

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
May 11th, 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, 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 March 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 May 11th 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 11:34 am.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

A. Thank you

- Dr Schoenlank thanked Ashley the current HSA president and the current Executive Board for all of their hard work this year. She thanked the entire Executive Board members, Ashley, Jean, Lila, Lana, Lauren, Mark and Alysson for doing everything they could for making this year go as smoothly as possible. She appreciated all the efforts for coming up with creative events and ideas to keep the kids having as much fun as possible in a very different kind of year.

B. End of the year events

- Arts Week- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that Arts Week will be the next 2 weeks. Mrs. Pecorelli has been working very hard to put together a virtual Spring show similar to what she did for the Holiday Show. She has been collecting all kinds of videos and photos from the students. Dr. Schoenlank thinks it will be a great show.
- Dr. Schoenlank also mentioned that Mrs. Stewart has collected artwork from the students as well and there will be an online Art Show. Both events will debut in

school together and the teachers will share with the students and then the events will be opened to the families to see. Mr. Schmarak, the 5th grade Instrumental Music teacher will also be a part of Art Day. He has been teaching his students from home online how to play the trumpet, which is pretty amazing in itself.

- Ruby Bridges- Dr. Schoenlank announced that Ruby Bridges is coming to Ridge May 18th for 2nd-5th graders. Mrs. Eng will have an appropriate read aloud for K-1st grade students and Dr. Schoenlank will do a read aloud as well.
- Dr. Schoenlank excitedly announced that Kindergarten orientation will take place May 25th and 26th in person but in smaller groups.
- Dr. Schoenlank also announced that there will be a 5th grade encampment but they are calling it “Encampment Light” which will be a version of what they have done in the past. Mr. Mueller will be there and will run some of the same activities we have done in the past. The 5th graders will end school earlier and hang out in the back field of Ridge with camp fires and numerous activities.
- Dr. Schoenlank noted that 4th graders will have an immigration day on June 2nd, where they come to school dressed as immigrants. There will also be a day of reading on June 4th. This will be a special day and will include a cycle of events that have to do with reading books. There will be reading related activities all day.
- Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that Field Day is returning June 11 and will need volunteers. Because of remaining socially distanced, there will only be one parent per station. Dr. Schoenlank also spoke about the upcoming Book Fair that will take place June 14th.
- The 5th grade promotion ceremony will happen and this will take place June 21. Some of this will be partially inside and live streamed. Parents can stay outside.

C. Bill Ward

- Dr. Schoenlank stated that she sent out a letter to all Ridge families in November about the Bill Ward fund. She explained that at Ridge School we have an exclusive fund that was started 21 years ago in honor of the former principal Bill Ward. It is used to support children at Ridge School that need things like field trip money, book fairs, and grade level expenses. More importantly, Dr. Schoenlank noted that if any student at Ridge needed any summer support for camps, or participation at Summer Adventure, they can reach out to her and the Bill Ward fund can help. She feels this is really a blessing that we have this fund to help families. Dr. Schoenlank said, “Last year we were able to help several families when the pandemic first hit”. If anyone should need the fund, all they would have to do is reach out to Dr. Schoenlank. Parents can also contribute to the fund as well. Dr. Schoenlank is sending another letter out this week to inform the families of Ridge about the Bill Ward fund. The committee consists of the principle, the immediate past HSA president, and 2 long term staff members, Mrs. Higgins and Mrs. Pedersen. Anytime a request comes up, Dr Schoenlank sends out an email, asks questions, and then they will approve and then contact

the HSA who will then write a check. Right now, there is \$19,212.57 in the Bill Ward Fund.

D. ROC Book

- Dr. Schoenlank announced that this month's book is called "Have a Good Day Café", which features a Korean family. Dr. Schoenlank shares the book with the teachers and also makes a recording of it for the teachers.
- The other book of the month is called, We're Different Were the Same.

President's Report

Ashley Minetti

A. Teachers Appreciation Week

- Ashley would like to thank Bridget Kong and Danielle Chudy for organizing this special week for all the teachers. The HSA provided breakfast, a snack cart, sweet treats, and a pizza lunch for all the staff. As part of teacher appreciation week each one of the classes purchased bricks in honor of the teachers for the Beautification Project.

B. New Board

- Ashley announced the new board.
- President- Jean Whitehead
- VP- Bernadette Reiley
- Treasurer- Lauren Kupiec
- Assistant Treasurer- Megan Woods
- Secretary- Sara Wilson
- Planning and Development- Jennifer DeAngelis
- Volunteer Coordinator- Meaghan Nadeau
- Ashley mentioned the Induction will be either June 1st or June 8th.

