

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
SEPT 15, 2020 at 1:30 pm
ZOOM MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS: *Albano, Barnstable, Beiersdorf, Bender, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Bruno, Constantinople, Crosly, Das, Daffron, DeVincenzo, Dilman, Di Maio, Flynn, Geller, Goldberg, Gross, Harris, Hoag, Holder, Katzman, Koehler, Kong, Kraljic, Kuiken, Kupiec, Lindenberg, Long, Losquadro, McGirr, Minetti, Monte, Muselli, Patrawala, Reilly, Rubine, Salmon-Herrmann, Sezgin, Singh, Strohmenger, Sullivan, Tobaccowala, Twilliger, Wall, Wesner, Whitehead, Williams, Wilson*

PRESENT: *Di Maio, Goldberg, Kong, Minetti, Monte, Wesner, Whitehead*

ABSENT BUT VOTING: *Albano, Barnstable, Beiersdorf, Bender, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Bruno, Constantinople, Crosly, Das, Daffron, DeVincenzo, Dilman, Flynn, Geller, Gross, Harris, Hoag, Holder, Katzman, Koehler, Kong, Kraljic, Kuiken, Kupiec, Lindenberg, Long, Losquadro, McGirr, Muselli, Patrawala, Reilly, Rubine, Salmon-Herrmann, Sezgin, Singh, Strohmenger, Sullivan, Tobaccowala, Twilliger, Wall, Williams, Wilson*

MOTIONS:

1. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 16, 2020 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 15, 2020 and the 2020/2021 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.*

Welcome & Call to Order

Ashley Minetti

Ashley Minetti, H.S.A. President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

Ridge Report

-Dr. Schoenlank will send out the Ridge Report after the HSA meeting later this week, letting people know what she spoke about at the meeting for those who cannot attend.

Social and Emotional Learning

-Dr. Schoenlank would like to talk to everyone about what we are doing as a school to foster social and emotional development and learning and community building.

-There are several angles we are coming from. We will continue to tell the kids we are "A Choose To Be Nice" School, we took the pledge, continue to send out reminders and will send out postcards as well to the kids when they are doing kind and nice things.

-The theme of the year is Circle Of Friends which means being nice and being inclusive. We are a big circle of friends and we are one community

-Our guidance counselor this year is Lily Rubin. This is her 2nd year at Ridge. Mrs. Rubin is familiar with a lot of the kids now, and our school. She is still only at Ridge half time because she is also at Orchard Elementary School. However, we just worked out a schedule, so now she will be at Ridge 2 days in a row so she can see all the A and B students and then go to Orchard for 2 days in a row as well. Mrs. Rubin is also available to support the fully remote kids. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned Mrs. Rubin is a very important part of our social and emotional building we have at Ridge.

-HIB (Harassment Intimidation Bullying policy- Dr. Schoenlank said this is something we need to review with parents and students every year by law. Tragically, 10 years ago, Tyler Calmenty who was a Ridgewood resident died by suicide. It kicked off this movement in the state of NJ, where the government and Department of Education got involved and they created the HIB policy, and made all kinds of rules around it. Now we have an anti-bullying specialist, who is our social worker, as well as a safety team in place who we meet with several times a year. We also honor, which every school in New Jersey does, a week of respect, which is the first week of October. Dr. Schoenlank says, it's not as if you will be respectful to each other just the first week of October, but it's a week to highlight the importance of treating each other with respect. We will have our 1st ROC assembly October 9th. Normally, Dr. Schoelank would have a ROC assembly in September but with everything going on, she wants to ease her way back into things.

Book of the Month

-Read Aloud Books have already kicked off. HSA has always been very supportive of this program. There are two really good books to start the month with, and thanks to the HSA support we have a book for every month except February which is One School One Book. Dr. Schoenlank says having these books, is a really important way to communicate the message to students every month and make sure we are rallying around this idea, we are one community, and we must take care of each other

-There are 2 books this month

-The Day You Begin- this is about how you can feel so different sometimes and you might feel like you stand out because you look different or act different but really, you're not so different.

-Let's Talk About Race- a really good book that Dr. Schoenlank pre-recorded and sent out to the teachers. Teachers are having the kids listen to it this week, and completing a project that will fill up our big bulletin boards. The project involves everyone coloring their own fish. Dr. Schoenlank thinks this book is important because it sounds like it could be heavy and serious but it is really not. It is basically saying that we are all human beings and our bodies are made up the same way. What is different is the color of our skin, the color of our hair, the texture of our hair, the religion we are, what we like, what we do not like. Our stories are all different but underneath we are all the same. She thinks this book really presents itself to young children in a beautifully explained way.

