

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
February 9th, 2021 at 1:30 pm
VIRTUAL 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, Hayes, 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, Hayes, Hoag, Kupiec, Minetti, Rubenstein, 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, 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 January 12th, 2021 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of February 8th 2021 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

A. Black History Month

- Dr. Schoenlank stated that February is Black History Month and this year she feels it has taken on more importance and presence than ever before in our school lives. Most of the teachers have additional activities they are doing as well as celebrating Black History Month. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that she has an ongoing slide show, called Celebrating Diversity in American History where she is trying to highlight 2 people of color each month so the children can get used to seeing people of color in positive lights instead of always suffering.
- Rebecca Rubenstein asked how ROC assemblies are held during COVID. Dr. Schoenlank shared that she is presenting the ROC assembly in her office through Google Meet live stream that every student can assess. Mrs. Peccoreli still chooses a song and that song is played at the end where the students can sing along.

B. Virtual Science Fair

- Dr. Schoenlank is thrilled that Ridge is hosting its annual Science Fair this year. Not only will we have our own virtual Science Fair March 1-5th, but Ridgewood is hosting Super Science Saturday on March 6, and we hope students will participate in that as well.
- Tasneem Patrawala and her Science Fair committee have put in a lot of work already. Dr. Schoenlank showed a video trailer for the upcoming Science Fair on last weeks announcements. She is hoping for high participation and hopefully kids can still have fun choosing a science project even though this year it is virtual. Dr. Schoenlank is sending a letter home encouraging families to participate. Usually in the past, she has used this opportunity to speak about inclusion and not excluding anybody who asks you to do a project with them. However, this year Dr. Schoenlank is asking, please do not do this with friends, more family and individual projects are more appropriate.
- Ashley mentioned that at the Federated meeting they talked about Super Science Saturday. They have some really cool events planned. Some of the different events to choose from, are The Omaha Zoo tour, The Ridgewood High School Adventures Team who won a MIT award, will present a Bergen County Zoo behind the scenes, rocket launch, and our kids can submit their science fair projects to be shown at Super Science Saturday as well. Ashley thinks it's cool that the kids can submit projects that they usually cannot do in the cafeteria.

Book of the Month

- This is the month where we usually do One School One Book. Since, we already did that with Willy Wonka, Dr. Schoenlank knew she had to choose another book. The book she chose is called Emma by Cheryl Wils. Ms. Wils, the author, is going to be leading 2 live assemblies via zoom on February 26th for all elementary school students in Ridgewood. Dr. Schoenlank explained we will hear firsthand her experience researching her family's history and finding out that her great, great, great grandparents had been slaves who worked hard for their freedom. HSA is generously contributing part of her fee for her visit. Ms. Wils also wrote The Emancipation of Grandpa Sandy about her great, great, great Grandfather. Every class in Ridge will receive a copy of these books and Dr. Schoenlank also scanned and recorded the books so the teachers have various options for how they deliver the books to the kids. Dr. Schoenlank will speak more about these books and Black History Month at the ROC assembly next week.

Guest Speaker

Rebecca Rubenstein-Friends of the Ridgewood Library

- Rebecca introduced herself as a mom of 2 boys who used to go to Ridge. She is very involved with the Friends of the Ridgewood Library and is a board trustee. Friends of the Ridgewood Library is one of two fundraising organizations that raise money for the Library. Rebecca mentioned that there are a lot of different

volunteer opportunities. They are trying to do outreaches now and speak with all of the HSA's of Ridgewood schools and Newcomer's Club to let people know what the Library does and what volunteer positions are open. The Friends of the Ridgewood Library raises money for all of the cultural and educational programming at the Library. They also fund the ESL, English as a 2nd language program, where volunteers help teach English as a 2nd language to community members. Friends of the Ridgewood Library also fund the quarterly newsletter that goes out to the entire town that tells us what is going on with the Library, as well as funding The Real Voices Film Documentary Series, museum passes that enable you to go to 9 museums for free, and so much more.

