

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
January 18, 2022 at 1:30pm
VIRTUAL GOOGLE MEET

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, Vermynen, Wall, Weber, Wesner, Whitehead, Williams, Wilson, Woods

PRESENT VIA GOOGLE MEET: Bender, Beser, DeAngelis, Hayes, Kapoor, Kelly, Kong, Kupiec, Long, Maltin, Naciri, Nadeau, Reilly, Tobaccowila, Weber, Whitehead, Wilson, Woods

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Albano, Briganti, Coffina, Daffron, Das, DeAngelis, Goldberg, Harris, Hix, Hoag, Holder, Howell, Koehler, Mittal, Nair, Ramos, Salmon, Schirripa, Singh, Vermynen, Wall, Wesner, Williams

MOTIONS:

1. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the November 9, 2021 Ridge HSA meeting.*
2. *A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the January 2022 Budget and Balance Sheet.*

Welcome & Call to Order

Jean Whitehead

Jean Whitehead, HSA President, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the November 9, 2021 Ridge HSA meeting.

Principal's Report

Michael Piacenza

- A. One School One Book** - M Piacenza reported One School One Book, **The Wild Robot**, will begin February 2, 2022. M Piacenza is planning to kick off the event with a live (virtual) fire side reading of the first 1-2 chapters. Additional events/activities are being planned. Books will be distributed soon.
- B. Science Fair** – Planning for a virtual event on March 4, 2022. Will consider in person if appropriate.
- C. Holiday Show** – M Piacenza reported some parents had expressed disappointment about not having an in-person Holiday Show in December. At the time, Ridge was experiencing an increase in COVID cases. It did not seem appropriate, at the time, to have parents, staff, and students in the building for an in-person event. M Piacenza apologized and acknowledged this may have been disappointing and frustrating for parents. It just did not seem like the right thing to do at the time. Going forward if the volume of COVID cases decreases and we can find a way to safely conduct these cherished events on school property, we will.
- D. Q & U Wedding** – Kindergarten tradition that usually occurs around Valentine's Day has been postponed to the Spring. Kindergarten teachers will discuss and plan for a, hopefully, live event at a later date.
- E. Concerts** – Have been postponed to the Spring. Depending on COVID #'s, may plan for an outdoor v. virtual event.
- F. Block Party** – Looking forward to the Ridge School Block Party planned for the Spring.
- G. Recycle a Bicycle** – M Piacenza reported on a fundraising event he participated while Vice-Principal at GW, where bicycles are donated and then resold. GW will not be hosting the event this year; however, Ridge School is considering. Bicycles are donated by families who then receive a voucher for \$10-20 to purchase a new bike selected from donations made by other families. Student volunteers help clean the bikes and safety inspections are conducted. The

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bikes are organized by color, age, type, etc. and then sold. Time slots can be assigned to manage crowds. Any bikes that remain after the sale are donated. Proceeds are given to charity. Ridge school is considering hosting this event in early May.