Other Updates

-Dr. Schoenlank mentioned we are still having morning meetings, whether kids are in school or are remote. The meetings are more for when they are in school, not so much when they are home because the teachers have to pay attention to the kids that are in front of them. For the hybrid model we have a morning meeting every other morning and in the fully remote model, they have a morning meeting every morning. Dr. Schoenlank states that the morning meeting is an opportunity to build classroom community and for the teachers to get to know the kids. It is also a part of the responsive classroom program that we are using. An open circle which brings out concepts from open circle which is our form of social emotional curriculum. Teachers bring lessons from open circle into the morning meetings. All of the elementary schools in town have a huge focus on social and emotional learning, which is not to say life is perfect and kids do not end up disagreeing or making mistakes or saying terrible things. However, it gives us a framework to talk to them and to make sure kids understand why it is so important to take care of each other.

-Ashley Minetti- Ashley listened this morning with her son Colt to the Let's Talk About Race Book and she thought it was great. She also loves the plan Dr. Schoenlank has with the fish to hang on the bulletins at school.

-Dr. Schoenlank says, she handed out 5 different kinds of fish and the kids can pick the one that they like best and color it the way they like. She plans to fill up the bulletins board because they are looking pretty empty. She thinks every fish will look beautiful, like all of us are. The fish will fill up our halls and will remind us we are a school again.

President's Report

Ashley Minetti

Reading and Recess Project Update

-Teachers have spent all but \$2000, so \$20,00 was spent on in classroom libraries which is huge because the library at school is not opened yet for students to borrow books. Only the RISE student books remain.

-The basketball hoop was installed on the K-2nd and blacktop area.

-Ashley said we are still waiting on the gaga pit and chess table, and the soccer goals.

Ridgewear

-As of yesterday, the report was pulled and we are up to around \$4,400 sold in Ridgewear, which is great.

-Last year we sold around \$8,000 so were half way there!

HSA Membership/Directory

-The membership directory has sold to 103 out of 330 families so far, and has made a little over \$3000 at this time

Wrapping Paper

-Stacy Strohmeier is running the wrapping paper fundraiser and she is probably going to use a new company. This fundraiser, will launch in hopefully 2 weeks. We will have different items that we have not had in the past. These items will be great for the holidays.

Beautification Project Update

-Ashley is waiting to get a drawing back from TLC. Ashley and Dr. Schoenlank met with them back in August to talk through what the Ridge beautification project would be.

-There will be personalized bricks, 2 different sizes, and personalized blue stone which will be on the larger size like 12x12 pieces, to go on the ground. The update will be the circle that is right by the red zone crosswalk. Unfortunately, that large tree is dying and the area is starting to grow grass but it does not look great from when they planted over the summer. That area is called Katherine's garden and we would like to keep it like a garden feel but add in some personalized bricks. This will follow in the same realm of what the HSA did back in the 2014 school year, benches and bricks.

-This project will probably kick off sometime in January since we have several fundraisers already in Fall.

Scholastic Books

-Book Fair over the summer raised \$765 and therefore Mrs. Eng was able to receive \$277 of that money to purchase books for the school library.

Important Dates

September

9/17- Virtual Back to School Night (7pm)- Teachers will be pre-recorded with 10-minute videos and Dr. Schoenlank will have a live video at 7pm.

9/22- Photo Day- Group B

9/23- Photo Day – Group A

9/24- Virtual New Family Coffee (2pm)

9/25- Photo- Group Remote

9/28- Yom Kippur- No School

9/30- Photo Rain Date

October

10/7- Week of Respect

10/9- ROC Assembly

10/12- Columbus Day- No School

10/13- Executive Board Meeting (1:30pm)

10/16- Teacher Appreciation Lunch- will be catered for the first time

10/20- HSA Public Meeting (1:30pm)

10/29 and 10/30- Halloween parade (TBD)? Maybe 2 shifts

Vice President's Report

Jean Whitehead

- Not many updates for now for Friends of Ridge Campaign. Books were purchased for the ROC assembly. Jean thinks around \$880 was spent.
- Jean is working on a flyer for the Friends of Ridge promotion this Fall
- Tara Briganti is going to reach out to the teachers to see what activities are even available and possible to do this year.
- In terms of enrichment for this year, Jean asked Dr. Schoenlank whether she thinks we can even do things like the circus and encampment.
- Dr. Schoenlank responded that, she reached out to Mrs. Tobin and Mrs. Tobin said we tentatively have circus planned in February but she needs to find out more information. February is far off so it's hard to speculate what February will look like.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that we do so many of our enrichment activities in the second half of the year that at this time we should play it by ear and see what we can schedule
- Dr Schoenlank told Ashley that her colleague at Somerville, had an opening assembly, which turned out to be like the Outrageous Pets assembly Ridge did last year. The assembly was not amazing. Students could have just watched a YouTube video. Dr. Schoenlank's colleague said it was good, they spent about \$250 on the opening assembly for the kids. She did however, have a good assembly in the Spring that was interactive. Dr. Schoenlank asked her to forward her that information. Dr. Schoenlank stated that there could be some things that we could do for enrichment whether it's the whole school or by grade level online that might be valuable.

