. This helps put kids in a growth mindset, understanding that there's no such thing as "You're smart, you're not"—which is not a healthy way to look at life. We discourage kids and parents from making finite statements like "I'm terrible at this" because it sends the wrong message to kids. Instead they can understand that they are in charge of their own brain.

The teachers read *Grit* over the summer. The message is along the same lines—that we all have our strengths but talent alone only takes you so far. It takes hard work along with natural skill. This is a great message for kids especially at the beginning of the year.

The first week in October is the Week of Respect. New Jersey mandated HIB 6-7 years ago. Every school has a Week of Respect to highlight the importance of respect and what a difference it can make.

We have ROC assemblies once a month. At the last one on Friday we discussed the brain book and watched a short video about kindness. We also talked to each grade about the HIB policy, tailoring the discussion to the age group. We explained that there are rules in place and that every child is protected. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are not tolerated. At Ridge we spend more time being proactive (such as through books of the month and ROC assemblies) to set a positive tone. We also discussed the difference between conflict and bullying. Conflict will occur in school; it's a part of life. We help students learn how to work through it. This all goes into the first few weeks of school when we establish routines.

Flyers were distributed for the well-being series. To raise awareness about anxiety, the documentary "Angst" will be shown next Wednesday during the day at the Ed Center and at GW at night. Information is on the district website. Unfortunately, we are seeing more kids with anxiety; this is a symptom of what is happening around us, not just social media. Kids are the same but the world around them is changing. Dr. Schoenlank encouraged everyone to attend the film and asked if there were any questions.

Dr. Schoenlank explained that she follows up every H.S.A. meeting with the "Ridge Report" which is an email that recaps what she covers in the meeting. In it she will include a link to the kindness video.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Ashley Minetti

Ashley explained that the Friends of Ridge campaign raises supplemental funds to fund programs that are not covered by the Board of Education. This includes different activities throughout the year, such as kindergarten chicks and beekeepers in previous years. The goal this year is to raise almost \$19,000. A fundraising letter will be sent to families next month. Tara Briganti is working with teachers to determine this year's activities; they will look at costs and check the budget.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Tasneem Patrawala

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Statement of Financial Position as of September 17, 2019 and the 2019/2020 Year-to-Date Profit & Loss Statement.**

- Motion was made by Ashley Minetti and seconded by Lana Monte.

#### Statement of Financial Position

Tasneem explained the three accounts listed and said they are all doing quite well.

- The **Bill Ward Fund** helps families in need. Parents are free to donate any amount to the fund. The fund is at \$20,112.
- The **Operating** account is the main account of the H.S.A. and is at \$25,134.
- The **Savings** account is the buffer for unforeseen expenses such as playground repairs and is at \$35,325.

### Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

Tasneem explained that the first side of the sheet lists revenues (events from which we hope to earn revenue). In September most events have not happened yet, so the second column does not have a lot in it. The fifth column lists the 2019/20 Budget. We compare the two columns to see where we stand. She noted the following:

- **Family Picnic** netted \$4200 but this is not included on the sheet because there is a lag between the event and when it shows up on the P & L (about a week). The \$25,000 does not include this; we have \$4200 more in the bank.
- **Membership Directory** revenues are at \$800 because we have received some sponsors: Clemente Orthodontics, East Coast Burger, Ridgewood Performing Arts, and Code Ninjas of Midland Park.
- **School Supplies** received a check for \$1509. We make 10% of whatever SchoolKidz makes.

### Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

Tasneem explained that this sheet lists all the expenses for year. The third column is the budget and the second column is YTD expenses. She noted the following:

- **Administrative Supplies** is at \$865 (cost of poster printer cartridges)
- **Choose to be Nice** at \$670
- **FOR** bought books for ROC at \$1067
- **Gala** deposit at the Terrace was \$500
- **Family Picnic** made a huge profit this year. The Rileys donated hot dogs and we did not need rental equipment this year (hot dog and popcorn machines). The lemonade stand also helped.
- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Float** expenses are part of the previous budget and don't show up here. They are at \$1719 (\$250 driver for float, insurance \$312, T-shirts \$626; Kuiken donated \$600 of lumber and supplies. We stayed within \$1800 budget.)

So far things are going well with the Family Picnic and school supplies netting more than their budgets.

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

Kerry DeVincenzo

Barbara said that Kerry was not able to attend the meeting. She explained that Kerry was in charge of organizing the raffle baskets for the picnic and is also working on the gala auction committee with four others. They have a meeting tomorrow and will provide an update at the October H.S.A. meeting.

Ashley said if anyone has anything to donate or knows of anyone who does, please reach out to Barbara or Kerry. Barbara said that an email blast was sent last week with a save-the-date for the gala and a request for one-of-a-kind items such as sports tickets or vacation homes, as well as gift cards or other donations.

### **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Mark Bruno

Barbara said that Mark was not able to attend the meeting. She encouraged parents to contact Mark to volunteer for the Red Zone and any other H.S.A. volunteer opportunities.

### **Secretary's Report**

Danielle Flynn

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 11, 2019 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**

- Motion was made by Ashely Minetti and seconded by Tasneem Patrawala.

Danielle read three thank you notes:

- Peggy Quinlan thanked the H.S.A. for the generous gift.
- Marty (crossing guard at Monroe & West Ridgewood) thanked the H.S.A. for the generous gift.
- Carly thanked Carla for making the Teacher-Tailored program by SchoolKidz a success at Ridge.

### Fifth Grade Encampment

Barbara opened up the floor for discussion about Encampment and said there was question about whether it was going forward. Dr. Schoenlank said that it is in flux and that they are working on it. Caroline Neuman said that there has been some confusion; kids have heard it's on, others think it's off.

Dr. Schoenlank explained that they are planning to do something special but that it will be different from how it's been done in the past because of limitations with people and equipment. She said that they are being creative.

Caroline offered an idea. She said that George Washington Middle School used to do a 7<sup>th</sup> grade unit on the Civil War but that the curriculum had changed. Tic Toc representatives had the idea to bring this to the grade school level because they already have Civil War collections. Caroline asked if there was some way to bring this to Ridge, either to the whole school or Grades 3-5.

Dr. Schoenlank said she knows Encampment is a special event and that she was one of the three teachers who started it 25 years ago. She said they are working on continuing to have a special event and that there is a lot of time this year to plan it.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Danielle Flynn  
Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

**\*\*The next H.S.A. meeting is Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 1:15 pm in the Teachers' Lounge.\*\***