

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
DATE TK 2020 at 1:30 pm
TEACHERS' LOUNGE

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: *Bruno, Goldberg, Kahn, Kupiec, Minetti, Patrawala, 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, Monte, Muselli, 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 October 20th 2020 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 17th, 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 1:24 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

A. Bill Ward Fund

- Dr. Schoenlank likes to talk about this once or twice a year to make sure people know about it.
- Dr. Schoenlank stated that a group of parents 20 years ago started this fund to honor Bill Ward, a former principal. They gave him an amount of money to manage, and a committee that he could work with.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the committee now consists of 2 teachers at Ridge, (Mrs. Pedersen and Mrs. Higgins), the past HSA president who is Barbara Downing, and herself.
- The fund is here to provide financial support to any families in need for a variety of reasons. Dr. Schoenlank feels that this is an amazing opportunity that she has been able to oversee, and that she has been able to do a lot of good for many kids and their families.

- Dr. Schoenlank stated that last Spring the committee was able to make good use of the Bill Ward Fund by supporting several families during Covid times. We have not used it yet this Fall, but Dr. Schoenlank has reached out to teachers to keep their eye out if they are aware of any families that might need some financial assistance.
- Dr. Schoenlank communicated that we cannot give out thousands of dollars at a time, but in the past, we have supported children so they could go to summer camps, help out with field trips and participate in book fairs. At times, the fund has helped children with tutoring when needed, as well as the Summer Adventure program at Ridge. In extraordinary circumstances, we have been able to give families going through hardships some money, which is what we did last Spring.
- Dr. Schoenlank would like all of us to spread the word about this fund and if we know anybody who needs assistance to please let her know. She also mentioned we want to make everyone aware in case they would like to donate towards the fund. In the last few years, we have had several generous donors which has been amazing. These donors were able to really bump up the money in the fund, which is why we were able to help the families in the Spring.

B. Prepping for Full Remote

- Dr. Schoenlank is hoping schools do not close but in the situation that they have to, she stated that Ridge is fully prepared.
- Dr. Schoenlank expressed that Dr. Fishbein has been doing an amazing job trying to not panic, be conservative, listen to the Department of Health, and follow all of their guidelines. She feels because of all his work we have been able to open our schools and stay open as of now.
- She strongly voiced that in order for schools to stay open, we need the help of our community. Dr. Schoenlank feels that it is not what is happening in school, and maybe is the reason schools will have to close. She thinks it is sports, family gatherings, indoor playdates, and other things along those lines that are causing the spread.
- Dr. Schoenlank noted that if we were to close schools, we are prepared. We have made schedules that have been shared with the teachers. These schedules will look very different than they did last Spring.
- Last Spring, we had an asynchronous learning approach, which meant nothing was live teaching. A lot of the learning was done by making videos and prerecorded lessons. This time, we are better equipped to have more live learning available. We have learned from the fully remote classes this Fall, and a great deal of each day will be live teaching with the teachers. The students will have a mini lesson then will be able to go off into small groups. Dr. Schoenlank stated that there will be many live lessons throughout the day. The day will consist of a more synchronous approach but there will be some asynchronous

activities involved so the children are not forced to be in front of their computers all day long.

- Dr. Schoenlank feels that the school has a balanced schedule per grade and she says the teachers are ready to go if need be. The students have been bringing home their ready to go bag daily, which contains their Chrome Book, math folder, and other materials they would need for all virtual school. The teachers have been thinking about what would happen if we have to quickly close and want to make sure the kids have everything they need.

C. Book of the Month

- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the Book of the Month for November, is “Mae Among the Stars”, by Roda Ahmed. This is a picture book biography of Dr. Mae Jemison, the first African American female astronaut. This book was chosen purposely to make sure we are sharing the positive contributions of people of color in our country’s history. Dr. Schoenlank wants to ensure we are highlighting people who perhaps we have not paid enough attention to in the past. This book gives a great opportunity to share a great story of a positive role model. The story speaks about Roda’s teacher growing up, who suggested she become a nurse and not dream of becoming an astronaut. Dr. Schoenlank feels that these are great lessons to share with students. Dreams can come true if you work hard at them, nobody can stop you from doing it.
- Dr. Schoenlank excitedly announced that we are doing a One School One Book. The book is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. This book will be available for the students to start reading in December. Typically, we start reading the One School One Book in February but we decided to organize this event quickly. The books have been ordered. Let’s hope the books arrive in time! We are hoping to start reading the books the week of November 23. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the book closely follows the movie that we all know and love, but it is not exactly like the movie, which Dr. Schoenkank likes. She is hoping that the differences will bring up good conversations in houses. Mrs. Eng has been working hard to promote the book and has created a website for it. Many of the teachers have recorded chapters. Dr. Schoenlank is looking forward to December and Wonka Week.

