

RIDGE H.S.A. INC.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MEETING DATE: September 20, 2016 at 1:15pm
TEACHER'S LOUNGE

BOARD MEMBERS: Alvarado, Beiersdorf, Boucher, Briganti, Carr, Chudy, Colm, Coviello, Daffron, DiBenedetto, Dolich, Dowling, Fiol, Flynn, Gaglioti, Ginn, Gudmann, Harrington, Harris, Haskins, Holder, Hong, Hutchinson, Kahn J., Kahn A., Katzman, Killeen, Kim, Kong, Kuenzler, Langheim, Latimer, Linnington, McCarthy, Micale, Moelk, Monte, Neumann, Nixon, O'Keefe, Perrin, Plumley, Reilly, Rosenberg, Rubenstein, Sachs, Sharma, Sorabella, Spinello, Springer, Stephens, Stoehr, Teller, Tudda, Wallace, Zachariah

PRESENT: Nixon, Zachariah, Fiol, Briganti, Langheim, Kong, Boucher, Kuenzler, Tudda, Perrin, Plumley, Gurbuxani

ABSENT BUT VOTING: Chudy, Sharma, Hong, Micale, Beiersdorf, Spinello, Linnington, Latimer, Neumann, Colm, Stoehr, Katzman, Flynn, Coviello, Holder, Haskins, Springer, Kim, Harris, Carr, Moelk, Wallace

Motions:

1. **A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 14th, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.**
2. **A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 20th, 2016 and the 2016/2017 Year-To-Date Profit & Loss Statement.**

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Heather Zachariah

Heather Zachariah, H.S.A. President, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 1:20 pm.

Principal's Report

Jean Schoenlank

Ridge Report

Jean will begin to send out her monthly Ridge Report which recaps the information shared in the monthly H.S.A. meeting.

Decrease in Student Enrollment

Jean notified the board that there has been a decrease in student enrollment over the past few years. Currently, our total number of students is 418 which is 90 fewer students than 4 years ago. She stated that one possible cause of the decrease of enrollment is the 2008 recession.

The positives of a smaller student body are that there is more room in the ROC assemblies, and the red zone is more efficient. The major con is that class size goes up.

New Spanish Curriculum

Ridge will begin rolling out the new Spanish curriculum program. Going forward, the children from grades 1-5 will be part of Middlebury Interactive Language Program from Middlebury College. Kids will go online about 30 minutes a week to learn their lessons. This program has specifically been built for children unlike Rosetta Stone which was previously used but more geared towards adults. During the November 15th H.S.A. meeting, the board will visit some classrooms engaged in the program.

September has been about Building Community

This month, the teachers have been working to set up their classrooms so that the children are respectful to one another. For example, the teachers have been talking to the children about the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying policy (HIB) that we have in Ridgewood. In addition, they have discussed how we should have positive attitudes towards one another.

Responsive Classroom Pilot

In support of our aim to develop a kind and inclusive environment, we are piloting a new program called Responsive Classroom. This program is similar to Open Circle but it is done every day. Jean wants to make sure that we are supporting our children both socially and academically. We will hear more about it at Back To School night.

“Organized Recess” to Begin

Deidre Tobin and Jean came up with the idea of offering “organized recess” for the children as an option to play an organized game. This type of recess can benefit children who might not have someone to play with at recess time. Ms. Stephanie Black, one of our PE teachers, is working with our lunch aides to create these “organized recess” games for the children. This type of recess will begin next week.

Books of the Month

The overall theme of the books this year centers around the word “Be”.

September - What Does It Mean To Be Present? (This book was read at the first ROC assembly.)
October - Manners Mash Up (This book will be read during Week of Respect.)
November - Lemonade Hurricane
December - Going Places
January - Have You Filled A Bucket Today?
February- Nerdy Birdy
March - Just Kidding
April - Odd Boy Out

May - The OK Book

Other

The Community Outreach Program published its 2016-2017 programs which was sent out to all parents. Please make an effort to attend the topics that you might be interested in.

Dan Fishbein, Ridgewood Superintendent, will be present at the next HSA meeting 10/18 to discuss Full-Day Kindergarten.

