

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: November 14, 2017 at 7:30 pm
TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BOARD MEMBERS: Albano, Alvarado, Ardito, Beck, Bender, Beiersdorf, Bosch, Briganti, Brinkmann, Chudy, Coviello, Cox, Daffron, DeMeulder, Doerfel, Fiol, Flynn, Gaglioti, Geller, Ginn, Harrington, Harris, Holder, Hong, Hutchinson, Kahn, Karas, Katzman, Killeen, Kong, Langheim, Latimer, Linnington, McCarthy, Micale, Monte, Neumann, Nixon, Noel, O'Keefe, Patrawala, Perrin, Pilchik, Rosenberg, Rozenberg, Rubenstein, Rubine, Sharma, Sorabella, Stephens, Sturfels, Sullivan, Tudda, Turner, Twilliger, Wallace, Williams, Zachariah

PRESENT: Hutchinson, Fiol, Albano, Briganti, Langheim, Wallace, DeMeulder, Bender, Harris, Nixon

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Perrin, Linnington, Holder, Zachariah, Rozenberg, Latimer, Neumann, Cox, Rubenstein, Patrawala, Kahn, Rosenberg, Chudy, Coviello, Sharma, Hong, Daffron, Micale, Geller

Motion:

1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 17, 2017 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.
2. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 12, 2017 and the 2017/2018 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Maria Hutchinson

Maria Hutchinson, H.S.A. President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

Welcome

Jean welcomed everyone to our evening meeting.

PARCC Results (Grades 3,4,5)

Jean handed out a document listing a summary of Ridge PARCC results from Spring 2017. Overall, Ridge students continue to do very well compared to district and state. The document included the expectations levels. We are comfortably in 'Meet Expectations' for both Math and English Language Arts (ELA) and moving towards 'Exceeded Expectations'.

She mentioned that she and the 5th grade teachers can now look at three years of data and look at trends. Jean reminded the group that these scores are only one piece of information in our children's education.

Mindfulness and Gratitude

Our Book of the Month is *I am Peace* by Susan Verde, illustrated by Peter Reynolds. This book teaches children about the importance of mindfulness and how to find peace from it. We are trying to help children live in the moment and learn how to calm themselves down. Some children get overexcited and then make bad choices. Mindfulness helps them calm down.

This year, our school theme is gratitude. Jean will visit all the classes this month to talk about gratitude and how they should always look at the positive side of things. Every class will get a gratitude jar where the children can jot down what they are grateful for. She encourages everyone at home to create a gratitude jar and use it during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Jean provided two articles about the benefits of mindfulness which can be accessed through the November Ridge Report.

Community Wellbeing

Topic: Helping kids thrive (and survive) in their digital world, November 29, GW Auditorium, 7 pm

President's Report

Maria Hutchinson

Important Dates

November

- 11/15-16 Book Fair
- 11/15 Parent Visitation 9-11 am
- 11/16 1st Grade Colonial Craft Day 9-12 pm
- 11/22 Early Dismissal 12:45
- 11/23-24 School Closed- Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/29 Screenwise: Helping Kids Thrive (and Survive) in Their Digital World, GW, 7 pm

December

- 12/1 Holiday Concert, 9:30 am/1:30 pm
- 12/7 Geography Bee Test (grades 4,5)
- 12/12 Spelling Bee 1, 12 pm (grades 4,5)
- 12/14 Spelling Bee Final, 1:30 pm
- 12/15 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 12/22 Early Dismissal 12:45
- 12/23-01/01 School Closed

January

- 1/5 Geography Bee 1:30 pm
- 1/8 LEAP begins

Update

- We will not have an HSA meeting in December.
- We are working on condensing Enews and including direct links in the emails. Jean will mention our streamlining of Enews in the November Ridge Report. We will also limit class parent emails that we send to parents.
- The Board held a brainstorming session to talk about a fundraising idea for this year. For a fun fundraiser, we would like to have a carnival day. This fundraiser could raise money for our health office which needs an overhaul and/or raise money for a sister school that has needs.
- The board discussed whether Kindergarten students should be able to take LEAP classes in January. Caren Langheim will circle back with Kerri Pilchik, the LEAP (Lunchtime Enrichment Program) coordinator before any decision is made.

Vice President's Report

Hilary Wallace

Enrichment Update

Upcoming enrichment activities include the following:

- Bats, bats, bats (2nd grade)
- Yoga with Karen Weber (Kindergarten)
- Meet the Musicians (entire school)
- Ellis Island (4th grade)
- 5th grade encampment (living history project)
- Author visit, Grace Lin coming in March.

Friends of Ridge (FOR) Campaign

- Hilary showed a prototype of the campaign mailer. The goal this year is between 17K and 18K. We are currently at \$2790 in donations.

Secretary's Report

Alyssa Fiol

Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 17, 2017 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

- Motion was approved by Caren Langheim and seconded by Tara Briganti.

Update

Alyssa read the following thank you note:

- Doug Brown, from NJ Circus Center thanking the HSA for the continued support of their Circus Program.

Treasurer's Report

Tara Briganti

A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 12, 2017, and the 2017/2018 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

- Motion was approved by Hilary Wallace and seconded by Liz Nixon.

Financial Statement Update

- We need to keep some money in our savings because we are in charge of maintaining the castle playground.
- The key revenue drivers are the Book Fair and the school directory. Enrichment activities are our biggest expenses.
- We did not get our Bingo Night results in.
- We just closed our Wrapping Paper Fundraiser and we will net \$2000.
- Our school directory made \$7500 (over \$2000 was from selling ads).
- The revenue of Ridgewear will go down because we have not gotten the expenses for the merchandise yet.

Planning and Development's Report

Alina Albano

Gift Card Fundraiser Update

- We are selling various gift cards through Shop with Scripps for the upcoming Holiday Season. For this fundraiser, the school places a large gift card order with various vendors, and we get a percentage of the sales. Starting tomorrow, Alina will begin selling the cards.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Caren Langheim

Update

- We are looking for a second LEAP committee chairperson.
- We are looking for a Field Day chair who will provide ice, ice pops, and drinks for Field Day.
- Caren provided a list of open chair positions (as of next year) so that parents can determine which chair positions they'd be interested in for 2018-2019.

Other

Brian Madigan, Parent Visitor

He mentioned that it would be a great idea if we had a parking spot for the afternoon red zone volunteer.

Second Red Zone

The Board and visitors talked about how the second red zone is working out well.

Crossing Guards for Halloween Parade

This year, Jane the Crossing Guard could not come to the Halloween Celebration beginning at lunchtime to walk the kids across the street so Maria called the police department for coverage. Going forward, we will call the police department to get two crossing guards. We will also inform them that Clinton Ave. should not be open during lunchtime so that the children can walk home to change into their costumes.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Fiol

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 1:15 pm in the Teacher's Lounge.