President’s Report

Ashley Minetti

A. Directory Update

- Ashley stated that we have sold 208 HSA memberships out of the 320 families that attend Ridge, which is roughly 65%. Dr. Schoenlank agreed that this week we will send out reminders to the parents, and that if we can get up to 80%, Dr Schoenlank will learn a Tik Toc dance. Ashley mentioned that if we get to 100% the HSA will give out a free Frosty Friday.
- In the online directory, GroupSpot, which is the social media piece of the membership, we have 149 members. Since, 208 families have bought the HSA

membership we should have around 416 members in GroupSpot, so we are lacking as far as the membership category goes. Ashley would like to do some Easter egg ideas where there are hints dropped within GroupSpot so people can win prizes. Some examples are the Ridge coffee tumblers or other prizes along those lines.

B. Past Fundraisers

a. Wrapping Paper

- Ashley mentioned that we only budgeted \$1200 for this but actually made \$2,233.80, which is over \$1000 more than we expected.

b. Clothing Drive

- Ashley stated that the HSA made \$101.20 which was not in the original budget so any extra money is great.

c. Ridgewear

- Ridgewear we budgeted \$1200 and we made \$3,970.45.

C. Stocking Stuffer Update

- Ashley noted that we are having a stocking stuffer sale, which includes Ridge golf umbrella's, beanie hats, blankets, and coffee tumblers. The sale is going great. We have sold 19 golf umbrella's, 18 Ridge beanie hats, 9 R beanie hats, 10 blankets, and 13 tumblers. Ashley said in order to make our minimums we still need to sell more, but it is going well so far.

D. Teachers Grants

- Ashley communicated that normally the HSA provides grants for the classrooms at the end of the year. Since this year is by far different than the other years, the HSA felt the teachers could probably use that money sooner rather than later.
- Dr. Schoenlank reached out to the teachers and gave them the option to use that money immediately if they have Covid related items that they need in their classroom.

E. Beautification Update

- The committee met last week and consists of Ashley, Maggie Wall, Maria Hutchinson, Megan Mcgirr, and Amy Hayes. Amy and Megan stepped up to chair the committee which Ashley is grateful for. Ashley already met with the Board of Education, and Dr. Schoenlank is on board with this project as well. The committee met with a landscaping company that has some good ideas about moving forward with what we will do. Ashley would like to start selling the bricks around late January/early February. There will be 3 different sizes of bricks, benches, and potentially, plaques that families can pay money for and engrave names on. There is a tree that is to the left of red zone, which is the area that we will be revamping. That particular tree has a fungus on it and is not doing particularly well. It will not last much longer. However, the tree provides so much shade, that we are trying to come up with an idea to keep a nice shady spot for parents and children to stand under at pickup.

Important Dates

November

11/9 – 11/22 – Book Fair

11/25 – Thanksgiving Break – 12:45 Dismissal

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

December

12/7 -12/11 – Spelling Bee

12/11 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch HSA will provide box lunches like we did in September since we cannot have parents volunteer to bring appetizers and desserts.

12/15 – Report Cards Posted

12/23 – December Break – 12:45 Dismissal

12/24 – 12/31 – December Break – No School

January

1/1 – New Year's Day – No School

1/12 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)

1/18 – Martin Luther King – No School

Vice President's Report

Jean Whitehead

- Jean stated that there is nothing going on for Friends of Ridge at this time. The new brochures went out in the mail, so she strongly suggests everyone mail in your checks to help support Friends of Ridge programs for the 2021/22 school year.
- Jean mentioned that she reached out to Tara Briganti who is the chair of Friends of Ridge, but she said that we are in a waiting period and cannot make any long-term decisions right now. Tara spoke to Mrs. Eng and there is no author planned visits at this time.
- Jean mentioned that there have been some Friends of Ridge donations that have come through.

