

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: January 15, 2019 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: Pilchik, Wallace, Kahn, Twilliger, Patrawala, Dowling, Langheim, Kong, Flynn, Singh, McLeod

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Beiersdorf, Katzman, Chudy, Lindenberg, Rozenberg, Kahn, Bender, Harris, Hong, Daffron, Hutchinson, Sandora, Bruno, McCarthy, Micale, Neumann, Geller, Briganti

Motion:

- 1. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the November 13, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
- 2. A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of January 14, 2019 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 1:16 pm.

Super Science Saturday

Sheila Brogan gave an account of the exciting events that will be taking place on Super Science Saturday (SSS) March 2nd at the Ridgewood High School. This will be the 31st year for SSS and it will be from 9 am to 1 pm. This year's Liberty Science Center theme will be "A Dose Of Gross". It will be about the journey through the human body and will show how it is able to stay healthy and strong and this will start at 9:30 am at the high school. She mentioned that even though participation at the elementary school levels has gone up, the number of projects making it to the fair has decreased.

Other exhibits include the Hall Of Science and Experience Zones which will have build your own cars with Legos and there will be a Pinewood Derby type of setup where kids will be able to race the cars they have built. This year the Cradle Egg Drop will take place every hour and kids will have access to materials to build a shell for their eggs which they will drop from a height of 31 ft. There will also be a wheelchair maze, petting zoo, Ridgewood Police Dept. will take part and the Ridgewood Fire Dept. will have night vision goggles to demonstrate.

Dr. Muller, who is also known as “Professor Tennis”, will talk about how you can improve athletic performance by using principles of physics and biomechanics. This will be just in time for lacrosse and baseball season.

Pascal Mechanics will have kids making robots that can move around. Women engineers will be coming. Maker Space will try and have projects that are intergenerational because it has been observed that a lot of grandparents attend the fair with their grandkids. There will be 3D printing. Rocket Launch will be at 1:30 pm.

Kids who want to showcase their projects can bring them to SSS starting Friday evening March 1st 5:30 pm -7 pm or on March 1st starting 8:30 am. These participants will receive Bagel, Juice and a SSS pin. RHS graduates will be presenting and talking about what paths led them into the field of science.

In order to encourage more participation and help kids who are struggling to come up with ideas, a one day workshop will be held on February 9th from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be a lot of helpers and resources will be provided to help kids find out what would spark interest. Decision on location is still pending. No registration is required.

Tasneem Patrawala asked as we are preparing for our school science fair, we do advertise SSS through posters, flyers and enews but Ridge project participation in SSS has been less over the years. What tips could Sheila provide to encourage more project participation at the SSS? Sheila replied that projects are welcome but they are not looking to increase project participation at SSS. Last year they had about 125 projects. The number of families coming in has been consistent as well. So try and increase family participation to come and view all the different events at SSS.

At the BOE there has been a change in voting for the school budget. Any increase in budget will have to be voted on. This year the election day is April 16th. In case you are unable to attend that day, you can also register your vote through mail in ballot anytime between today and until 7 days prior to the election day. Sheila Brogan encouraged voting and during March she will be back to talk about the budget.

Principal's Report

Dr. Jean Schoenlank

21st Century Classrooms

Dr Schoenlank thanked the HSA for raising funds for the 21st Century classrooms, the classrooms look great. There has been a great change in Grades 2, 3 and 4. They have new seating options like scoop chairs and other low seating with pads to set laptops on. Giving kids more seating options is also a way to build awareness so that the kids are not distracted. Grade 5 has been spending money slowly, they are being judicious about it. Grade 2 also got new carpets. Most purchases have been through Amazon. Dr. Schoenlank also mentioned that during the public meeting in March, she'd like to give everyone who attends the meeting a tour of the new 21st century classrooms.

Lip Sync

Dr Schoenlank will be sending out a letter to parents on Monday February 4th reiterating concepts of Choose To Be Kind by encouraging parents to be inclusive and have larger groups for Lip Sync. Hence there will be fewer acts. She will encourage parents to be inclusive while forming Science Fair groups as well.

