

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: October 16, 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, Saggar, Sandora, Singh, Sorabella, Stephens, Strohmenger, Sturmfels, Sullivan, Tobacawala, Tudda, Turner, Twilliger, Wall, Wallace, Wright

PRESENT: Gershenson, Pilchik, Wallace, Kahn, Twilliger, Patrawala, Dowling

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Albano, Beiersdorf, Katzman, Kong, Chudy, Sorabella, Lindenberg, Kahn, Harrington, Bender, Hong, Daffron, Monte, Wall, Sandora, McCarthy, Wright, Micale, Neumann, Tobacawala, Saggar, Geller, Strohmenger, Briganti, Brinkmann, Gross

Motion:

- 1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the September 18, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
- 2. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of October 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 1:20 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

Changes this Year

Jean shared that the buddy bench is installed and she is very excited. She made a video about how it works and shared it at the ROC assembly. There is also a plaque that is cemented to the side. In regards to the ongoing social emotional work, the book for the month is 'The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade'. It has a great message and is perfect for what Ridge is doing. The books are powerful tools for the Be Nice campaign and what we focus on each month to raise awareness about kindness. One of the things that the Ridge faculty were thinking about over the summer

was how to enhance community, and we made some changes. One thing is that Ridge will not do daily morning announcements anymore. It was getting too frenzied and making the day begin with unintended stress. Now Jean is only doing announcements on Mondays. She gives the message about what is going on, does the weekly safety tip and birthdays for the week. Every class does the Pledge of Allegiance on their own. Another big change is that there are no more midday lunch bells. Just some little things that can change the quality of life, the staggered lunch bell was unnecessary.

Lunch

Question about lunch: Some kids say there is not enough time to eat lunch. What is the lunch philosophy? Why is there so little time for eating? There is 45 minutes total. 20 mins to eat/20 mins to play and then there is a 5 minute transition. For fifth grade, the aids have been cutting lunch a bit shorter to avoid the kids sitting around and making trouble. Lunch aids push for kids to throw out garbage. Unfortunately there is no way to structure it for everyone to be taken care of. In middle school, they eat and do recess within one period, they choose.

Question about kids leaving for lunch: Someone saw a mom picking up several girls to go out to lunch. What is our policy? Might this not be upsetting for some kids that feel they are being excluded? Maybe it can be that you can only take your own child, but not others? Jean will look into it with other principals. There was some consensus at the meeting that it doesn't seem like a fair policy.

Jean brought up the recent speaker series presentation "Unselfy" and asked if anyone went. Barbara and Shulamit attended and Barbara commented that one of the most interesting things that came out of the presentation was how important reading to your children is. Reading to them, not just having them read themselves. She said that is a huge connection between children reading and empathy.

Jean brought in the Halloween letter that will go out to parents. Lunch will be bumped to noon like last year. Children are asked to stay away from scary costumes, weaponry etc.

Jean talked about the busy month coming up, including the book fair from the 13th to the 15th and visiting day. Ridge will suspend parent signing in for visiting day on Nov. 14 so we will need the HSA to get volunteers to help check in visitors on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Hilary also discussed selling Ridgewear during the visiting day but not during the book fair.

Question for Jean: Has Ridge ever had the great American Teach In? Shulamit explained that it's a day when different parents come in and share their vocations with classes at school. Shulamit experienced it at her school in Tampa and was wondering if it was connected to visiting day.

President's Report

Hilary Wallace

Bingo Night Thank You

Hilary said bingo night was awesome and we laughed about the janitors being happy because there was a miscommunication about tipping, so the janitors got a lot of extra money. People seemed very happy with the outcome and last year it seemed messy. Hilary noted that we doubled what we earned last year because the ticket prices were doubled. Hilary noted that we need 100 little pompoms. Someone commented that there may have been some rumblings about the increase in price which was probably a miscommunication. Going forward whoever is running Bingo Night should run prices by the HSA. After doing a bit of research into the advertisements, we discovered the issue. It said \$4 for two game cards in the email but they only gave out one, that was the issue! It was a different price in the email. Jean also received feedback from the parent of a young child that it is hard for little kids to play on multiple cards.

