

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
November 9, 2021 at 2:00pm
RIDGE PATIO MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS: Albano, Barry, Bender, Bernard, Beser, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Coffina, Crosly, Daffron, Das, DeAngelis, Goldberg, Harris, Hix, Hoag, Holder, Howell, Kafes, Kelly, Kerwin, Koehler, Kong, Kupiec, Long, McGirr, Minetti, Mittal, Murphy, Nadeau, Nair, Oros, Oros, Pourezza, Ramos, Reilly, Salmon-Herrmann, Schirripa, Seguin, Steketee, Vermeylen, Wall, Weber, Wesner, Whitehead, Williams, Wilson, Woods

PRESENT: DeAngelis, Kong, Long, Nadeau, Naik, Ramos, Reilly, Sekhon, Whitehead, Wilson **VIA GOOGLE MEET:** Beser, Hayes, Kupiec, Woods

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Albano, Bender, Briganti, Bruce-Lockhart, Das, Goldberg, Harris, Hix, Holder, Howell, Kerwin, Koehler, Mittal, Singh, Vermeylen, Williams

MOTIONS:

1. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 12, 2021 Ridge HSA meeting.
2. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the November 2021 Budget and Balance Sheet.

Welcome & Call to Order

Jean Whitehead

Jean Whitehead, HSA. President, called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 12, 2021 Ridge HSA meeting.

Principal's Report

Michael Piacenza

- A. **Bill Ward Fund** - M Piacenza discussed the Bill Ward Fund. Created in honor of Bill Ward, long-standing principal at Ridge School, the Fund provides financial assistance to Ridge families in need. Ensuring that no Ridge student is denied participation in activities and experiences, the fund relies on contributions to continue its availability in supporting our students/families. The Fund is administered by the HSA and overseen by a committee made up of the principal, a former HSA president, and 2 Ridge staff members. Requests for assistance can be made in confidence to the principal who will discuss/approve with the committee. Donations of any amount are valued in order to keep this special resource available.
- B. **One School One Book** - M Piacenza reported the school is considering "The Wild Robot" for this year's One School One Book. Some committee members were familiar and offered support. Ideas for activities supporting the event were discussed, including M Piacenza reading chapters to the students virtually from home. More information will follow, but all are looking forward to this fun tradition. Anticipate the books will be distributed after the New Year.
- C. **Teacher's Grants** - M Piacenza expressed thanks and appreciation on behalf of the teachers and staff for the grants provided by the HSA. Each grade, specials, and special education teams were provided with \$400 grants to purchase materials and supplies to support their classes.

President's Report

Jean Whitehead

- A. **Directory** - J Whitehead promoted the Ridge Directory, which can be accessed by paying \$30 HSA dues. Purchases have reached 50% of the budgeted goal. Encouraged everyone who has not already to pay their dues to please do so.
- B. **Ridgewear** is coming soon. Likely to arrive within the next week or two.

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- C. **Wrapping Paper Sale** continues. Orders have raised ~\$1,700 so far. Budgeted goal is \$2,200. J Whitehead encouraged families to review the catalog and support the fundraiser.
- D. **The Book Fair** is underway on the patio! Classes will be visiting 11/9 – 11/11. Encouraging parents to volunteer to assist the students and run the registers during classroom visits.
- E. **The Wishing Tree** is up! J Whitehead encouraged families to grab a snowflake card containing “wishes” from families in need of gift support during the holidays. The wishes should be returned to Ridge School unwrapped and with the snowflake attached.
- F. **LEAP** is back!
 - a. J Whitehead and J Long described the program where parents come into the school during recess in the winter months and organize an interactive activity for the students. Plan start date is January 19, 2022.
 - b. M Piacenza announced they would likely organize grade level events to keep cohorts together. Will see how things evolve and make a final decision closer to the start date.
 - c. Call for volunteers to support this popular and fun activity. M Piacenza was encouraged to do something fun, perhaps with the older grades.
- G. **Book Gifting**
 - a. Ridge tradition of having families donate books to the school library. When purchasing a book, a sticker is placed in the front with the child’s name for anyone who check’s out the book from the library. M Piacenza reported checking books for his own children and the enjoyment of recognizing the names of students he had the privilege of knowing when he worked in other schools in the district.
 - b. Families encouraged to participate in this special activity. All proceeds go toward book purchases for the school library. This is not a fundraiser.
- H. **Stocking Stuffers** – Stocking stuffers are back this year. Like last year, will be including magnets, umbrellas, blankets, ball caps, etc.
- I. **Month of Service**
 - a. J Whitehead discussed the plan for February’s Month of Service. Will provide opportunities for students to give back to the community through a variety of service opportunities. Ideas like clothing and food drives, postcards for Valley patients discussed. More information to follow.
 - b. M Piacenza requested given the age of students that activities are conducted on school property.
- J. **Yankee Game**
 - a. J Whitehead discussed being contacted by the Yankee organization offering a block of seats for the school to watch a game. Seats will be offered at a discounted rate with some proceeds provided to the HSA.
 - b. Game scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd at 1pm. Tickets will be available for purchase at 2 pricing levels.

