

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MEETING DATE: September 18, 2018 at 1:15 pm  
TEACHER'S LOUNGE

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Albano, Beck, Beiersdorf, Bender, Briganti, Brinkman, Bruno, Chudy, Daffron, Doerfel, Dowling, Flynn, Geller, Gershenson, Gross, Harrington, Harris, Hong, Hutchinson, Kahn, Kahn, Katzman, Kong, Langheim, Lindenberg, Losquadro, McCarthy, McLeod, Micale, Monte, Neumann, O'Keefe, Patrawala, Pilchik, Rosenberg, Rozenberg, Rubine, Sagggar, Sandora, Singh, Sorabella, Stephens, Strohmenger, Sturmfels, Sullivan, Tobacawala, Tudda, Turner, Twilliger, Wall, Wallace, Wright

**PRESENT:** Gershenson, Pilchik, Wallace, Kahn, Twilliger, Patrawala, Dowling, Kong, Langheim, Singh, Hutchinson,

**ABSENT BUT VOTING:** Beiersdorf, Katzman, Flynn, Lindenberg, Rozenberg, Kahn, Bender, Harris, Kong, Wall, Sandoro, Bruno, McCarthy, Micale, Neumann, Tobacawala, Sagggar, Geller, Briganti, Brinkmann

**Motion:**

- 1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
- 2. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 15, 2018 and the 2018/2019 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.**

**WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Hilary Wallace

Hilary Wallace, H.S.A. President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:21 pm. She was excited to see a good turnout and some new faces at the meeting.

**Principal's Report**

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

Choose to be Nice and Responsive Classroom

Jean explained to the new attendees that she speaks at all HSA meetings. She wanted to know if there is a way to link the Ridge Report, which she publishes monthly, to the HSA web site or minutes. Jean explained that at the beginning of each school year there is a theme, this year it's "choose to be nice." The school is off to great start, all teachers and students have signed a "choose to be nice" banner that contains a pledge, and kids have gotten their bracelets. This

theme is combined with all of the activities surrounding social and emotional learning. Ridge is also now a responsive classroom school. For the first time all classes have morning meetings, the day starts with greetings, sometimes in a different language, always a new way to greet. After the greeting there may be a fun activity. The idea is to build community, make everyone feel safe. The more you do that, the less inclined kids are to be mean to one another. On October 8 there will be a professional development day for teachers to learn more about having a responsive classroom.

### HIB

Jean talked a bit about HIB, the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying law. HIB is rare at Ridge and the more we do proactively to avoid this kind of behavior, the less likely it is to happen. We need to educate children and parents about what bullying really is. Jean explained the difference between bullying and negative interaction or conflict. She stressed the importance of teaching kids to stand up for themselves, moving away from the sole notion of bullying and into proactively dealing with something. With the help of parents, kids need to figure out how to address a situation when something they don't like happens to them. Think proactively and role play, what am I going to do?

### Books for the Year

Jean picked 9 new titles for the year for everyone to read (left out one for "One school, One book"). "What if Everybody Said That?" is the book for September. Next month is "The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade" and the theme is respect. Week of Respect takes place in all NJ schools in the first week of October. Jean will share an article that she felt was very powerful about resilience, including a link, in the next Ridge Report. There will also be something you can listen to on NPR.

Jean recommended going to the first presentation in the school-wide speaker series, "Raising an Unselfie". Finally, Brenda Bankos will retire and her last day is this Friday. The HSA has organized breakfast for her on Thursday morning and there will be a surprise assembly at 8:45. All the kids have prepared a card. Brenda has been an admin between Willard and Ridge for the last 20 years. The replacement will be Rebecca Burger.

### Questions for Jean:

Q: Will Rebecca Burger take over coordinating parent volunteers? Yes.

Q: Side comment about the book "The Smallest Girl...". The author is a musician and you can look him up on Spotify and listen to his station, his name is Justin Roberts.

## **President's Report**

Hilary Wallace

### Ridge Picnic

Hilary thanked everyone for coming to the picnic and donating time and items, the donations were super impressive. She said that many people stopped her and said what a great time they had. It was a school-wide effort and everyone did a great job. We made almost \$3K at the picnic, there are still some outstanding expenses.

### Boosterthon

Almost \$17K have been raised so far. Hilary is very impressed with the energy that the kids are showing. Friday is the Fun Run, K-2 will go at 12:15 p.m. and 3-5 go at 1:30 p.m. She showed the t-shirt that everyone gets for participating. Volunteers will be marking off laps as the students run and two tracks will be set up on the back field. There will be music, cheering and different themes for every lap.

### Ridgewear

This year the HSA tied the Be Nice t-shirts in with Ridgewear. In a change to how the HSA has typically sold Ridgewear, this year we have stock instead of filling out forms and ordering the exact amount. We have already almost broken even and have made \$3,500 in Ridgewear sales. Comparing to last year, it took almost all year to make that much so we are doing great. We are considering doing a web site for the holidays to make it easier to buy more.