The HSA sold Ridgewear that night and sold a few more items. Amy announced that we have made a profit on Ridgewear. We could try to make more money and do an online holiday store, perhaps focusing on the items that sold out. That's only if there is interest and we sell the rest of our current stock.

21st Century Classroom Teacher Orders

Hilary said that we are just waiting for teachers' orders and we discussed with Jean about the ordering timeline so that the classrooms could have the new items by the beginning of 2019. Jean said that we have to order items by mid-November in order to get it by the New Year. Hilary wanted to know when the next faculty meeting is and if we can have a D day by which teachers must place their orders? Jean wants teachers to go to other schools in the district to see what kind of new setup they have. Mid-November will be the deadline to order. We discussed how to pay for it, invoice by invoice or all at once.

Question for Jean: Have any other grades put a wish list together? Second grade has started and Jean put together a document to help the teachers along with suggestions.

Hilary said that Ms. Giddich wanted to get some ball seats but heard that some of them popped. Jean said to use Lynn peabody as a resource to order the sitting balls. Will the place we bought them from replace them? HSA will call to check. Jean shared an example of how we don't want to rush in and buy too quickly without giving it a lot of thought. Some teachers bought wipe board tables that you can write on with a dry erase marker and just wipe off. It was a great idea and they loved them but they were expensive and then it was discovered that they could have purchased stick on circle disks, which work the same way. So case in point to be smart and do our research.

There was some discussion about what to do if Friends of Ridge does not yield enough money to cover all of the enrichment activities for next year. Hilary said there is no rule that says we can't

take money from our operating expenses and put it towards Friends of Ridge, she would just need to make a motion. But we have the tag sale upcoming in the Spring and likely we will be fine with funds.

Hilary is going to paint the heater and put a mural up in Mrs. Catalano's room because she won the Put Your HSA President to Work challenge during the Fun Run.

HSA Web Site is Live!

When Hilary has more time she will put banners up on the site and going forward tickets for the social and payments for glee will go on website, so the HSA won't have to pay community pass fees. The directory is still there to purchase. In regards to fundraising, we will do wrapping paper with Alina Albano all online this year. It will take place from now until December 1st and we will wait until the next E-news to announce it. We will do a backpack stuffer as well, otherwise everything will be online. Ridge gets about 40% back after we pass a certain threshold of sales.

Science theme for enrichment

We have \$1,000 that goes toward science, last year we did meet the musicians. Alina and Kristen, the environmental club chairs, are trying to tie in what they do with climate control. We have several different options including turtles, the poles, decreasing carbon footprint (quest for less). They are working on it and many of these options can be tailored to focus more on the roll of climate change. There was a play as part of environmental day last year about shade grown cocoa. Do they do any another kind of play? What date would work for a school-wide event? Maybe tie in with the science fair in February?

Name cards for Red Zone coming soon!

Shulamit will provide name placards for all K through 3 classrooms for the parents to use during Red Zone pickup in the afternoons. She will reach out to the Red Zone coordinators and homeroom parent coordinators to ensure that the information gets disseminated and will write a blurb for the E-News. Jean mentioned the discussions she was having with the crossing guard about standing on the school side of the driveway, not the teacher parking lot side.

Important Dates

October

10/29 Christopher Healy author visit
10/31 Halloween Parade 1:00 p.m.

November

11/8 No School
11/9 No School
11/13 Evening HSA Meeting 7:30 p.m.
11/13-11/15 Book Fair
11/14 Parent Visitation 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Ridgewear sale)

11/15 Colonial Craft Day
11/21 12:45 Dismissal
11/22 No School Thanksgiving
11/23 No School

There was a question about whether or not to open the book fair during the evening HSA meeting in November, and it was decided that it was not worth the trouble.

