

**RIDGE H.S.A. INC.**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**October 20th 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:** *Goldberg, Kong, Kossick, Kupiec, Minetti, Magos, Monte, Wesner, Whitehead*

**ABSENT BUT VOTING:** *Albano, Barnstable, Beiersdorf, Bender, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Bruno, Constantinople, Crosly, Das, Daffron, DeVincenzo, Dilman, Di Maio, 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 September 15th, 2020 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the 2019/2020 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

A. Phase 1 Update

- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the other 5 elementary principals and herself collaborated and put together a Phase 1 update
- One of the grade levels we would possibly like to come back every day is Kindergarten students.
- Dr. Schoenlank stated that when the kids are at school, they have small groups and they are getting a lot of attention from their teacher, but the one thing that is lacking is the typical social interactions since they have to be far apart.
- Our hopes for Phase 2 are not to extend the day now, but to make what we are doing already even better, both in school and at home.
- Dr. Schoenlank skimmed all of the feedback that she has been getting from the Ridge pandemic form, the parent survey and questions that Dr. Schoenlank has been

receiving. She then put them into a frequently asked document which we feel is as accurate as can be.

- Dr. Schoenlank shared the document with us and told us the document would be in the Enews that goes out later today. Here are the questions that are in the document.
- Question 1- How are the students tolerating wearing the masks? We have been pleased at how well students have been able to tolerate their masks and how respectful they have been of the rules. Our teachers give them brief mask breaks for snack (usually outside) and perhaps a short break if they are sitting outside, socially distanced, during something like read aloud.
- Question 2- How can I find out how my child is doing? Teachers are in the process of setting up their Fall parent-teacher goal setting conferences. These meetings will be held virtually this year.
- Question 3- Are the students academically behind where they should be? This question can be answered specifically about your child by his/her teacher, but in general we are finding that students are meeting benchmarks we typically see at this time of year. Teachers, parents and administrators had questions last Spring about what the Fall might be like, but we have been pleased to see where the students entered, academically speaking, and that we have been able to focus on moving forward with our grade level curricula.
- Question 4- Has the curriculum been changed or slowed down? Some slight modifications have been made in an effort to respond to any remote learning lag and to meet the students needs. Due to the fact that some students are enrolled in different schools, we have emphasized with our teachers how important it is for us to follow pacing guides in each subject area. The pacing guides were created by our Supervisor of Elementary Education and the teachers are following them and planning together in teams. In addition, during in school days, teachers have 4 solid, uninterrupted hours of instruction with a small group of students.
- Question 5- My child received Basic Skills Instruction last year. How is that happening this year? Each school has an intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) team that has been meeting since September. Teachers and parents begin the process of securing support for students by sharing concerns with the I&RS team. Through I&RS, students can be recommended for Basic Skills Instruction (BSI) and that too is already underway in each of our schools.
- Question 6- What can my child do if he/she finishes work early on at-home days? Teachers often have extra work that students can do, but most importantly we would love each student to make sure he/she is taking the time to do his/her best work before saying, "I'm done!" Extra projects and work can be available as well as online tools such as Typing Pals, RAZ Kids, and math facts practice, which are all beneficial. In addition, we are planning to provide a weekly tip for parents to support you while you are supporting your child at home.
- Question 7- Why aren't elementary teachers live streaming their lessons? We will begin a live streaming pilot on November 9<sup>th</sup> in one subject area per day at each grade. Prior to that we are ensuring that teachers have the proper equipment and

the time necessary to determine which content make sense to stream to students. We want to make sure it is developmentally appropriate and educationally effective. As an administrative team, we have visited other districts to observe how they are implementing their hybrid and remote models as well as to observe if and how they are using livestream instruction. We know it won't be perfect or easy, so we're trying to weigh the benefits carefully and move forward thoughtfully. Before November 9<sup>th</sup>, you will receive information from us that will specifically address the livestream pilot for our elementary students.

- Question 8-Will the students come for a full day soon? As shared at the Board of Education meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>, this is not going to happen in the very near future. Most importantly, we want to do everything possible to make sure that our students and staff are healthy and safe. The biggest challenges we face with a full day are introducing lunchtime and taking live specials away from the at home days in order to provide teachers with their contractual prep time. Given the upcoming holiday travel season and the risk for spread that might come along with those events, our primary focus is keeping our current model of school intact!
- Question 9- Are there any changes to the day planned for Phase 2 other than possibly changing/extending time? The 6 elementary principals have been meeting frequently each week since school opened, talking about Phase 1 implementation and sharing ideas for Phase 2. We have visited other districts to observe their models and we have collected feedback from our own teachers and parents. Among our hopes for Phase 2 is to re-open playgrounds, re-open school libraries for book borrowing, find safe opportunities for learning centers in Grades K-1, and if the pilot goes well, to find effective opportunities to introduce livestream instruction. We continue to meet weekly and we will make suggestions and changes as needed and as appropriate.