- Rebecca stated that the Library has 3 annual fundraisers to make enough money to run all the programs the Library has to offer. The first is The Annual Appeal, which is usually in late Fall. The next event is the author luncheon which is usually in the Spring and it is at Season's Catering. It consists of a beautiful sit-down lunch, a silent auction, raffle, and a popular author as a keynote speaker. This year, it will be held virtually on April 14 at 1:30pm with an author named Madaline Miller, who wrote Circe and The Song of Achilles.
- The 3rd fundraiser is the Reading Marathon that happens every February. This fundraiser encourages children to read and there is an optional donation you can make. For a certain amount donated, you can have your child's name in a library book at the library. Rebecca wants everyone to keep a look out for the reading log and to make sure your child fills it out. Once submitted, your child can receive a free Ben and Jerry's ice-cream coupon.
- Rebecca noted that she is now the treasurer on the board but there are still a couple of open positions. Right now, available positions include assistant treasurer and publicity. In September, there will be an open secretary position available. Rebecca is really trying to fill next year's board with volunteers from younger families to get a fresh new perspective. Right now, the reading marathon chair is a Hawes mom who has been amazing. The board meetings are every 2nd Wednesday morning of the month. Usually, the meetings are at the library in person but now the meetings are virtual. Rebecca would like us to spread the word about the library and hopefully get more people to be involved in the future.

President's Report

Ashley Minetti

- Ashley announced we are definitely going to host a Virtual Bingo night Thursday, February 25th. Bernadette Reilley and Heather Zachariah are in charge of this event, and bingo cards will go on sale starting February 15th. There will be 500 boards available and prizes will be given.
- Ashley mentioned that the HSA is looking into doing a movie night at Demarest Farms sometime in Spring.
- There will not be a 2nd/3rd grade concert this year. The concert will be for the entire school and will be held in May.

- Amy Hayes spoke about The Beautification Project Updates. She has a team that consists of Megan McGirr, Maria Hutchinson, and Maggie Wall. They have teamed up to run this fundraiser. She mentioned they are getting ready to launch the fundraiser phase. Amy stated that they do not know exactly what they can do yet, until they know how much money they have raised. Amy mentioned they have narrowed it down to 2 landscapers that have been the most interactive with them. Menelo, who is a contractor that the high school has used, has been the most proactive and has been supplying us with drawings for free, which is not usually what they do. This has been very beneficial to our process. Amy noted that we are in the final phases of getting our initial launch ready and we are hoping to start fundraising the week after February break.
- Amy said that the team will first start getting the word out with an email blast, Instagram post, and putting it online. She feels that since we do not have drawings yet to show anything, we need to have more text than usual to get peoples imaginations going.
- Amy suggested instead of calling this Ridge Beautification, maybe spicing it up a little bit and renaming the project Sprucing Up Our Stoop. She said to get attention to this project, we can possibly use this quote, “One generation plants the trees and another gets the shade”. This is a Chinese proverb. Amy wants everyone to know we are working on the next phase of ground upkeep. The focus is to update the front west exterior. The current plum tree residing in the middle of the memorial garden needs to be removed for safety. This is now giving us an opportunity to improve the function of the area. Amy mentioned that the team hopes to include additional seating that compliments the permanent benches that are already around the school grounds. In addition to creating a more inviting space for teachers to use with students during school, it would provide an area for students and parents to gather post school. If funds allow, Amy noted that the team would like to improve the space in front to the east of the central entrance, as well as finding a suitable place for Ridge Elementary to be proudly displayed on the front of the building.
- Amy mentioned that if we take that plum tree down, there is a lot of wall there. She proposed that instead of having a mural on the wall, possibly having an elegant Ridge Elementary School sign with some lighting instead. The memorial garden will also be there with benches. Amy stated that they will be selling custom pavers as the main way to fundraise. She said they are working now on what the final pricing will be for the pavers. Amy would like to keep the options simple, and wants to encourage as much participation as possible. She would like to advertise that the elementary level is the school building where students spend the most time during their K-12 years. What better place is there to honor the memories made, experiences to come, and those who impacted their journey than with personalized engraved pavers as part of your donation. Amy is hoping to have pictures to come and really hopes to get the whole school community excited.