C. Change to Bylaws

- Ashley announced that Lila handed out a copy of the Bylaws regarding a change we were proposing. She asked everyone at the meeting to look over the letter. The top portion was the current Bylaws and the bottom portion were the new proposed Bylaw changes. The Bylaws are about the nomination of the next slate of the new board.
- The past president Barbara Dowling, who is an attorney, came to Ashley requesting to make a change in the wording of the Bylaws since she thought it was confusing. Ashley and Barbara together made it simpler to understand.
- Ashley conducted a vote regarding the new Bylaws.
- Ashley stated that we would change section 6.3 from this....
- The original- 6.3 The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Members. Three Members, including one designated as chairperson, shall be elected by the Members at the Annual Meeting; two additional Members shall be appointed by the President prior to the first meeting of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall give notice to the Board of Trustees prior to its first meeting. They shall circulate the slate in advance and

recommend to the Members at the Annual Meeting candidates to succeed the officers whose terms expire in such year for such offices as shall be up for election in such year. They shall also nominate three Members for the Nominating Committee which shall include one returning Member from the preceding year's Nominating Committee when possible, the Past President of the Foundation when possible and one other Member of the Foundation. One of them shall be designated as chairperson by the Nominating Committee. No one from the Nominating Committee may be placed in nomination for the Executive Committee for the following year.

- To this...6.3 The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Members. The Outgoing President will serve as the chairperson and will appoint 4 additional members including one returning member from the preceding year's Nominating Committee when possible. No one from the Nominating Committee may be placed in nomination for the Executive Committee for the following year. The Slate for the Board candidates to succeed the officers whose terms expire should be presented during the May Public HSA Meeting and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June.
- *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the change to the Bylaws. Motion was made by Lila and seconded by Alysson. All present approved the change.*

D. Beautification Project Update

- Ashley thanked Amy Hayes and Megan McGirr, Maggie Wall, and Maria Hutchinson for all their help with the Beautification Project.
- Amy Hayes stated that the HSA ended up in a really great spot. The movie night really helped, was sold out, and grossed \$4,000. The gross for this project was over \$51,000. Amy mentioned that we had to take out what we had to pay Demerest Farms and what we had to pay for the engraving for the bricks. After all the expenses, we will have \$38,000. This surpassed what our goal was for this year and the team is super excited. Amy was excited to see alumni donations come in, teacher donations come in, and donations from different Girl Scout Troops from Ridge.
- Amy mentioned that in terms of next steps, she feels it makes the most sense to focus on the exterior of the building and any surplus we have will go to the Teachers Lounge updates. Jean Whitehead and her team next year will focus on updating the Teacher's Lounge.
- For the outside of the school, Amy said, "We have been working with Dr. Schoenlank and the board to get the name Ridge on the building". The two locations being considered are the courtyard area or the overhang above the main entrance. Amy said we will work together and see what makes sense for the school.
- Right now, we are approving all the pavers and sending out a thank you to the entire community, as well as alumni.

- Amy noted that there are a few things that are outstanding that we could use some help with. We need to decide where the benches will go and the location of the planters.
 - Amy thanked Kristen Kuiken for providing the reading nook and free library.
 - Ashley thanked Alysson Wesner and Joanna Salmon for running movie night which was a huge success.
 - Ashley also wanted to thank Christin Williams, Julie Bender, and Megan McGirr for their help with Arts Week. They did a fantastic job of hanging 375 windsocks up on the lawn and the students will get to go take a field trip to see them all soon.
- E. Upcoming events
- Possible Social- Ashley mentioned we are exploring doing an adult social at the end of the year. There will be more details to come.
 - Frosty Fridays- There will 2 Frosty Fridays and 1 Frosty Thursday coming up. The dates will be June 4th, June 10th, and June 18th. There will be tables at each of the exits. Each grade will have their own table and we will need at least 12 volunteers to help pass them out.
 - 4th of July Parade- Ridge is working on a float. Lauren Kupiec and Kristen Kuiken are in charge of the float this year. They would love help if anyone wants to volunteer.
- F. Closing Remarks and Thank You- Ashley thanked the HSA Board for all their hard work. Ashley also wanted to thank Mindy Muselli for her endless hours helping out with the website. She also thanked Dr. Schoenlank and told her that she will miss her.

Important Dates

May

- 5/10 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5/10- Art Day
- 5/11 – HSA public meeting (11:30 pm)
- 5/12 – School Nurse Day
- 5/13 – Eid Al Fitr / Professional Development – No School
- 5/25 – Kindergarten Orientation (1:00-1:30 pm)
- 5/26 – Kindergarten Orientation (2:15–2:45 pm)
- 5/28 – Unused Snow Day – School closed
- 5/31 – Memorial Day – No School

June

- 6/8 – HSA public meeting (1:30 pm)
- 6/11 – Field Day
- 6/15-6/16 – Summer Book Fair
- 6/18 – Field Day Rain date
- 6/21- 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony

Vice President's Report

Jean Whitehead

A. Friends of Ridge

- Jean thanked Ashley for everything she did in this unconventional year.
- Jean mentioned that there will be for all 2nd-5th graders, a Ruby Bridges visit which she thinks will be amazing and the K-1st graders will have a read aloud by Dr. Schoenlank.
- 5th grade is having Encampment Light which will happen May 27th. This used to be a 2-day event in the past but now will be modified to a 1-day event. There will be 3 entertainers there that have to do with history. Linda Russell, who is an historical balladeer, David Emerson who is an historical interpreter/storyteller who has a show called, "History on the Hoof", and Mr. Mueller who is the head re-enactor which will be a modified version of what he has done in the past.
- Jean announced that 2nd grade will not be having Jonathan Sprout because he is not comfortable doing virtual. Mrs. Ardito is looking for another alternative for 2nd grade.