President's Report

Jean Whitehead

- A. J Whitehead confirmed that LEAP has been postponed. No rescheduling date has been confirmed.
- B. **Wrapping Paper Sale** generated roughly \$2,600
- C. **Ridgewear** did well. There are hats, umbrellas, and blankets still available from the **Stocking Stuffer** fundraiser. Those items will remain available for purchase as Ridgewear.
- D. **Directory** – 2/3 of anticipated funds collected. Will send emails to parents outlining what the funds are used for to encourage payment of dues.
- E. **Stocking Stuffers** – Stocking stuffers are back this year. Like last year, will be including magnets, umbrellas, blankets, ball caps, etc.
- F. **February Month of Service** has been postponed. Do not want to further overwhelm teachers and staff. Will monitor and determine if can happen in Spring.
- G. **Beautification Project** - A Hayes reported many books have been donated. Last of installations scheduled for early April, including commemorative plaque for the reading corner. Hoping to do a dedication ceremony with Dr. Schoenlank in the Spring.
- H. **Teachers** were informed of \$400 classroom **Grants**. The money is used to purchase items for the classroom to educate students. In years' past \$400 was distributed per grade. This year the HSA was able to provide \$400 per classroom.
- I. **Fundraising** - \$2,100 raised from mini fundraisers. Tons of Toys generated \$850.
- J. **Teacher's Lounge** – Planning underway. Looking for volunteers to help with design and reconstruction. A fundraiser in February will fund the revamping of the lounge.
- K. **Super Science Saturday** – virtual event on Saturday, 3/5. Details to follow.
- L. **Bingo Night** - February 3, 2022 (virtual event). Tickets sales will begin 1/24. Mr. P has volunteered to emcee. Gift cards and pizza lunches among the prizes.
- M. **Yankees Game** – April 23, 2022. So far 53 tickets have been sold. Can buy up to two weeks prior to the game.
- N. **Ridge Block Party** – Planning for an outdoor Spring event. Similar to the family picnic, but on a larger scale. Tentative date around April 30, 2022, yet to be confirmed.

O. Important Dates

➤ **January**

- 1/17 MLK Day – No School
- 1/18 HSA Public Meeting (Virtual) @1:30pm
- 1/25 & 1/27 – Spelling Bee

➤ **February**

- 2/1 Lunar New Year – No School
- 2/3 Bingo Night (Virtual) @6pm
- 2/8 HSA Public Meeting (Virtual) @1:30pm
- 2/10 Kindergarten Report Cards
- 2/21–2/23 February Break – No School

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- TBD Science Assembly

➤ **March**

- 3/3 Science Fair @6pm
- 3/4 Science Fair (daytime event)
- 3/5 Super Science Saturday (Virtual)
- 3/8 HSA Public Meeting @2pm
- 3/18 Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Vice President's Report

Bernadette Reilly

- A. Friends of Ridge – B Reilly reported FOR is half way toward its goal. \$8,800 has been raised thus far. Fundraising focus has been on events/activities that FOR supports (4th Grade – Meadowlands trip, 5th Grade – Fort Lee). Circus company is no longer in business. Investigating alternative ideas including “In the Ropes.” More information to come.

Treasurer's Report

Lauren Kupiec

- A. L Kupiec reported out Balance Sheet as of 1-2022:
 - a. Bill Ward Fund- \$15,105.40
 - b. Savings- \$35,448.88
 - c. Operating Account- \$83,693.32
 - d. TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1
 - e. Total- \$134,509.97
- B. Reported membership for the Directory is low compared to previous years. Goal is \$6,200, but only ~\$4,000 collected to date. Encouraged consideration for advertising strategies to encourage families to pay dues. Reported less money collected for school photos, but school supplies and Wrapping Paper fundraisers generated more than expected, so all appears to be evening out in terms of funds generated.
- C. Yankees tickets are being purchased and Friends of Ridge is collecting donations.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the January 2022 Budget and Balance Sheet.

Planning & Development's Report

Jen DeAngelis

- A. J DeAngelis reported the following:
 - a. Bingo Night – no cook fundraiser with local restaurant
 - b. Valentine's Day
 - i. Village Table - desserts, cookies
 - ii. Arts & Crafts
 - iii. Parkwood – heart shaped pizzas

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Meaghan Nadeau

- A. M Nadeau reported Red Zone operations improving. Still in need of volunteers. J Whitehead will work on communications and advertisements for Red Zone, including safety reminders
- B. M Nadeau offered volunteers for Kindergarten orientation. M Piacenza was grateful and will follow up once he has more information.

Secretary's Report

Sara Wilson

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- A. S Wilson read an email addressed to the Board and HSA members thanking everyone for the holiday gift card. She expressed her appreciation working with the “dedicated, caring and thoughtful” parents at Ridge School and wished everyone a wonderful year.

Additional Updates

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:03p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wilson
Ridge HSA Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, February 8th at 2:00pm.