Vice President's Report

Barbara Dowling

Barbara said that we have tentatively scheduled yoga for Kindergarten, possibly for November. A Ridge mom will volunteer her services. Also Outragehiss Pets will come around May. Dana is still reaching out to the Kindergarten teachers to confirm. For first grade we will do Yearning to Learn and Pond Dabblers. What about the story teller? That will be the same as last year, Dana will come back with an estimate on how much Yearning to Learn will cost for the whole school. The flyer is in the HSA mailbox. For second grade, Dana is working with teachers to verify their needs. For third grade, Joe Lenox the space historian and Mr. Mortimer the bee keeper. For fourth grade the Sterling Hill Mine trip and the Meadowlands Environmental Center. HSA is covering busing only for the Meadowlands in terms of payment. For fifth grade, Mr. Mueller for the encampment. We will use the same storyteller and music as last year. All grades will participate in the science presentation that Hilary spoke to. There will be no Ellis Island trip, which garnered some complaints.

Jean said that only one school goes to Ellis Island because it's a big trip and a lot of logistics for not a lot of interaction. Also what's there is fairly high level and some of it goes over the kids' heads. It's better enjoyed with an older grade or with family. For fourth grade the Meadowlands trip is back in the rotation.

Amenda shared that the Tenafly Nature Preserve was a horrible trip. She had a suggestion to maybe do the Tenement Museum for the citizenship unit next year. Also, if there is a way to obtain the U.S. Capital video about what it means to be a U.S. citizen.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Kahn

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

- Motion was approved by Amanda Twilliger and seconded by Tasneem Patrawala.

Amy said that we should have the financial statement and budget report in front of us but that we don't need to go over everything, because not much has changed from last month. Regarding

what's in the account, the Bill ward fund is a bit low. We are sending out the Friends of Ridge flyer in November. Do we need to get money for Bill Ward? Hilary suggested that the HSA can make a gift to the Fund at the end of the year and Jean said she would send out a letter about contributing to it in December when people are thinking about end of year giving. The operating count is very good thanks to Boosterthon.

Regarding the budget, the bake sale made a little more money, \$332. Most of what Amy talked about was not on the budget because there is a lag time. Directories are in flux right now and Ridgwear turned a profit. Boosterthon funds are going entirely towards 21st century classrooms.

Regarding playground expenses there is no line item because it fluctuates every year and the HSA will take care of it and is responsible for the castle and blacktop equipment. Any non-standard equipment the HSA pays for. Do any other schools pay for their playgrounds? We have way more playgrounds at Ridge and Jean said that we take more than our fair share of wood chips to use as padding. HSA needs to be on top of inspections and getting anything taken care of.

Barbara suggested that it may be a good idea for the HSA to follow up on a yearly basis to get the playground inspection report. Jean sent an email to the new buildings and grounds manager for the Board of Education to get the report. Barbara suggested that we need to write in when the inspection happens and when we need to follow up so that we don't miss any deadlines. Hilary will put it into the binder of the HSA president duties. Barbara asked if we can get the inspection before June so we know if we need to budget for repairs/maintenance.

Hilary gave explanation of how the HSA keeps an operating budget for emergencies with playgrounds. Jean suggested putting a line item in the budget or something to denote so that we never forget. We will put one in for \$1,000.

Tasneem had a question about which insurance company handles this? Nobody was certain but it's the same for all school playgrounds in Ridgewood. The Board of Education covers inspection and repair of K-2 playgrounds. They cover inspection but not repair for other playgrounds. Basketball court and four square is on the Board of Education, all other equipment is our responsibility.

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.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Amanda Twilliger

Update

Amanda connected the new after school activity coordinator with Peggy.

Secretary's Report

Shulamit Gershenson

1. Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the September 18, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

- Motion was approved by Amanda Twilliger and seconded by Tasneem Patrawala.

Update

Shulamit read Thank You notes from Brenda Bankos for her departure presents and from the Boosterthon representatives.

Other

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, November 13, 2018 at 7:30 pm in the Teacher's Lounge.