B. Halloween

- Dr. Schoenlank stated that Halloween is actually shaping up pretty nicely this year considering what is going on in this world. We will have a costume walk around at Ridge School. The kids will have an opportunity to see each other and their costumes. This will take place outside and Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that she will assign someone to stand in the front where parents normally would and film the kids in their costumes and then she will send the video out so all the parents can see it. There will be an A group and a B group video to send out.
- After the costume walk around school is finished, the kids will go back to their classrooms and the last hour of the day will be a class party.
- Mrs. Pecorelli has prerecorded herself singing Halloween songs and the kids back in their classrooms will have their class party with a treat, and a Halloween craft while they are listening to Mrs. Pecorelli singing.
- Mrs. Betstadt and Mrs. Tobin are still going to continue having Leadership Club this school year. If you have a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader, Dr. Schoenlank said that they are inviting kids in those grades to join the Leadership Club. They are still going to try to put something together for Halloween, with those kids that are a part of that club. In normal years, the student Leadership Club has always run the Halloween

school assembly. They share safety tips for trick or treating and fun poems for the kids.

- The fully remote kids really cannot be a part of our costume walk around, but we will invite them to dress up, and their teacher will do something fun with them for Halloween.
- Dr. Schoenlank spoke with the teachers and suggested they can either have the kids bring in their own Halloween treats or if we have grade level parents, they can setup an individually packaged treats for the party.
- The grade level parents list will be sent over shortly to help get volunteers in classes.

### C. Book of the Month

- Dr. Schoenlank shared that the book of the month is, Ricky the Rock That Couldn't Roll.
- This is a book about a little guy that is flat and cannot roll down the hill like all the other rocks can. Instead of making fun of Ricky, all the rocks band together and figure out a way for Ricky to roll down the hill, even though he is flat. They cote him with mud underneath and make him round and wrap him up with vines so he is able to roll down the hill.
- The really cool part of this book is that the author Mr. Jay wrote it and included a poem which Dr. Schoenlank read at announcements on Monday. The authors daughter, cannot walk so he wrote this book in honor of her, to show there are other ways around things. Dr. Schoenlank feels that it is a really great book for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **President's Report**

Ashley Minetti

### A. Fall Fundraising Update

- Ashley stated that she met with the executive board last week and we spoke about fundraising ideas and what we realized is that unfortunately, we are about \$9,000 below what we need for fundraising this year. We have missed out on Frosty Fridays, the picnic, bingo night, and we recently found out the book fair will be all virtual.
- Having a virtual book fair is a disadvantage because the HSA will not receive any profit. The funds come in Scholastic dollars and then go straight to Mrs. Eng to purchase books for the library. We were anticipating around \$3,000 to go to the HSA from the book fair.
- Ashley mentioned that the reason we are having so many smaller fundraisers is to help make up for the loss of profit for the HSA. We are trying to be as creative as possible.
- Ashley said, if you look at the revenues versus expenses, in revenues, there is a lot that we cannot do. In expenses, almost every single one will happen whether we have pulled in the money on the revenues or not.