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- c. Requirements regarding vaccination status were discussed. J Whitehead to follow up to confirm whether there may be vaccination requirements by the stadium
- K. Beautification Project** - A Hayes discussed the next phase focusing on the Jean Schoenlank Reading Corner. Thanks to donations from Downes Trees and Kuiken Brothers, a natural seating area will accompany the Reading Corner and Outdoor Library. The Committee is looking for strong individuals to assist on Sunday from 3:00pm – 4:15pm and with final sanding and shellacking of the benches and stump seats during the week. Please contact A Hayes if interested in assisting. Be on the lookout for more information in the ENews.
- L. Field Trip Fees** - Suggestion from teachers for families who may want to assist students in financial need. When paying for field trip dues, parents can “round up” and have that added to the Bill Ward Fund and used for students who may need assistance in order to attend field trips.

M. Important Dates

November

- 11/3 Prof. Development Day – No School
- 11/4 & 11/5 NJEA Convention/Diwali – No School
- 11/9 HSA Public Meeting @2pm
- 11/9-11/11 Book Fair
- 11/19 Colonial Craft Day
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Break – 12:45 Dismissal
- 11/25 & 11/26 Thanksgiving Break – No School

December

- 12/8 Holiday Show
- 12/10 Geography Bee Test
- 12/14 Spelling Bee @12pm
- 12/16 Spelling Bee @1:15pm
- 12/17 Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- 12/24 December Break – 12:45pm Dismissal
- 12/25 – 12/31 December Break – No School

January

- 1/7 Geography Bee @1:30pm
- 1/11 HSA Public Meeting @2pm
- 1/17 MLK Day – No School
- *1/19 LEAP Begins
- 1/27 & 1/28 Wizards Games @7pm
- 1/28 Instrumental Concert @8:30am and @1:30pm

Vice President’s Report

Bernadette Reilly

A. Friends of Ridge

- a. **Used Book Sale** – B Reilly thanked everyone for a very successful event. Hundreds of books were donated with approximately \$2,000 raised. Kids had a great time purchasing books. Was a very rewarding event that can hopefully continue next year.
- b. **Campaign Distributions** – looking to revamp the Friends of Ridge Campaign circulations and transition to an electronic format. Marketing materials need to be updated to reflect changes in the some of the activities, some that have been updated and some that are no longer available. Hope to have up and running soon.

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Treasurer's Report

Lauren Kupiec

- A. L Kupiec reported out Balance Sheet as of 11/8/2021:
 - a. Bill Ward Fund- \$15,359.78
 - b. Savings- \$35,447.11
 - c. Operating Account- \$63,699.57
 - d. TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1
 - e. Total- \$114,507.46
- B. L Kupiec also reported out YTD Actuals v. Budget through November 2021. No big expenses thus far.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the November 2021 Budget and Balance Sheet.

Planning & Development's Report

Jen DeAngelis

- A. J DeAngelis reported the Village Table (same vendor who assisted with the Halloween Cookie Kits) will be offering Thanksgiving dessert orders. Will provide cookies, DIY cookies, pies, hot chocolate bombs... Deadline to order will be November 18, 2021. Desserts will be distributed on November 23, 2021, in time for Thanksgiving. cause

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Meaghan Nadeau

- A. M Nadeau reported still looking for a Frosty Friday Coordinator.
- B. Crossing Guard for the 4th and 5th grade driveway has been restored. Parent expressed concern about the crossing guard and his ability to manage the traffic while maintaining the safety of the students, pedestrians and staff. M Piacenza will monitor the situation.

Secretary's Report

Sara Wilson

- A. S Wilson read a note addressed to the Bill Ward Fund (BWF) Committee from Girl Scout Troop 96987 (Ridge Class of 2021). The troop had disbanded as the girls were moving on to middle school. They decided to make a donation to the BWF, thinking of "no better place to contribute our remaining troop funds." The committee was touched by the generosity of the troop and their contribution to such a wonderful cause.

Additional Updates

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wilson
Ridge HSA Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, January 11th at 2:00pm.