### Girls on the Run and Superheroes

Hilary talked about Girls on the Run and Superheroes, two running-based after school activities. There needs to be three coaches for GotR and the girls train to run a 5k race. The themes are around empowerment, kindness, empathy, etc. We need volunteers. Superheroes was Hilary's idea for a Boys on the Run and it's been very successful with 15 boys participating. We are looking for volunteers for that as well.

### Important Dates

#### *September*

- 9/19 No School Yom Kippur
- 9/21 Boosterthon Fun Runs 12:15 p.m., 1:30 p.m.
- 9/21 Frosty Friday
- 9/26 Picture Day

#### *October*

- 10/1 Week of respect
- 10/3 Photo rain date
- 10/5 ROC Assembly
- 10/8 No School
- 10/11 Ramapo Reservation 5th Grade Trip

10/12 Teacher appreciation lunch  
10/12 Bingo Night 7:00 p.m.  
10/16 HSA Meeting 1:15 p.m.  
10/31 Halloween Parade 1:00 p.m.

Hilary put in a plug for donating a food item for the teacher appreciation lunch.

#### Other

Glee

Recorder sales

Directory sales

7th grade help/community service hours contact Carla Sullivan

October 11 9:00 a.m. GW recruitment

Hilary pointed out that. You can use community pass to buy recorders and directories.

#### **Vice President's Report**

Barbara Dowling

Barbara informed us that circus week has moved from October to March 4-8.

Potential new activities include Kindergarten yoga, courtesy of Nicole Linn. For 2nd grade there will be a bat program. We are working with grade level teachers to confirm. In terms of expenditures, we purchased ROC books for this year.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Amy Kahn

##### **1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 15, 2018 and the 2018/2019 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.**

- Motion was approved by Tasneem Patrawala and seconded by Amy Kahn.

Amy gave some background on the HSA's financials, noting that we have an account with TD Bank and also a fund (the Bill Ward Fund) that helps students who need financial assistance. We try to keep the number at \$15,000 but it's still early in the year. We also have an operating account that we try to keep at about \$25K and savings that we try to keep at \$30K. We did transfer some money in August to balance things out and purchased Ridgewear in advance so we needed to use some money. There was also a Printology order that was not budgeted for and Jean's Be Nice t-shirts. In terms of revenues, we are doing great with Ridgewear and the Boosterthon.

Amy reviewed all the numbers, including Frosty Friday, which were healthy. She suggested taking a look at the first grade classrooms to see what the 21st century classroom looks like.

### Questions

Is it just first grade that has the 21st century classroom setup? Yes for now but fifth grade is getting there. They have some new stuff, they got rid of their old desks and are now using tables. The HSA would like to do fifth grade. That leaves second, third and fourth grades to design what they want their classrooms to look like.

When you are updating desks, is there a recycle plan for used desks? Jean: Ridge has to follow certain rules via the board of education. We have sent pictures and the Board of Education administrator posted them to a web site for donation.

## **Planning and Development's Report**

Kerri Pilchik

### Update

Kerri explained that we are in the middle of selling ads for the school directory and there will be a document in the E-News today.

Real Hot Yoga wants to do a sponsorship with Ridge where if you go to a class on a certain day, a percentage or dollar amount goes to Ridge.

Alina, Kristen and Caren are trying to do an environmental initiative where Ridge is using less paper, and putting everything in the E-News.

We discussed using water hoses as opposed to water bottles moving forward for all activities. Can we use water cooler for the Fun Run? We will check with Ms. Tobin. Our goal for the Fun Run is 1\$8K and we should hit it. There was a discussion about using the picnic DJ for the school-wide dance party that the kids will get for raising \$18K and a parent raised concerns about certain inappropriate song choices during the picnic.

## **Volunteer Coordinator's Report**

Amanda Twilliger

### Update

A Kindergarten mom, Jean Shin, has volunteered to be the after school activities coordinator. Who does she need to talk to? Peggy and the Board of Education. We still need a Friends of Music representative for Ridge. Does anyone know of anyone? This request will be in the E-News.

In regards to Tic Toc, Amanda discussed the collections currently on display at school: Eastern woodlands, Lanape tribe and school house toys. These were requested by the fourth and fifth

grade teachers. In November it will be photography; December will be architecture. For the fifth grade unit on the civil war in June, Tic Toc will have a display. Teachers need to be reminded that they can request art from Tic Toc to support their units.

## Secretary's Report

Shulamit Gershenson

### **1. Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 12, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**

- Motion was approved by Shulamit Gershenson and seconded by Amanda Twilliger.

## **Other**

### LSHSA Representative

Elizabeth Rottinger spoke about the LSHSA which is the Learning Services HSA across all schools in Ridgewood. They had an activity fair at the Board of Education and had many activities there, more than 40 parents came to see what is available. They have an evening social coming up on Sept. 27 which will be a very casual get together and opportunity to learn about what people are doing. There are membership meetings and a speaker series. Elizabeth talked about a great speaker in June that discussed how to stop the summer slide in reading. Speaker schedule moving forward is up in the air at the moment. The LSHSA created a new web site. Anyone interested in learning more can reach out to Elizabeth.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shulamit Gershenson

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

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