

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
June 8, 2021 at 11:30am
RIDGE PATIO 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, Nadeau, Patrawala, Reilly, Rubine, Salmon-Herrmann, Sezgin, Singh, Strohmenger, Sullivan, Tobaccowala, Twilliger, Wall, Wesner, Whitehead, Williams, Wilson*

PRESENT: *Das (virtual), DeAngelis, Kupiec, Nadeau, Patrawala (virtual) Reilly, Whitehead, Wilson, Woods*

ABSENT BUT VOTING: *Albano, Barnstable, Beiersdorf, Bender, Bruce-Lockhart, Constantinople, Crosly, Daffron, Di Maio, Flynn, Geller, Goldberg, Harris, Hayes, Hoag, Holder, Katzman, Koehler, Kong, Lindenberg, McGirr, Minetti, Singh, Strohmenger, Sullivan, Wall, Wesner, Williams*

MOTIONS:

1. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the May 11th, 2021 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of June 7, 2021 and the 2020/2021 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.*
3. *A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Proposed Budget for the 2021-2022 school year.*

Welcome & Call to Order

Jean Whitehead

Jean Whitehead H.S.A. President, called the meeting to order at 11:32 am.

J Whitehead took a moment to recognize Dr. Jean Schoenlank and her 37 years of dedicated service to the Ridgewood Public School District and Ridge School. From a Teacher's Assistant to 5th Grade Teacher to Assistance Principal and then Principal at Ridge School (2006 to the present school year), J Whitehead expressed how grateful we all are for everything she has done for our school. Her legacy will live on for years to come.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

- A. Thank you
 - Dr Schoenlank expressed appreciation for the kind words. Is a bittersweet time to be leaving a school she loves so much.
- B. Welcome to the New Executive Board.
 - Dr. Schoenlank welcomed the new Executive Board and thanked them for dedicating their time to support Ridge School.
- C. **Friends of Ridge** - Dr. Schoenlank discussed Friends of Ridge and the many activities that are supported by the generous donations made through the Campaign. Enrichment activities like monthly read aloud for ROC assemblies, author visits from Cheryl Wills and

Ruby Bridges, Mad Science assemblies, and grade level activities like The Encampment and Kindergarten Chicks were all made possible this year by Friends of Ridge.

D. **Teacher of the Year** - Dr. Schoenlank announced the Teacher of the Year recipients for this year: Danielle Vandervelt (1st Grade Teacher) and Colleen Manke. There will be a ceremony at Benjamin Franklin Middle School on Tuesday, June 15th at 7pm.

E. **Staff Updates**

- Ridge School will have a full time Guidance Counselor for the next school year. Pending final approval, Lindsay Mitchell (5th Grade Teacher at Ridge) will assume this role next year.
- Lindsay Rubin will become the full time Guidance Counselor at Orchard School.
- On Thursday, June 10th, the new principal of Ridge School will be announced.
- Grade level teacher changes include the following:
 - 3, Kindergarten classes led by Ms. Blatt, Ms. Carroll, and Ms. Poulis.
 - 3, 3rd Grade classes led by Ms. Banchitta, Ms. Kimbell, and Ms. Kowalski/Ms. Sullivan (Ms. Sullivan will remain on LOA until January 2021).
 - 3, 5th Grade classes led by Ms. Marmo (former 4th grade teacher) and Ms. McDermott.
 - Mr. Tarulli (5th grade teacher) will teach 4th grade.
 - Ms. Jarosz will return as a 2nd grade teacher.
 - Staff assignments are changing daily. An update will be communicated in the coming days.
 - New principal will be involved in the formation of classes.

F. **Step Up Day**, a tradition where students find out their next year's teacher on the last day of school, will not happen this year. Last year changes were required to accommodate the hybrid/remote models. To avoid potential confusion and disappointment, parents will be notified of teacher assignments in August 2021. Plan is to eventually return to the traditional Step Up Day.

G. **Summer Reader** - Dr. Schoenlank discussed plans for keeping children engaged in reading over the summer. A major priority, she has been visiting each class to discuss the importance of making plans for reading over the summer. Much like the muscles in your body, if you don't use it, you lose it! Ten weeks is a long time. Encouraging students and parents to come up with a summer reading plan to keep kids engaged in reading.

President's Report

Jean Whitehead

A. **Beautification Project**

- J Whitehead reported the project grossed over \$64,000. She expressed how special it was to see everyone come together to support our school.
- Amy Hayes, Megan McGirr, Maggie Wall, and Maria Hutchison led the project.
 - Proofs were sent to all families who purchased pavers. Requested changes will be made with the engraver this week (6/7/2021).

- With budget firmly in place post fundraiser, plans for the courtyard area are being tweaked with Monello Landscaping based on feedback from faculty and families.
- Plans for the Reading Nook are moving ahead. Hard cover books are currently being sourced and donated for the Outdoor Library.
- HSA is coordinating with the BOE on the school name being put on the building (Ridge is the only school without a name on the building).

B. Parent Social

- All tickets sold (~ 5 additional tickets added)
- Updates regarding weather will be emailed.

C. Book Fair

- J Whitehead reported 2-day summer sale event will take place on the patio June 15th and 16th.
- Class schedule was sent out for parents along with sign up genius to volunteer to set up, clean up and staff the fair.
- All parent volunteers will need to complete a health clearance form, which can be printed before their shift to save time.

