

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 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, 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 February 9th, 2021 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of March 9, 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 1:24 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

A. K-1st grade plans

- Dr. Schoenlank announced we are moving forward with K-1st grade plans. She sent out a letter to all the K-1st grade parents letting them know as of March 22 all of the K/1st grade students will be back 5 days a week, 8:45am-12:45pm. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the big unknown in all of the schools was how are we going to manage this while staying socially distanced and safe. Dr. Schoenlank praised the teachers, saying how amazing they are and how dedicated they are to their students. She stated that just like the kids and parents they felt similarly, that they wanted to keep their students, that they have spent all year getting to know.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that it was a strong possibility that we would have had to reshuffle the students around to different teachers because we cannot socially distance more than 15-16 kids in a classroom. She noted that the first grade at Ridge Elementary is extremely big and the class sizes are 21. This presented a dilemma and the only options were to split everyone up or move the kids to bigger areas. The

teachers opted to move and fortunately the Kindergarten classes this year are very small. There is enough room to combine both Kindergarten cohorts in the classrooms and it will be fine. Mrs. Galvin has a pretty small classroom so she is stopping at 14 students and the other 3 classrooms will have 16 students in them.

- Dr. Schoenlank expressed that in Mrs. Catalano's first grade class, 12 of the students decided to come back. Mrs. Catalano will keep her 12 students, and the ones that elected to stay remote will transfer to Mrs. Shanah who is a teacher at Willard. The kindergarten students that were remote were separated into 2 classes both at Somerville and at Willard. The students that were at Somerville are now going to be transferred over to the Willard school. Dr. Schoenlank stated that this is not without any changes since some of the remote students will be changing teachers. The large majority of our kindergarten and first graders will get to remain with their current teachers, which is wonderful.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the only way that we could accommodate all of the first graders coming everyday was to move the students out of their current classrooms into a bigger space. Mrs. Pedersen's class will move into the library. Mrs. Peabody's class will move into the cafeteria, and Mrs. Vandervelt's class will move into the arts studio. Mrs. Pedersen has been teaching in her classroom for 38 years so all of this is pretty amazing.
- The challenge in the kindergarten classes is that the teachers have to learn how to teach them very differently than the past. Normally, they are sitting together at tables and working in centers. Dr. Schoenlank noted that a large part of a kindergarten day is group work, playing games, working with partners, and playing in groups. Unfortunately, we cannot do any of that because of COVID. The kindergarten teachers have figured out how to manage this with half the class size but will be a challenge to now follow the new rules with a full class size and less space. Dr. Schoenlank says opening the classrooms every day for these students is not without difficulty but our teachers are amazing and will do their very best to make every single day great for the kids coming back.
- Dr. Schoenlank then discussed grades 2-5 and getting these kids back into school. She mentioned the biggest issue is space. Since Ridgewood School District is choosing to follow the guidelines, we cannot fit all of our classes into the classrooms, since class sizes are above 20. Dr. Schoenlank said that we cannot fit up to 24 kids in our regular classrooms, socially distanced, and there are no big spaces left to move people into. The special ed students will now move from the cafeteria into the gym. The only way grades 2-5 can come back is if the guidelines shrink down to 3ft. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that she and the other administrators have met several times and have begun to speak about getting the 2nd-5th graders back in school every day and the plans that will entail with getting everyone back. One of the biggest problems is lunch time. Dr. Schoenlank stated that there cannot be a big group of students in the cafeteria so they would have to have lunch in the classrooms. Unfortunately, there are not enough teachers to supervise the students. There are many logistical questions to address, and Dr. Schoenlank and her colleagues are working hard trying to solve these issues.

- Mark Bruno asked Dr. Schoenlank if Ridge is expecting all the students in grades 2-5 to come back and if those classrooms would be full with 20+ students in each class? She explained that these are the number of students the school already has in Cohorts A and B now and if they combined the 2 cohorts there would be 20-24 students in each class, which would not follow the 6ft apart guideline. Dr. Schoenlank noted that fortunately, the Kindergarten classes are small this year so when combining the 2 cohorts, they only have 16 students in them. When combining the 1st grade cohorts, the classes have reached over the capacity of remaining 6 ft apart, hence why they have to move into the bigger spaces the school offers. All of the 2nd-5th grade classes are similar to the 1st grade class sizes so at this point there is nowhere to put all the students and keep them socially distanced.
- Ashley Minetti asked if a number of students flipped from remote to now going full time in the K-1 model because now they have consistency? Dr. Schoenlank answered that some parents are still choosing remote because there are health concerns or other concerns, but half of the remote students in Kindergarten and half the students in 1st grade chose to return to school. She feels the same would happen in grades 2-5 if they had the choice to go to school every day. That would make even larger cohorts than they already have. The school would need to be able to accommodate 20-25 students in each class which they cannot do at this moment.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that things are changing rapidly in the world and many teachers are getting vaccinated, which is huge. She thanked the group of parents that are helping the teachers get vaccinated. Ridge had around 10 teachers that had been vaccinated and now have many more. Jean Whitehead and Ashley Minetti have been up at all hours of the night trying to get the teachers' appointments. Mindy Muselli created a portal on the website where the teachers could log in and put their information in to help get their appointments. Dr. Schoenlank announced that the staff will be fully vaccinated by April.

