

**RIDGE H.S.A. INC.**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**February 8, 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, Poureza, Ramos, Reilly, Salmon-Herrmann, Schirripa, Seguin, Steketee, Vermeylen, Wall, Weber, Wesner, Whitehead, Williams, Wilson, Woods

**PRESENT VIA GOOGLE MEET:** Bender, Beser, DeAngelis, Hayes, Kelly, McGovern, Nadeau, Nair, Reilly, Tobaccowila, Whitehead, Wilson, Woods

**ABSENT BUT VOTING:** Albano, Bruce-Lockhart, Coffina, Crosly, Daffron, Das, Goldberg, Harris, Hoag, Howell, Koehler, Mittal, Ramos, Salmon-Herrmann, Vermeylen, Williams

**GUESTS:** Brogan

**MOTIONS:**

1. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the January 18, 2022 Ridge HSA meeting.
2. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the February 2022 Budget and Balance Sheet.

**Welcome & Call to Order**

Jean Whitehead

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

**Guest Speaker**

Sheila Brogan

**M Brogan** spoke about upcoming Super Science Saturday. Scheduled for March 5, 2022 from 10 :00am – 12 :30pm will have activities for all ages, including virtual exhibits from science organizations across the US. Videos will be pre-recorded. Students and welcome to submit 3-5 minute videos of their own projects. Examples can be found on the site for reference. There will be recorded presentations from the following:

- A. Pacific Science Center in Seattle, WA
- B. Adirondacks
- C. Greenland Glaciers
- D. Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Pallsades, NJ
- E. Dolphin Research Center (FL)
- F. Marine Lab
- G. NASA (Mars Rover)
- H. Annual Rocket Launch (12:30pm)
- I. And More!

**Principal's Report**

Michael Piacenza

- A. **Month of Service** – Pushed back to May 2022. Will provide families/students the opportunity to provide community service.
- B. **Recycle a Bicycle** Ridge School to host this year. Plan to alternate between GW/Ridge annually, which was the original intention when the event was initiated.
- C. **LipSync** is scheduled for April 1, 2022.
- D. **Science Fair** – March 3<sup>rd</sup> (Evening Parent Event) and March 4<sup>th</sup> (Daytime Student event).
  - a. Theme is "Invention Convention." Students are encouraged to showcase their own inventions that help solve problems. M Piacenza shared having the opportunity to meet the Grandson of the Gentleman who started Super Science Saturday, who happened to be a Ridge Alumni.
- E. **One School One Book** – Reading is underway. M Piacenza kicked off the event with a fireside reading in his home with his family present. Had 40-50 viewers. Expressed appreciation for M Eng putting together a website with information about the schedule and events.

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- F. **Wizards Game** - scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. M Piacenza will be present and participating.
- G. **Alternate Schedule** – M Piacenza reported the proposal for alternate schedule is unlikely to begin for 2022-2023 school year. The proposal to delay openings for the middle and high schools addresses the seemingly overwhelming research that shows a lack of synchronization between early school start times and the circadian rhythm of adolescents. Literature suggests early start times combat the nature of their mind/body and can ultimately impair academic performance. Delaying Middle and High School openings means Elementary opening will be pushed back as well. More information to come including surveys that will circulate to parents as well and BOE presentations etc.

*Parent Question: A Hayes asked whether this Alternate Schedule has been publicized at Ridge? Expressed concern that parents may see district notifications regarding a change to middle and high school start times and not realize that it also impacts elementary school start times. Could have an impact on parents with young children (K-2 w/ siblings in preschool).*

*M Piacenza reported some information had been presented at school board meetings. At this time the district is gathering information; reaching out to Ridgewood Police Department, Bus Companies etc. He acknowledged parents may not realize the proposed schedule change impacts elementary school start times. Stated he would discuss with other elementary principals about direct communication to elementary school parents.*

**President's Report**

Jean Whitehead

A motion was made, seconded, and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the January 18, 2022 Ridge HSA meeting.

- A. Bingo Night – A Great Night; over \$3,000 raised. Extended recess was one of the more sought-after prizes. M Piacenza will be hand delivering prizes to students this week.
- B. **Science Fair** – Planning underway
- C. **Yankees Game** – 66 tickers sold
- D. **HSA Dues** - \$4,200 of the budgeted \$6,200 collected thus far
- E. **LEAP** – Back on the calendar. Currently scheduled for 3/14/2022 – 4/7/2022.
- F. **Drive In Movie** – moved to 4/29 to accommodate additional students (conflict identified on 5/6)
- G. **Ridge Block Party** – Scheduled for 5/13. Will be looking for volunteers to assist with planning.
- H. **Teacher Appreciation Project (TAP)** – J Whitehead gave a heartfelt talk about TAP and the unwavering support and dedication Ridge teachers have continued to show through the pandemic and school year. They go above and beyond for the kids and families at Ridge School and TAP is a way for to show gratitude for their hard work and dedication. Grants were given early to allow teachers to use the funds now. There will be emails and notifications circulating to raise money for the funds that were distributed as well as funds to support refurbishing the Teacher's Lounge.

**I. Important Dates**

➤ **February**

- 2/1 Lunar New Year – No School
- 2/2 Executive Board Meeting @1:30pm
- 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

➤ **March**

- 3/1 Executive Board Meeting @1:30pm
- 3/3 Science Fair @5pm

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- 3/4 Science Fair (daytime event)
- 3/5 Super Science Saturday (Virtual)
- 3/8 HSA Public Meeting @2pm
- 3/14-4/7 LEAP
- 3/14-3/16 Learn the Ropes
- 3/18 Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert @9:15am and 2:00pm

**Vice President's Report**

Bernadette Reilly

- A. Friends of Ridge – B Reilly reported FOR has raised over \$6,000. Looking to raise an additional \$5,000 to support the grade level activities that have been planned and are already underway. Will be a second drive/campaign to raise funds in March.

**Treasurer's Report**

Jean Whitehead

- A. J Whitehead reported out Balance Sheet as of 2-2022:
- a. Bill Ward Fund- \$14,967.84
  - b. Savings- \$35,449.78
  - c. Operating Account- \$83,152.28
  - d. TD account for Legalized Games of Chance- \$1
  - e. Total- \$133,832.27

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

**Planning & Development's Report**

Jen DeAngelis

- A. J DeAngelis reported the following:
- a. Valentine's Day Fundraisers underway. Published via ENews and Social Media.
    - i. Dessert orders are due by 5pm today.
    - ii. Parkwood orders due by 1pm on 2/14

**Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Meaghan Nadeau

- A. M Nadeau reported all parents who volunteered for the Red Zone have been entered in a raffle for a Ridge umbrella

**Secretary's Report**

Sara Wilson

- A. J Whitehead read an email from A Pecorelli expressing appreciation for the teacher's grant she received. With the funds she was able to update technology and sound system for Music.

**Additional Updates**

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Wilson  
Ridge HSA Secretary

**NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.**