

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: November 13, 2018 at 7:30 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, Langheim, Harris

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Katzman, Chudy, Lindenberg, Kahn, Bender, Hong, Daffron, Sandora, Micale, Neumann, Geller, Strohmenger, Brinkmann, Flynn, Singh, Rozenberg, Sorabella

Motion:

- 1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 16, 2018 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, 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 7:37 pm.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

PARCC

Jean provided an update on the PARCC results. Ridge did really well as did all Ridgewood schools. She said we weren't at the top but we were very high, personally she didn't want to be at the top. What Jean does with the data is meet with teachers a couple of times to look at it and look for trends by grade and in terms of teacher's instruction. They look using a three year view to see the bigger picture. Jean typically doesn't see that Ridge students are low in math, etc. It's really been cohort-based, so it differs every year based on the makeup of the kids. It is clear that

consistently Ridge is delivering a good program. Testing is not a huge focus at Ridge and the test is also changing this year, it will no longer be PARCC but New Jersey-specific. There will also be less time spent on testing. The dates will be announced later in the year.

Tasneem question: Based on the results, if you do see a disparity do you make any curriculum changes? *Jean:* We would not make changes just because of the test. For example, two years ago our math scores were comparatively low. We were thoughtful about that, and considered is it us, is the teaching style different?, etc. Sure enough the next group of fifth graders did quite well, so that showed us that it was that particular group of kids, not the curriculum per se. At Ridge we know that we do good instruction and what is working; tests are only an indicator not the “be all end all.”

Kerri question: Why did you say you do’t want to be at the top? *Jean:* Because then you can only go down! Everyone laughs.

Bill Ward Fund

Jean will discuss the Bill Ward Fund in the Ridge Report. She is doing it earlier than usual so that people who might need it, or know someone that needs it, can take advantage of it. The letter will explain what it is and how Ridge uses it. With it being year-end, maybe people will make a donation towards it. The fund is currently at \$13,500, which is lower than it’s been in a long time. It has already been used for the book fair this year, and it’s a wonderful thing. *Question:* What is our comfortable number? *Jean:* \$15,000-\$17,000 is our goal. It’s just for Ridge and we are probably the only school in the district that has something like it. The committee that decides how the fund is used has always been the principal, two staff members and the HSA immediate past president.

Book of the Month

The book of the month is “A World of Possibilities” which is a return to mindfulness for the school. We read it aloud at the ROC assembly and it reminds kids to take a pause and notice what’s around them. Jean visits all classes at least twice a year with a book or activity related to the ROC assembly or mindfulness. She started the tour today and asked the kids what mindfulness is, and they knew. They used the singing bowl, that’s the chime activity. Jean read the first part of book and showed a Go Noodle video. She really loves doing this because she gets to know the makeup of the classes. It was a great start, 18 more times to go! It’s really one of her favorite things.

President’s Report

Hilary Wallace

Put Your HSA President to Work challenge completed!

Nancy Catalano was the top scoring class in the Fun Run so she won Hilary for the weekend to do whatever she asked for. Hilary put up a mural, painted, put up decals and transformed the

entire classroom. For the Ridge Social Hilary is contemplating auctioning off another “Put Your HSA President to Work” weekend.

Red Zone Name Placards Completed

Shulamit has completed the Red Zone name placards and probably about half to two thirds of people are using them currently. One hitch is that the Red Zone volunteers really need to use the megaphone in order to call out of the kids and they aren’t. Shulamit asked Jean if she would be “the heavy” and bring out the megaphone during Red Zone.

21st Century Classrooms Update

A separate account has been established for 21st century classroom items and teachers are placing their orders. Orders will definitely be in by Thanksgiving and Ridge is ordering a lot of things from Amazon. What kinds of things? Tables, everyone is converting over to tables. Lots of bean bags. Different kinds of chairs, stools, scoop chairs, bins, dry erase boards, etc. The teachers are trying to provide options for everyone to feel comfortable, as children learn in so many different ways. The fifth grade change has already been so great, it’s not as crowded in the classrooms and the kids have felt a big difference. Not having desks also decreases clutter and is a good change environmentally as well.

Yearning To Learn School-Wide

We heard from the first grade teachers how well received last year’s Yearning to Learn was and wanted to offer it to the entire school. It is an interactive theater program that focuses on historical events and also provides an arts component. They preach diversity and tolerance, which is something we can use more of now more than ever. We are hoping to get them for our MLK assembly on January 18.

Important Dates

November

- 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
- 11/15 7:00 p.m. Glee Show
- 11/21 12:45 p.m. Dismissal
- 11/22 No School Thanksgiving
- 11/23 No School

December

- 12/7 Holiday concert 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- 12/11 Spelling Bee 12:00 p.m.
- 12/13 Spelling Bee 1:00 p.m.
- 12/14 Geography Test
- 12/14 Teacher Appreciation lunch

12/21

12:45 p.m. Dismissal

Vice President's Report

Barbara Dowling

Enrichment Update

The following programs have been confirmed: Kindergarten is doing yoga, Outragehiss Pets and hatching chicks. The dates are TBD, Barbara is following up with Dana. First grade: Yearning to Learn and Pond Dabblers, dates TBD (usually June). Second grade: Bats, Bats, Bats on November 27 and Jonathan Sprout, date TBD. Sprout is usually February or March. Third grade: Jill Lenox November/December and Mr. Mortimer bee keeper in the spring. Fourth grade: Meadowlands Environmental center, date TBD. Fifth grade: Encampment, May 23-24 unless we have snow days, History on the Hoof, a story teller/musical, date TBD.