- Ridgewear-Ashley excitedly told everyone that we set a record. We sold \$10,539. Orders should be coming in the next few weeks and we will start distributing them to the oldest sibling at Ridge. Jennifer Losquadro who is running Ridgewear, and Ashley, will distribute Ridgewear to the remote kids' homes. Everyone should have their Ridgewear by November at the latest.
- HSA Membership/Directory- There are 194 families who have purchased memberships to date. Ashley stated that this is just over 60% of the school which is great, but is hoping when the directory information launches and is live, we will get even more families.
- Clothing Drive- Ashley stated that at the clothing drive we had over the weekend, we received over 8,000lbs of clothing and linens which equated to a little over \$800 in fundraising. This was not a line item we had on the balance sheet so this is great news. Ashley would like to plan another clothing drive in the Spring. She feels that this is a for a good cause, makes money for the school, and is so easy for us to run.
- Wrapping paper- Ashley commented that they have such great items for sale on their website and lots of personalized items as well. We have made around \$1,000 so far. The shop closes this Friday and Ashley will have Peggy send out a dedicated Enews blast this Friday reminding everyone to purchase.
- Village Table- Ashley stated that this fundraiser is starting this week. Alysson spoke in more detail about Village Table. This company was started by a mom in Rivervale who used to do food and lunch deliveries. When COVID hit, she expanded this into a delivery-based company with companies she already had relationships with. Some of the restaurants that are participating in Village Table, are Park Wood Deli, Blue Moon Café, a BBQ restaurant in Ramsey, and many more. The idea is that on any given day, there will be a restaurant from the website that will deliver to your home. The restaurants are not consistent daily, but week to week the restaurants can deliver on their particular day. You can order a week in advance and it is a great way to support local businesses. As time progresses, the founder will expand and add new restaurants. She is also working with Abracadoodle and Clay, Paper, Scissors which are art companies and delivering craft kits as well. This will be an ongoing 2020/21 fundraiser that will be available all year.
- Candy Bars- We are going to do a Willy Wonka candy bar extravaganza. Jean Whitehead mentioned that it would be Hersey chocolate bars wrapped just like the movie and every kid in each grade level would get a bar. Each grade would have a winner by having a golden ticket in their chocolate bar. We would make this a fundraiser and sell the bars, but want to make sure every kid has a chance to have one. Even if they cannot buy the chocolate bar, we will find a way that every kid in the classroom has a chocolate bar to open on the special Willy Wonka day. This is more to bring joy to the kids right now, rather than making a lot of money for the school. We would like to do this the week of Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Schoenlank will talk to the art teacher and Mrs. Eng to hopefully involve them as well.

- Online Holiday Bazaar- We will offer on the school website, links to other websites that we will make money off of if you buy from that particular website.
  - Toucca is an eye glass company and the owner is a Ridge dad. Toucca will offer discounts to Ridge parents as well as give the HSA money toward each eye glass purchase.
  - Tiny Prints- If you order your cards from there for the holidays, Ridge HSA will get a percentage.
  - Giving Bean- is a coffee company that sells coffee beans and will deliver coffee to your house.

B. Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Grants

- Ashley thanked Bridget Kong and Danielle Chudy for the teacher luncheon they put on. There was an amazing spread.
- No Fuss Lunch provided individual box lunches. This is an example of how it cost the HSA more than it has in the past. Typically, we would have parents volunteer and bring in appetizers, salads and desserts. In the past, the HSA would just buy a mass entrée for everyone. Individual box lunches cost more than donations.
- Ashley said she was very happy to do this for the teachers and Dr. Schoenlank mentioned the teachers thought the food was delicious and so grateful. Bridget and Danielle provided pretty table cloths and flowers to make it even nicer.
- Dr. Schoenlank commented that the luncheon lifted everybody's spirits and was a great way to end the week.
- Ashley mentioned that we typically offer grants to each of the teachers at the end of the year to buy whatever they feel they need for their classroom. We decided to offer these grants sooner than the end of the year. Dr. Schoenlank is now reaching out to all the teams and offering the teacher's their grade level grants immediately. Whatever, the teachers need for COVID, we will cover that right out of the gate instead of waiting towards the end of the year.

C. Beautification Project Update

- Ashley mentioned that we have a committee formed. Committee members are Ashley, Maggie Wall, Maria Hutchinson, Amy Hayes, and Megan McGirr. They will start meeting in November and plan to start the sales right after the holidays. Ashley asked if anyone else wants to be on the committee. She is welcoming any extra help.

D. Diversity Equality and Inclusion Committee (DEI)

- Ashley discussed that this is a new committee that will be run by Jean Whitehead, Jenn Williams, and Patricia Lee. Jean Whitehead mentioned that at the moment they are in a waiting mode but the last thing she heard is that they are meeting with Dr. Fishbein to figure out more details. Once that meeting is held, Jean will meet with the committee and plan out the next steps. At the moment she does not know what it exactly entails.

- Dr. Schoenlank said Dr. Fishbein is working with Federated to make sure every school has a representative and we will hear more in the future.