B. Women's History Month

- Dr. Schoenlank shared that this month, to celebrate Women's History Month, she created a Flip Grid for the teachers at school to showcase the women the teachers admire. As of today, 36 staff members have contributed a one-minute video describing a woman they admire. Teachers will be sharing these videos with students throughout the month. Some of the women the teachers spoke about are Lucille Ball, Mother Teresa, Helen Keller and many more!

C. Book of the Month

- This month's book is "After The Fall" by Dan Santat and will be the focus of our ROC assembly on Friday, March 19. It follows Humpty Dumpty's journey after he falls off his wall. It is an inspiring story that encourages us to conquer our fears and take a risk. Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that students have already begun to share some of their conquered fears with their teachers and Dr. Schoenlank, following Humpty Dumpty's lead.

President's Report

Ashley Minetti

A. Recap of events

- **Bingo Night-** Ashley is very happy with the success and she stated that the HSA made more money than we budgeted for. Seems everyone loved it and it was a huge hit. Ashley thanked Bernadette Reilly and Heather Zackaraya for such a successful night. Ashley mentioned that we only spent \$30 on the bingo cards and sold almost 500 cards at \$10 per card. Ashley stated that we made over \$4,000 and budgeted only \$1,000 in profit, so this is amazing! Ashley spoke with Lana Monte, and they were saying the Bingo night almost took the place of the Family Picnic or Book Fair in making up for money that was lost.
- **Science Fair-** Ashley wanted to thank Tasmeen Patrawala, Danielle Flynn, and Sara Wilson for doing an amazing job. She also wants to thank Mindy Museli for creating a wonderful interactive website for the virtual fair. Ashley mentioned that the weekend before the Science Fair, Tasmeen had to touch up all 87 projects and make sure they were all working. From the scavenger hunt to all the interactive videos, Ashley is so impressed with the time and effort they put in.
- **Reading Marathon-** Ashley shared that the Reading Marathon took place at the end of February, and Ridge had 151 students that participated. All of the students that participated will receive a free scoop of ice cream at Ben and Jerry's and The Reading Marathon raised money for the library.

B. Upcoming Events

- **Movie Night-** Ashley announced that the HSA planned a drive-in movie night that will take place May 7. There will be 100 cars that will be allowed in. Ashley is meeting with the social committee and bake sale committee to help with this event. Ashley would like to have a raffle at the movie night. Each grade could have a themed basket and then we can raffle the baskets off. She would like to possibly involve the teachers and see if they would like to donate anything. Ashley would like the class parents to ask each of their classes for the parents to donate \$5-\$10 per child to fill the basket. This could help with the beautification project fundraiser with raising money. Since we cannot have a typical bake sale like we have done in the past, Ashley thought having a concession stand that night could take its place, and that the food would be prepackaged. Ashley mentioned that she is still trying to work out the details on how tickets will be sold. She thinks she will sell tickets for the raffle baskets and food before the event at the same time you purchase your ticket for your car. Ashley stated that we could possibly sell tickets the day of the event onsite if needed, but is trying to have as much contactless interactions as possible. Dr. Schoenlank is going to have the Student Leadership Committee choose the movie.
- **Arts Day-** Ashley shared that Arts Day is on the calendar for April 16 and the Arts Day committee is working with Mrs. Stewart to try and come up with what is

possible and what makes sense to do. Arts Day will look different than the past but would still like to focus on the arts for the students.

- **Clothing Drive-** Ashley announced that on April 24 10am-2pm the HSA will have another clothing drive.
- **Teachers Appreciation Lunch and Week-** Ashley mentioned that on March 19th there will be a teachers appreciation lunch and the HSA will provide another boxed catered lunch for the teachers. She also mentioned that the week of May 3rd is Teacher Appreciation Week and we are working through what options we have and what we can do for the teachers. In the past, typically each day is a different theme for the teachers. Ashley asked everybody if they had any good ideas on what we could do.
- **Beautification Project-** Ashley informed us that the team was extremely close to finalizing everything and hoping to start selling the bricks in the next 2 weeks. The team met with the landscapers and they have a pretty good drawing now, but we are still waiting for a budget.