- Dr. Schoenlank is extremely excited about this project and thinks it will be a great addition to Ridge. However, since this will be in front of the school and will be there for a long time, she just wants everybody to make sure the design will keep up with the feel and architecture of the school. Amy noted that we do want shade of course, but shade is not our biggest priority. Our biggest priority is a safe place for the kids to continue to move around. The teachers gave the committee great input as well. They mentioned that they are looking for more places to go outside with the kids. Amy asked Dr. Schoenlank what her opinion was regarding having a Ridge Elementary sign on the building. Dr. Schoenlank, thinks this a great idea, since we do not really have anything on the building now that says it's Ridge Elementary. The only sign that we have is the sign when you are driving in that says Ridge Elementary, but that is rusting. Dr. Schoenlank thinks this could possibly be a great idea to replace the sign for next years HSA group.

Important Dates

February

- 2/9 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)
- 2/12 – February Break – No School
- 2/15-16 – February Break – No School
- 2/25 – Virtual Bingo Night

March

- 3/2 – Executive Board Meeting (1:30pm)
- 3/4 – Science Fair Week
- 3/6 – Super Science Saturday
- 3/9 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)
- 3/19 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- 3/25 – 2nd/3rd grade concert (9:15 am and 2:00 pm)
- 3/29 – 3/31 – April Break – No School

Vice President's Report

Jean Whitehead

- Jean mentioned that a flyer should be printed soon and will go home with the students next week about Friends of Ridge. Dr. Schoenlank has generously offered to speak about Friends of Ridge in the Ridge report to remind parents to donate to our enrichment. Friends of Ridge is helping pay for the Cheryl Wils author visit and Friends of Ridge is also helping to pay for the medals for every student that participates in the Virtual Science Fair. Jean mentioned that Friends of Ridge is also helping pay for the many pounds of clay for art that were ordered.
- Jean announced that on March 19th, there will be a yoga zoom class for the Kindergarten students. For 2nd grade, there will be a virtual American hero's concert and for 3rd grade students, they are booking Joe Lennox to provide a virtual space

presentation. For PE, they are researching a Taekwondo assembly and in library they are planning another One School One Book for the end of the year. Also, in library they are planning a possible zoom author visit with Ruby Bridges.

Treasurer's Report

Lana Monte

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of February 8, 2021 and the 2020/2021 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

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

Statement of Financial Position

Lana reported that

- Bill Ward Fund- \$19,311.70
- Savings-\$35,425.09
- Operating Account- \$45,808.29
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1
- Total Bank Accounts- \$100,546.08

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

- Friends of Ridge \$425 in donations
- Membership/Directory \$30
- Shutterfly fundraiser \$52
- School Photos- \$2,430.29, in our budget we had \$2,700 for photos so we are a little low, but close enough

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

- Wonka Bar-Costume and any materials that were needed- \$172.81
- Clay for art- \$1,014.40
- Book gifting- \$1,120
- Accounting fee for loss of check- \$300
- HSA donated \$80 to book gifting expense
- Classroom grants used by Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Higgins- \$645.45
- Donated to Jamboree an ad thanking the teachers at Ridge- \$125
- Gardening expense from last year that a parent just submitted \$43.99
- Pay Pal/Square Fees- \$2.52
- Terrace Fundraiser- amount left over from last year from the artists who made the activity packs for the Kindergarten area \$174.91

Dr. Schoenlank asked Lana how much is the balance left over so she can order the playhouses as soon as possible. She announced that the playgrounds will open once the snow melts and she would like to have the playhouses ready and available. Dr. Schoenlank has a schedule ready for each class to be able to play at the playgrounds. Lana stated that the balance is \$1,105.55.

Planning & Development's Report

Alysson Wesner

- Alysson announced that a couple Ridge families have partnered with the HSA to run promos where they are giving back some of their proceeds to the Ridge HSA. Jason and Helen Pai, own the eyeglass company Touca Kids. As of now, we only have 5 orders (8 glasses were sold). Their donation is \$10 a pair, so we have earned \$80. The Pai family are also donating an additional \$120 to the HSA.
- The 2nd family that is offering a promotion to Ridge, is the Zuckerman's. They own a company that's called Comfort Bands. These are headbands that attach by buttons to make your face mask more comfortable. Alysson mentioned that they would like to run a very similar promo as Touca Kids did. Comfort Bands will launch after Valentines Day.
- Alysson mentioned that for our Park Wood heart shaped pizza and donut fundraiser we have 14 orders. The deadline is Thursday. As of today, we have raised \$69.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Mark Bruno

- No update at this time

Secretary's Report

Lila Goldberg

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the January 12th, 2010 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

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

Update

No update at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 1:30 pm via Zoom.