Important Dates

September

9/27 7:30pm Back to School Night K-2
9/28 School Photos
Author Visit – Angela Di Terlizzi grades K-3
9/29 7:30pm Back to School Night 3-5

October

10/3 No School
10/4 Week of Respect
10/5 Rain Date photos
10/7 Ali Stroker Visit- First Broadway actress in a wheelchair, went to Ridge
10/12 No School
10/14 7:00pm Bingo Night
10/18 1:15pm HSA Meeting, Dr. Daniel Fishbein will attend to discuss Full-Day Kindergarten

President's Report

Heather Zachariah

Playground equipment

We installed our new Playground Spinner but it had to be shut down initially because it was installed improperly.

Castle playground repairs

- The repairs have been completed.
- The swings have been replaced and the bridge has been fixed.
- We will get someone to maintain the equipment every two years.

3 New Trees

This past summer, the H.S.A. replaced 3 unhealthy trees that were part of the Beautification Project.

- H.S.A. paid \$435.

- Tarleton LLC. paid for the installation.
- We do have a warranty on the trees, but if there is a drought, the warranty does not cover it.

Revisiting Community Pass

Every school in Ridgewood is set up on community pass except us. The schools are using it for volunteer signup, school photos signup, directory signup, and the ability to fill out forms. Heather Zachariah will look at what is needed to make it happen for this year or next year.

Fundraising Event

- Our plan is to host our school fundraiser in March.
- Our main goal of our Fundraiser this year is to raise money for our four specials, Gym, Art, Music, and Library.
- Jean would like to purchase an outside Gaga pit. Currently, we play with one in the gym.

Other

- Our Back to School Picnic was successful. The prize baskets looked great. Music was a festive addition.

Vice President's Report

Maria Hutchinson

Friends of Ridge Campaign-

- This campaign is for enrichment purposes offering programs to enhance our children's curriculum.
- Every grade level has two events.
- The goal of the campaign has been 20K over the last three years but because enrollment has declined, we reconsidered the budget. We decided to take one 'author visit' out of the budget.
- We spend about \$50 per student. Heather will talk about this number at Back To School night. We would like to get 100% participation from our school community even if each family cannot give \$50 per child. We will use a participation thermometer for metrics.

Secretary's Report

Alyssa Fiol

Motion - A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Minutes from the June 14th, 2016 Ridge H.S.A. meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Maureen Kuenzler

A motion was made, seconded and approved by those present to approve the Balance Sheet as of September 20, 2016, and the 2016/2017 Year-to-date Profit & Loss Statement.

Financial Statement Update

- We transferred \$25K from savings to operating mostly to accommodate the playground repairs.
- The playground expenses were approximately \$24,000. This amount included the balance of the spinner and the castle playground repairs.
- The first Frosty Friday of the school year made \$277.
- The Picnic made \$3464 not including all expenses.
- This year we included full color ads in the school directory. We made \$2000 using these ads.
- Over the summer, we completed our audit.

Planning and Development's Report

Jen Boucher

Retail Sales Fundraisers Update

- Pizza Fusion will start in October and will be the 1st Tuesday of every month.
- The Five Below Program is to begin the 2nd week of December in anticipation of the Holidays.
- Families can sign up for the Box tops, Amazon, and Shop N Stop programs through the Ridge website during the months of October to March. Individuals do not need to re-register every year. Heather added links to Enews so that parents can just click on a link and get to the corresponding program.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Caren Langheim

Open and filled positions 2016-2017

- Red Zone committee is still welcoming volunteers. Heather Z. will ask Dads to help out on Back to School Night.
- Tic Toc
 - We plan to have a Tic Toc informational table at Back to School Night.
 - Caroline Perrin, parent rep from Tic Toc, mentioned that they would like to have stickers for the children after every Tic Toc Show as a way to market this program.
- Art Docent
 - Art Docent needs additional volunteers. Caren Langheim will follow up on this item.
 - An Art Docent meeting will be held at Martina McCarthy's house the week after Back To School Night.
- LSHSA
 - Geeta Gurbuxani, parent rep from LSHSA, addressed the board and discussed how parent enrollment is down in the LSHSA group. She asked Heather Z. if she could mention the group and its benefits on Back to School Night.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Fiol

Ridge H.S.A. Secretary

NEXT HSA MEETING is Tuesday October 18, 2016 at 1:15pm in the Teacher's Lounge.