One School One Book

One School One Book this year will be "A Bear Called Paddington." The book is about a bear who comes from South America and goes to London, gets into a lot of trouble and has wonderful adventures. Mrs. Eng has a lot of fun activities planned for the kids like eating marmalade sandwiches, magic show, etc. In keeping with all these activities, there will be no Read Aloud book during the month of February.

School Reading

This month the school is reading "We Shall Overcome." It talks about American History and reinforces this through the history of this song. The ROC assembly on Friday January 18 will tie into the theme of this book and Yearning to Learn will be coming to Ridge that day. Hilary mentioned that Ben will dress up as Martin Luther King and the kids will be able to interact with him and ask him questions.

Because of the success of "mindspark", Dr. Schoenlank is planning to have a movie week in the cafeteria during the 1st week of February. Kids will be able to watch approximately 15 mins of the movie each day. She was looking for suggestions for movie titles.

Kindergarten Registration is February 5th and 7th. The teaser for the Alice In Wonderland drama performance is on Friday February 8th.

President's Report

Hilary Wallace

Science Fair

Hilary mentioned that this year the Science Fair team has decided not to have the science fair in the evening due to the Glee performance being held the night before the science fair and also due to logistical issues with project pick up. The Science Fair will take place like it has in years past and will be held on Friday, March 1st.

Tasneem Patrawala asked Dr. Schoenlank that going forward what does she envision the science fair to be? Should we make it larger and have an evening event? Dr. Schoenlank answered that the Science Fair is catered more towards kids and she is happy with how it has run in the past. She understands that the evening event is perhaps not the best course. Tasneem mentioned that the projects at the fair have increased every year and last year we had 93 projects while 3 yrs back we had approximately 70. The event has been well attended in the past with 4-6 parent chaperones per class. Hilary added that this year classes will have a 30 min slot at the Science fair and 4th and 5th Graders who had projects at the fair could stay 30 mins longer after their class time slot and present their project to other students if they wished to do so.

Wizards Game help

Dr. Schoenlank and Mrs. Eng will be playing! Hilary explained that funds that are generated from the Wizards game are used by the Federated HSA to be given to various groups who might ask the Federated for a specific purpose. In the past the BOE has benefited from these funds by being able to fund the speaker series. This year, one of the speakers is Ana Houmayoun. Another speaker, Timothy Schultz will be talking about the evils of vaping.

Social

This year's social will take place on March 1st at Park West Loft. Price of the ticket covers just the person purchasing the ticket. It is a fun night for parents to come and hang out. There will also be a silent auction for teacher's services like perhaps sleep under, pizza party, movie night, president makes over kids classrooms. The auction will focus on services as opposed to things.

Tag Sale

Mary Micale will be taking the lead on the tag sale. It will take place on Friday night and Saturday. There will be a bouncy house and bake sale. Hilary encouraged everyone to save their unused furniture items for the sale. They will also keep kids clothing but no glassware. Hilary said that if we do not end up selling everything, we could still sell them to places that pay \$1 per pound.

Dr. Schoenlank mentioned that the Science enrichment Turtles program may not work out as they require smaller groups. Hilary suggested they could perhaps do something based on Climate change or Crayola could come in to do a school wide crayon recycling melting project. Dr. Schoenlank suggested involving Treks plastic.

Hilary stated that Family movie night is not a drop off and asked for suggestions for movies.

Hilary said that the HSA will be giving Dr. Schoenlank \$500 to purchase Paddington bears for each classroom. Hilary mentioned that Shulamit suggested that these bears could go home with the kids, have fun adventures and the kids would be inspired to write about them. Amanda suggested that we could also make flat cutouts of Paddington and send them to family or friends in other towns and they could take pictures with these Paddingtons and send them to us via email. Dr. Schoenlank loved both ideas. The 5th graders might get a book series instead of the bears.

Important Dates

January

- 1/16 An Evening with Ana Homayoun: Social Media Wellness GW 7:00 p.m.
- 1/18 Yearning to Learn, 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.
- 1/21 MLK Day no school
- 1/25 Instrumental Concert 8:30 a.m. parents, 1:30 p.m. kids only
- 1/25 Wizards Game 7:00 p.m.