### Important Dates

#### October

10/29 Halloween Cohort A

10/30 Halloween Cohort B

#### November

11/3 Election Day- No School

11/5-11/6- NJEA Convention Day- No School

11/17 HSA Public Meeting (7:00pm)

11/25- Thanksgiving Break- 12:45 Dismissal

11/26-11/27- Thanksgiving Break- No School

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

Jean Whitehead

- Jean stated that in terms of Enrichment she spoke with Tara Briganti who runs that committee and she said at this moment we are in a waiting mode. Tara is not even sure what to tell the teachers because we do not know what we can really do this year during these times.
- Tara did reach out to Mrs. Eng to see if we could have author visits and Mrs. Eng does not think it is possible but she will discuss with her district colleagues.
- Jean mentioned that as of right now there is \$9,000 in funds that are currently available. Tara said they are available and can be used if needed but \$1,000 is generally allocated to the art teacher and she will definitely need that this year for art supplies.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Lana Monte

*A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of October 19th, 2020 and the 2019/2020 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.*

- *Motion was made by Lauren and seconded by Jean.*

### Statement of Financial Position

Lana reported that

- Bill Ward Fund \$20,430.53
- Savings \$35,402.10
- Operating Account \$44,612.03
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance \$1
- Total: \$100,445.66

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

- New line item- Additional fundraisers were added
- Park Wood Deli Fundraiser made the HSA \$522
- Lana stated that we will keep on adding new fundraisers to this line item, like the clothing drive for example going forward. She is hopeful these fundraisers will take the place of the loss revenue, and the missed fundraisers like Bingo Night, Frosty Fridays, the picnic and so on.
- Friends of Ridge-Lana commented that we brought in \$364 in donations.
- Membership/Directory-brought in \$3,297 from the last month, this also includes ad sales and some families donated an extra \$5 from the mix-up with the Ridgewear that happened
- Ridgewear-\$6,504
- June School Supplies Fundraiser- \$2,234 was raised

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

- Book Gifting Expense- Mrs. Eng was able to buy new books for the library \$1,120
- Membership/Directory \$90
- Ridgewear Expense- \$55 which included the flyers
- Bill Ward Fund \$250 donated
- Tik Toc- Donated \$150 out of the \$300 because they said this year, they only were requesting \$150.
- Flowers and Gifts- \$103
- Fall Décor Landscaping- \$168
- Website for Wix- \$324
- Paypal/Square fees- up \$332
- Administrative Supplies- \$1,484 poster materials
- 2020 Terrace Fundraiser- \$844 was paid for the installation of the basketball hoop, gaga pit, and chess table.
- There is about \$1500 leftover. Dr. Schoenlank would like to use some of that money to buy new playhouses for the Kindergarten playground. Ashley is going to check with Barbara Downing, the former president to see if this is feasible.

### **Planning & Development's Report**

Alysson Wesner

- After speaking thoroughly about Village Table, Alysson asked how Dr. Schoenlank felt about alcohol sales. Alysson thought it would be great to add a wine company to the holiday bazaar fundraiser. She suggested that everyone is buying wine anyway, why not have Ridge profit from it somehow. Alysson has a friend that is a distributor, so this is something she will look into. Dr. Schoenlank, stated that Ashley should speak with Federated.



## **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Mark Bruno

- Mark was not present at the meeting. Ashley spoke on his behalf that we still need more red zone volunteers especially from the B group. Ashley is hoping that once the class parents are in place, they can promote red zone signups. The good news is that it is not that crowded at drop off and pickup so only one volunteer is necessary. Ashley mentioned to Dr. Schoenlank that when she is picking up in red zone there have been a lot of kids walking through the cars and there are safety hazards. Dr. Schoenlank will send out reminders.

## **Secretary's Report**

Lila Goldberg

*A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the September 15th, 2020 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*

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

## Update

Lila read the following thank you notes:

- Kristen Plumley, the President from Ridgewood Friends of Music sent the HSA a thank you note for our generous contribution of \$150 during the 2019/2020 school year.

## **Public Comments**

- Mark Kossicks, the co-founder of Group Spot joined the HSA meeting to discuss and present his new app that the school will be using for its directory and news to get out to the entire school. He is a veteran Ridge school dad and stated that his app is a great way to present the news instead of email. This app is a communication platform for your real-life groups.
- Mark mentioned that in the app, you can organize anything from a nonprofit group, like the HSA, to your local teams, to jamboree, and to the Ridgewood High School association and many other local groups.
- Mark says, "We are trying to fill a space for groups that their needs are a little more sophisticated than group text and email but maybe not as sophisticated as Microsoft Teams."
- Mark presented the app to the meeting and went through all the different options that a user of the app could do. One of the main features, is you can access the school directory and teachers. You can also get the latest fundraising information on the app and access the school website as well as keep up with the current school news. The school hours and address are on the app and all the school committee's information as well. Group Spot lists all of Ridge's partners, who support the school in the app. It was extremely user friendly and a step up from what we have used in the past.
- Ashley mentioned that she liked the push notifications the app sends with reminders for last minute events.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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

**NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, November 17th, 2020 at 7pm via Zoom meeting.**