D. Frosty Fridays

- J Whitehead reported a successful event on Friday, 6/4. She thanked all who volunteered.
- One more event scheduled for Thursday, 6/10 and potentially 6/18 if the Field Day Rain Date goes unused.

E. Volunteer Chair Openings

- Please contact Meghan Nadeau to sign up
 - 4th of July Float
 - Student Safety Walk 2 School Month
 - Parent Communication – GroupSpot, Facebook, Instagram, Fundraising Newsletter
 - Directory
 - Directory Ad Sales

F. Closing Remarks – J Whitehead thanked everyone for their assistance. Is looking forward to a fun year in support of our school.

Important Dates

- June
 - 6/1 HSA Induction @1:30pm
 - 6/1 HSA Executive Board Meeting @8:00pm
 - 6/4 Frosty Friday
 - 6/8 HSA Public Meeting @11:30pm

- 6/9 Parent Social
- 6/10 Frosty Thursday
- 6/11 Field Day
- 6/15 & 6/16 Summer Book Fair
- 6/18 Field Day Rain Date
- 6/18 Frosty Friday (unless rain date for Field Day is used)
- 6/21 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
- 6/22 Last Day of School, 12:45pm Dismissal
- **September**
 - 9/1 First Day of School, 12:45pm Dismissal
 - 9/3 Family Picnic @5pm
 - 9/6 Labor Day – No School
 - 9/7 Rosh Hashanah – No School
 - *9/7 Executive HSA Board Meeting @1:30pm
 - 9/9 Back to School Night @ 7:30pm
 - 9/10 Family Picnic Rain Date @5pm
 - 9/14 HSA Public Meeting @ 2:00 pm
 - 9/16 Yom Kippur – No School
 - 9/17 Frosty Friday @3pm
 - 9/21 New Parent Coffee @9am
 - 9/23 Photo Day
 - 9/24 Frosty Friday @3pm
 - 9/30 Photo Day Rain Date

**Subject to change*

Vice President's Report

Bernadette Reilly

A. Friends of Ridge

- B Reilly reported Kindergarten classes had a visit from Rizzo's Wildlife World on June 1st

Treasurer's Report

Lauren Kupiec

- L Kupiec provided the updates on the following (see attachments for full reports):
 - Balance Sheet (June 7, 2021)
 - Bill Ward Fund- \$19,063.42
 - Savings- \$35,442.56
 - Operating Account- \$95,769.43
 - TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1

- Total- \$150,276.41
- Profit and Loss YTD
 - Frosty Friday (6/4): \$446 (M Woods deposited)
 - Social Committee: \$4840
 - Classroom Grants – teachers already submitting requests for 2021-2022 school year
 - Teacher Appreciation - \$262
 - Friends of Ridge in a bit of a deficit, but not as many events happened this year. Bottom line - \$448 over budget.
- Proposed 2021-2022 Budget presented
 - Keeping budget consistent with last year w/ minor adjustments. Was an odd year with many events placed on hold (i.e. bake sales).
 - Proposed Revenue
 - Bingo Night increased to \$2000
 - Movie Night increased to \$1000
 - Proposed Expenses
 - Increased Annual Enrichment Day budget to \$3000 (from \$2500)
 - Increased Classroom Grants to \$4500 (from \$3000)
 - Increased funding for Garden to \$1300 (from \$800) for maintenance.
 - \$2000 added for DEI

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of June 7, 2021 and the 2020/2021 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

- *Motion was made by B Reilly and seconded by Meghan Nadeau*

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Proposed 2021-2022 Budget.

- *Motion was made by S Wilson and seconded by J DeAngelis*

Planning & Development's Report

Jen DeAngelis

- J DeAngelis discussed planning for the Fall Picnic.
 - In need of volunteers
 - Picnic is currently scheduled for Friday, 9/3, however this being the Friday before Labor Day the Board discussed and agreed the Picnic should be rescheduled for Friday, 9/10 (the originally scheduled rain date) with a rain date, if needed, on Friday, 9/17.
 - J DeAngelis reported additional tickets for the Parent Social were made available.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Meghan Nadeau

- M Nadeau connected with M Bruno to discuss Committee Chair openings.

- Discussed having a table at Back to School Night for open Committee Chair positions. Can set up a table and provide information on what roles are needed and what is expected.
- Parent Coffee Social is another opportunity to recruit for these openings.
- M Nadeau discussed need for Board to sign the Whistleblower Agreement.
- Tax Exemption Form available if needed.

Secretary's Report

Sara Wilson

- S Wilson read the following Thank You notes
 - Thank You card from Colleen Manke for the flower and gift card for Nurse's Day
 - Thank You card from Dr. Schoenlank for the birthday flowers.

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- *Motion was made by L Kupiec and seconded by M Woods.*

Public Comments

- T Das provided an update on Lego Club
 - Problem Solving/Innovation
 - Theme: Cargo Connect
 - Amazon Sponsoring
 - Kids brainstorm & build
 - 12-16 week program, 7 groups (K-5th Grade)
 - K-3 Lego League Explore
 - 4-5 Lego League Challenge
 - Showcase at Science Fair
 - NJ State Championship

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wilson
Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 2:00pm.