February

- 2/1 Super Bowl Bagel Breakfast
- 2/9 Alice in Wonderland
- 2/12 HSA meeting 1:15 p.m.
- 2/15-2/19 No School
- 2/20 Turtle visit
- 2/22 Family Movie Night 6:45 p.m.
- 2/27 GLEE (school performance during the day, parents at 7:00 p.m.)
- 2/28 Science Fair

Vice President's Report

Barbara Dowling

Enrichment Update

Kindergarten is doing yoga which is split in two taking place on January 9th and 16th. Outragheiss Pets will be coming on May 9th. Hatching chicks will take place in spring based on when the teachers want it. Grade 1 will have Pond Dabbler in June. Grade 2 will have Jonathan Sprout in March. Grade 3 had Joe Lennox in December and will have Beekeeper in late spring. Grade 4 has the Meadowlands trip in May. Grade 5 will have encampment before Memorial Day weekend May 22nd and May 23rd. They will have a story teller and Mr. Miller will organize the campsite. Upcoming author visit is Yona Zeldis McDonough. Circus will come to Ridge March 4-8.

Friends of Ridge Campaign

We've reached \$5,410. Barbara said that she would make a thermometer poster from Printology to be put up inside the front entrance of the school. Barbara mentioned that some parents were having trouble making donations to FOR through the Ridge HSA link in the enews.

Treasurer's Report

Amy Kahn

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

- Motion was approved by Caren Langheim and seconded by Barbara Dowling.

Bill Ward Fund is up \$2,2000. We've received approximately \$10,000 in donations. Amy Kahn stated that it was great to see these numbers and she thanked those who donated. Operating account is at approximately \$45,000 but Amy cautioned that a portion of it was for Glee and some for the 5th grade fund. Savings are at a healthy amount. Every year the Ridge HSA makes a contribution of \$250 towards the BWF. Since last time, membership directory sales are up, Ridgewear sales are up and FOR donations are up. Big expenses last month have been flowers and holiday cards and a couple of staff birthday gifts.

Amanda Twilliger asked if we had only one bake sale. Bridget Kong answered that looking forward there are no bake sales scheduled for Glee and drama club but we will have bake sales for Lip Sync and circus. Hilary mentioned that we will have bake sale at Tag sale but we might have bigger cakes to sell. Dr. Schoenlank stated that she did not want kids to have popcorn and water at movie night as it can get very messy. So it was proposed to have just a bake sale at the movie night. Hilary mentioned that Joanie Harrington was up for any bake sale.

Planning and Development's Report

Kerri Pilchik

Update

Kerri asked Dr. Schoenlank whether she would reach out to teachers to volunteer their services for the silent auction at the Ridge social. Dr. Schoenlank replied in the affirmative.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Amanda Twilliger

Update

Hilary mentioned that a particular mom has volunteered to coach Girls On The Run. Hilary mentioned that several parents have volunteered to maintain the Ridge HSA website and we would soon have a webmaster to take over the role.

Secretary's Report

Shulamit Gershenson

1. Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the November 13, 2018 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

- Motion was approved by Kerri Pilchik and seconded by Amanda Twilliger.

Tasneem Patrawala (in Shulamit Gershenson's absence) read the thank you notes that the HSA had received from Nurse Manke, Boosterthon team, Philip Vier (crossing guard), Mrs. Quinlan, Giovanni Pelosio (crossing guard), Dr. Schoelank, Marty (crossing guard).

Other

Bridget Kong raised concerns regarding parents lining up at the red zone and blocking available parking spots. She mentioned that its better that parents don't come early and block these spots. If they do come early, they should park in the available spots. Danielle Flynn mentioned parents idling a lot longer than was acceptable. Dr Schoenlank said that she did not see parents using the placards very often. She said that she would be writing a letter to the parents detailing the above concerns.

Kerri Pilchik asked what the funds raised from the social would be going towards. Hilary mentioned that it would go towards 21st Century classrooms. She also said that funds raised from the Tag sale would be used to cover FOR in case we did not meet our goal and the rest of it would go towards 21st century classrooms.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shulamit Gershenson

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 1:15 pm in the Teacher's Lounge.