School-wide: Yearning to Learn and science presentation, not scheduled yet. Ridge has two author visits and Circus Week is March 4-8.

Friends of Ridge Campaign

We have raised \$630 so far and we are sending out the flyer next week. Hilary added, everything Barbara just mentioned is funded only by parents using FOR donations. If anyone ever asks why they are being asked to donate more money when they just gave for the Fun Run, you can tell them it's for enrichment and all the extra programs that your kids get so much out of.

Barbara question: Did people start donating to FOR this past June? Yes, after the books close for the year, any money that comes in is used for the next academic year.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Kahn

1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of November 12, 2018 and the 2018/2019 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

- Motion was approved by Tasneem Patrawala and seconded by Kerri Pilchik.

Amy will go over the statement of financials first. Between the statement of financials and the budget there is always a lag time so it doesn't reflect 100 percent what is currently happening. The 21st Century Classroom check hasn't been cashed yet; savings is good, we like to keep it healthy. First let's look at the revenue highlights. For bingo night, we doubled the amount from what we earned last year. For the bake sale, we are almost double from last year as well. We are on track to be where we should be. We have two more bake sales coming up, at the lip-sync and the circus. We are already ahead of budget and the lip-sync bake sale brings in a lot of revenue. We have made a profit on Ridgewear, Hilary is doing a great job. It shows on the directory that we have \$8,400 but doesn't include the printing fee.

The expenses highlights are as follows: grants, bought books for fifth grade classroom, teacher appreciation lunch. Everything is where we should be.

Jean question: Can you explain the Boosterthon numbers? It looks like something is denoted as a loss. Amy: It's not a loss, we made \$26,000. \$1,800 was used for miscellaneous stuff and we had to pay money (\$2,000) upfront to book the Boosterthon people. The profits were split 50/50, And \$26,000 went to 21st century classroom. We wanted all teachers to get the maximum amount, so HSA covered the \$1,800 miscellaneous expense. We marked it as a loss for our records because it isn't something that we had budgeted for but it's not an actual loss.

Planning and Development's Report

Kerri Pilchik

Update

Directories came out today. Yay! Kerri can now work on gathering auction items for the Ridge Social as her next task. The social was fun last year, it made some money but it wasn't a real fundraiser, it was more about having some fun as a Ridge community. People came up to Hilary after to ask why the HSA didn't try to make money at the event. So for this year, we talked about auctioning services from teachers, like teacher for a day, sleep under at Ridge, etc. Willard has very successfully raised a lot of money with a sleep under, it's super popular. We can put it towards 21st century classrooms, or FOR, Bill Ward Fund, etc. Once we know which area needs the money most we will clearly designate what the money is going for, for now it's too early to decide.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Amanda Twilliger

Update

After school coordinator, is it happening? Jean did see email, needs to look it over. *Question about fifth grade restaurant:* Do all the proceeds get donated? No, Ridge gets about forty percent of the profit and the Fireplace Restaurant gets the remainder.

Shulamit made a comment about the fireplace seating situation last year, and how there is a small space where only a couple of families sit and then the rest of the attendees are in one big room. It felt isolating to be seated there and like we were not a part of the action. Something to consider for next year. *How much did we make from The Fireplace event?* I don't the exact number off the top of my head but it was almost the estimate, about \$200 less than what we estimated.

Question about fifth grade fundraising: Can we do a fifth grade bake sale? This is in the context of funding fifth grade field trips. There could be fundraisers in February, April and May.

Wizards Game

Hilary mentioned that she needs a couple of people to do merchandising at the Wizards game in January. A discussion ensued about the drama with Wizards games, how hard it is to get tickets and what can be done about it. Hilary explained that the ladies at Federated (the association for all Ridgewood HSAs) came up with the best solutions they could. First, no Wizards reps will go around trying to stoke excitement, so that kids will not be so disappointed if they aren't able to get tickets. Second, the ticket limit will be 4 not 6, so this will keep more options open for families. (As an aside, if you are a teacher and you play in the game you get a ticket). Third, they looked at other venues, tried to arrange for two games and those were not viable options. Hopefully the changes they put in place will make a difference this year.

Question: Where does wizards money go to? Hilary thinks it goes to Federated, she will find out.

Secretary's Report

Shulamit Gershenson

1. Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the October 16, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

- Motion was approved by Shulamit Gershenson and seconded by Amy Kahn.

Other

A First Lego League team came to the meeting, Paulina Valencia and Elle Langheim, to use the HSA as part of their research. This year's LEGO challenge is to find a solution to a real-life problem in space, so they designed a few tests. The problem they selected is that in space you need to package everything that is edible and its covered because they take all the water out of it. They did a test for teachers, pinching their noses closed and tasting coffee and they wrote down how much they could taste. The solution they came up with was to put a scented cream under your nose. The girls gave us all coffee, instructed us to take a sip and rate the taste. Then we applied the cream under our noses took another sip and rated our sense of smell again.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shulamit Gershenson

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 1:15 pm in the Teacher's Lounge.