Treasurer's Report

Lana Monte

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 17th 2020 and the 2020/2021 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

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

Statement of Financial Position

Lana reported that

- Bill Ward Fund \$20,682.30
- Savings \$35,408.10
- Operating Account \$48,625.06
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1.00
- Total: \$104,716.46

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

- Membership/Directory- we have sold \$7,492. Only budgeted \$6,200
- School Supplies- \$2,234
- Holiday stocking stuffers \$1,780
- Amazon smile \$78.18
- Wrapping Paper \$2,233.80
- Additional Fundraisers- Clothing Drive \$801
- Friends of Ridge Campaign \$380
- Ashley stated that the HSA is doing so much better than she originally thought that it would do this year. However, the HSA is still missing major fundraisers like the Family Picnic, Bingo Night, Frosty Fridays, and the Fall Book Fair. The money that is made from the Book Fair is not going to the HSA as it has in previous years. It will now go towards Scholastic dollars to the library, to buy new books. These 4 events add up to almost \$10,000 which we cannot count on for this year. Unfortunately, expenses still happen so we are trying to make up as much as we can.

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

- Refund for membership/directory
- Retail Fund Expense/flyers village table \$30
- Teacher Appreciation Lunch \$511.43
- Quickbooks renewed \$75
- Bill Ward Fund Donation \$250
- \$303 goodwill donation- 2020 tree from federated
- Paypal/Square Fees \$86.53
- Void gala check \$844 issued a new check \$844 additional expense of new basketball hoop \$1,069

Planning & Development's Report

Alysson Wesner

- On behalf of Alysson, who had to leave the meeting early, Ashley gave an update.
- Ashley stated that Alysson is creating an online virtual Holiday Bazaar on Ridge's website.
- Some of the vendors that will be in the Bazaar are Shutterfly, Tiny Prints, Giving Bean, Blue Light Glasses company, Amazon, Stop and Shop and many others. The point to the bazaar is that if you were planning on using some of these services anyway, go through Ridge and support us so we can make some extra money. Mindy is doing a great job of getting everything on the website.
- Ashley mentioned that Alysson is also helping with the Willy Wonka chocolate bars distribution and planning.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Mark Bruno

- Mark mentioned that there is nothing alarming regarding the volunteer's positions. There are a few co-chair positions available at this time but not a big deal.
- He noted that Red Zone is clearly understaffed, especially in the mornings. We could use more volunteers on B cohort.
- Red Zone is a little more unruly this year than past years because there are not as many administrators around and it is a different vibe. Mark strongly feels that next year we will get back to a more normal schedule with more rules in place.

Secretary's Report

Lila Goldberg

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

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

There is no update at this time.

Public Comments

- Tasneem Patrawala- Tasneem spoke about being the Tik Tok representative for Ridge School. She explained that Tik Tok is a nonprofit organization that provides art enrichment to the classrooms. Tasneem noted that there are 17 schools in Ridgewood and neighboring towns that participate. There is a collection of paintings and artifacts that rotate throughout these schools. Since this is a unique year, there will not be any art rotations. We will not be able to go inside the classrooms and give art presentations. Instead, we would like to create short On Demand videos, that can be sent out to the parents, and the parents can show the videos to their children. These will be short 6-8 minutes videos and will talk about art based on a theme, artists, or types of art.
- Tasneem mentioned her first art video went out today in Enews so please check it out. The theme for this month is Thanksgiving and the videos explore works of art based on Thanksgiving. The projects are simple and can be easily done.
- Tasneem also said that Ridge has always been very lucky to have a lot of art docent volunteers going into the classrooms and teaching the children about art. Tasneem will send out all of the art docent videos from other schools as well, to share with everyone.
- Ashley mentioned that other elementary schools conduct their HSA meetings at 7pm so she wanted to try this time instead of 1:30pm to see if we had more people participate in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36p.m.

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

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, Jan 20th 2020 at 1:30 pm via ZOOM