B. Jean mentioned that there is tentative bee keeper coming for 3rd grade. She also said for Kindergarten, there will be a virtual assembly with Rizzo's Wildlife. They are still looking for a program for our 3rd and 4th grade students.

C. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Jean Whitehead informed us that at every school in Ridgewood they have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. She mentioned the co-chairs are Patricia Lee, Jennifer Williams, and herself. Jean explained what Diversity means. It means, the output that happens when we have an anti-racist school. She then explained that Equity can be thought of the equity of outcomes. Inclusion can be thought of as the work that is required in shifting power so people furthest from the educational front are a part of the decision-making table in order to make changes that are needed.
- Jean then read the mission statement of DEI. The statement reads, "As a community we encourage students to be citizens of the world who know that the responsibility of inclusion is held by all and done for all. Students learn mutual respect for all members of society. We aim to establish a school culture that is inclusive in thought, representation and action. Students are exposed to varied topics, experiences, and opportunities through an age-appropriate approach based in community inclusiveness and the use of a broad historical perspective. There is open collaboration and communication between parents and teachers which encourages an interdependence of the students to become global citizens in and out of school".
- Jen Williams shared that there are plenty of volunteer opportunities in the future.

- Shared school programming- assemblies, book of the month, ROC assembly content.
 - A more representative calendar celebrating diversity with information for local events and online resources for parents.
 - Annual Heritage Day-this would focus heavily on community involvement in and outside of Ridge.
 - Enrichment- Story Walk (celebrating a specific heritage each month) and Friends of Ridge enrichment activities.
 - Elementary School Liaison- works with other schools to align or create shared events, calendars, and messaging.
 - RPS Advocacy- messaging, showing up at Board of Education meetings, advocating for increased resources for the district (guidance counselors/school, a DEI officer for the district), asking for more DEI support at the district level, advocating, etc.
- Jean explained that a Story Walk is books that are laminated on every page and groups of students and families can walk through stations by the fence on the castle playground. This month's book is called, We're the Same, We're Different. This is a good opportunity for students to ask questions and it is really like reading a story while walking. The hope is that this is not a one-time event and the books can change possibly monthly.
 - DEI is an ongoing effort that we are all growing through at work and at home. It is imperative that parents step up and lean in to support a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion. We look to each of you, those here, those streaming at home, those who visit the notes from this meeting after kids are in bed. The Ridgewood community as a whole is making a statement about the importance of these messages, and schools are a key starting point for that. We are fortunate to have the good work of other schools like Travell to follow, and the remarkable community and administrative support here at Ridge to help us also be leaders in DEI. We hope each committee has at least 2-3 volunteers, so this good work can be shared across grades, families, and other commitments we all have without losing momentum. To volunteer, please email us at RidgeElementaryDEI@gmail.com.

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 Erin.*

Statement of Financial Position

Lana reported that

- Bill Ward Fund- \$19,212.57
- Savings- \$35,438.05
- Operating Account- \$90,536.15
- TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1

- Total- \$145,187.77

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Revenues

- Author visit book sales- \$261
- Membership/Directory- \$60
- Retail Events- Village Table \$197.44
- Additional fundraisers- Comfort Bands and Spring cookies kits- \$200
- FOR donations-\$650 and \$400 in company matches- Total \$1,050
- Beautification-\$51,913
- Beautification- \$2,114 (\$2,000 for Demerest Farms and \$114 for popcorn and glowsticks)
- Total Budget was \$25,720 and Revenue was \$24,938 so very good on a year where we did not know what could happen.

Year-to-Date Actuals vs. Budget: Expenses

- Accounting and business fees-\$1,007 which are our square fees
- Classroom Grants- \$895
- Flowers/Gifts- \$139.99
- Science Fair- \$600 but used \$192.70
- Goodwill- \$50 this includes the graduation sign and the Kindergarten T-shirts
- FOR enrichment \$7,336 but budget is \$17,500

Planning & Development's Report

Alysson Wesner

- Alysson thanked everyone that helped out with movie night especially Joanna Salmon. It was such a huge success and we are grateful for everyone's participation.
- Alysson mentioned that we are working on the social but no details at this time.
- Alysson also announced that the HSA is doing a last minute FOR fundraiser. This will be a way to do something fun and engaging with the kids. She mentioned that she is working with Glass Mosaics out of Waldrick and they put together 2 kinds of mosaics. One is a school spirit, Ridgie the Raccoon and another one is United We Stand, in support of Ruby Bridges. This will be announced soon.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Mark Bruno

- Mark was not at the meeting. Ashley spoke on his behalf. She is sending out today the sign up genius for committee chairs for next year. A number of people signed up already from the past jobs from this year which is great to have some consistency. Anyone new, there will be transition meetings.
- Ashley noted that Red Zone is getting more volunteers in the morning but not as much in the afternoons.

Secretary's Report

Lila Goldberg

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

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

Update

No update at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:16p.m.

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

NEXT H.S.A. MEETING is Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 1:30pm on the Ridge patio.