Treasurer's Report

Lana Monte

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 15, 2020 and the 2020/2021 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

- *Motion was made by Lila and seconded by Alysson.*

Statement of Financial Position

Lana reported that

- Bill Ward Fund \$20,428.84
- Savings \$35,396.30
- Operating Account \$35,475.05
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance \$1

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

Lana reported the following revenues

- Bill Ward Fund- \$2
- Book Gifting-\$1,120- We did not budget anything for this. This is really for Mrs. Eng. Lana sent her an email this week, saying this is carried over from last year and she could buy books for the library.
- Membership and Directory-\$3,360
- Retail Events- Amazon Smile- \$58
- Ridgewear- \$3,983

- Friends of Ridge- \$500 have been collected

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

Lana reported the following expenses

- Accounting and Business Fees \$1,233 out of our budget of \$3,000- A lot of this is from the square fee on PayPal.
- Tax returns were \$750.
- We had to register as a charity which was \$150.
- Choose to Be Nice program \$582 was spent out of the \$670 budget
- Federated Dues are a total of \$1,085, but are separated. We have \$585 in expenses but budgeted for \$500. They did charge \$85 this year for the directory.
- LSHSA contribution was \$250 which is part of the federated dues
- Teacher Appreciation Award was \$250 as well, and is a part of the Federated Dues
- Friends of Ridge Read Aloud books- \$811
- The Terrace from the Gala- \$1,628
- \$1500 left over from the Gala proceeds
- Dr. Schoenlank wants to wait to see if the basketball installers will charge us more for the basketball installation project before spending any of that money from the gala. If not, we will spend the money on play houses for the Kindergarten playground.

Planning & Development's Report

Alysson Wesner

-We have been coming up with fundraising opportunities focusing on the Fall.

-We took a poll amongst the executive board

-Options we are considering

- Shutterfly/Tiny Prints opportunity
- Donut/Clothing Drive
- Activity Kits
- Ghosting Bags
- Village Table which is a food service
- Scavenger Hunt
- Read A-thon
- Trivia Night for Parents
- Ridge Branded Chocolate Bars

-Everyone on board agreed the donut/clothing drive, activity kits and Shutterfly/Tiny Prints would be the best fundraising opportunity.

-Timing wise, the donut/clothing drive would be in October in addition to the scavenger hunt

-Ghosting Bags will be in October

-In Winter we would push the activity kits and Village Table and Shutterfly/Tiny Prints for the holidays.

-Alysson mentioned we do the clothing drive, the donut drive, and the get sneakered truck together. One stop shop.

-Dr. Schoenlank asked if the Book Fair will still happen in November. Ashley thinks so but will reach out to Tara Briganti who is the Chair of that. The Book Fair is a 3-day event, so might have to be online.

-Jean Whitehead would like to know if it is possible to do the Book Fair outside in a way to bring the remote kids to school. Dr. Schoenlank said it might be tough to do with weather constraints in November. She mentioned if we are not using the gym or cafeteria, we could possibly think of using a bigger space for the Book Fair and spreading things out. Scholastic, who sponsors the Book Fair, might have opinions on how to run the book fair in these times and if they are even doing them. Ashley mentioned she will reach out to Tara and Scholastic. If we limited the amount of people that come at one time, there's always the issue of touching of books. It is still 2 months away, so still time to figure out.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Mark Bruno

Mark Bruno was not present at the meeting

Secretary's Report

Lila Goldberg

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 16, 2020 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

- *Motion was made by Lana and seconded by Jean Whitehead.*

Update

-Lila thanked Dr. Schoenlank and the teachers from the HSA for doing a fabulous job so far this school year

-Lila also thanked Bridget Kong for helping with the Summer Book Fair

-Lila thanked Mark Bruno for volunteering for all the extra shifts in red zone

-Thank you from Dr. Schoenlank for the beautiful flowers from the HSA

Miscellaneous

Dr. Schoenlank said please stay tuned for the developing story regarding Dr. Fishbein. Fingers crossed he will be with us for the remainder of the year.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lila Goldberg
Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, October 20th, 2020 at 1:30 pm zoom.