Important Dates

March

3/9 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)

3/19 – Teacher Appreciation Lunch

3/29 – 3/31 – April Break – No School

April

4/1 – 4/2 – April Break (cont.) – No School

4/16 – Arts Day

4/21 – Administrative Assistant Day

4/22 – 4th /5th grade concert (9:15 am and 2:00 pm)

May

5/3 – NJLSA testing starts this week – tentative date

5/4 – Executive Board Meeting (TBD)

5/3 or 5/10 – Teacher Appreciation Week

5/11 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)

5/12 – School Nurse Day

5/13 – Eid Al Fitr / Professional Development – No School

5/18 – Kindergarten Orientation (9:00 – 11:00 am)

5/20 – Kindergarten Orientation (1:00 – 3:00 pm)

5/21 – 1st Grade Show (2:00 pm)

5/26 – 5/28 – Unused Snow Days – School may be closed

5/31 – Memorial Day – No School

Vice President's Report

Jean Whitehead

A. Updates and Friends of Ridge

- Jean Whitehead announced that Mad Science will host 2 assemblies for K-2nd grades and then another one for 3rd-5th Thursday, March 18.
- Jean mentioned that the clay was already distributed to all of the students.
- On March 19th, Kindergarten will have a yoga zoom class, and for 2nd grade, in the works, is a virtual Jonathan Sprout American Heros concert. She also announced that 3rd grade will have a presentation by Joe Lennox about space and in PE they are working on a Taekwondo virtual event. Jean shared that in library, there will be another One School, One Book with a possible zoom with Ruby Bridges visit.
- Jean noted that another Friends of Ridge flyer went out in the mail and for those who have not donated yet, please do so. She wants everyone to know the money goes 100% to the kids.

Treasurer's Report

Lana Monte

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of March 9th, 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- \$19,612.46
- Savings- \$35,429.17
- Operating Account- \$50,687.19
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1
- Total- \$105,729.82

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

- Bill Ward- \$300
- Bingo Night- \$117 and revenue \$4,073
- Retail Events- Amazon Smile \$109.22, Village table 47.83
- Ridgewear- \$242
- St. Patricks Day Cookie Kit- (holding the money for the student leadership group until they are ready to donate the money to the charity of their choice)
- Friends of Ridge- \$1,602.10 in donations
- Income from last month \$6,696

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

- Friends of Ridge- Kindergarten yoga, author visit, and school wide science zoom \$1,325
- Stocking Stuffers- \$25.99

- Flowers and Gifts- \$28.98
- Website Updates- \$24.85
- Paypal/Sq Fees- \$242.51
- Flyers (Business Fees)- \$70
- Playhouses- \$708
- Total Expenses- \$2,542

Planning & Development's Report

Alysson Wesner

- Alysson mentioned that the HSA did the no cook fundraiser during the Bingo night and the HSA made \$130. She also mentioned that she is working on the drive-in movie night fundraiser, seasonal cookie kits and take-home kits for the kids to do at home.
- Alysson asked Dr. Schoenlank if she has chosen a book yet for One School, One Book. Dr. Schoenlank stated that at this time we have not chosen a book yet. Alysson had an idea for a fundraiser to do a glass mosaic kit that the kids can do at home and possibly tie that into the book they choose for One School, One Book. Dr. Schoenlank will speak with Mrs. Eng and make a decision.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Mark Bruno

- Mark would like to start transitioning for next year's volunteer coordinator to be on board and to make sure the new committee members understand their roles and the rules regarding red zone. He is extremely concerned about red zone and has been getting photos of parents breaking the rules. Many of the parents have been reckless and not following the rules. There is a lack of coverage on both cohorts. Mark mentioned he would like a letter sent out to the parents with the rules of red zone. Dr. Schoenlank is completely on board and will have a letter sent out to all of the families at Ridge this week. Mark feels that once the school becomes busier, it could eventually become a dangerous situation for the children if everyone is not abiding by the red zone rules.
- Ashley asked if Mark could assign someone to stand before the red painted area when driving in. She feels most of the problems occur here because kids are getting in and out of the cars before the actual red zone area. Dr. Schoenlank has been trying to go outside more often to help this situation and will see if any of the staff members can help as well.

Secretary's Report

Lila Goldberg

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the February 9th, 2021 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

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

No update at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16p.m.

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

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 1:30pm via Zoom.