

Ridgewood School
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes-December 10, 2009

Board members present: J. Gianakopolous, S. Gianakopolous, P. Campbell, B. Beals, N. Pavlatos, A. Ahmed, C. Misick, and A. Syed

Others present: R. Yontz, K. Denman, K. Baker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November meeting minutes are approved with changes.

FINANCIAL REPORT: S. Gianakopolous presented. We are close to our projected budget with a \$10,000 difference. Finance committee will meet to define areas of profit/loss for scholarship, Ed. Choice, and tuition assistance. Most of expenses, the earlier part of the year, have been building expenses such as cafeteria tables, pavement, etc. No audit report yet. P. Campbell and A. Ahmed will get together when it comes in. Depreciations and amortizations need to be corrected.

ADMISSIONS REPORT: One possible new 1st grader in January.

CURRICULUM REPORT: Alessa from Planned Parenthood discussed with committee about bringing a basic sex education class to the school. Committee will meet with her to discuss proposed curriculum which will include online cyber safety and hygiene for the Lower Level. It will not cost anything and will be optional.

Committee is looking at block scheduling as a way to lengthen class time without lengthening the school day. This should help alleviate parent concerns about too much homework. B. Beals suggested using teacher workshops to learn how to teach/engage students for a full hour of block scheduling time. It is believed block scheduling will enable more guided practice time at the end of each period.

B. Beals spoke with Mr. Perrin from Catholic Central. French students **will** receive a language credit. He also mentioned that there is private school certification available and if our Math teacher got that certification, Catholic Central would accept that class for credit--- Although they will not give the students a grade, which may be a disadvantage when they graduate because they will have more credits than grades (lowering their G.P.A.). The board recommends pursuing private school certification for our Math teacher.

The articulation agreement for French between Springfield High and Ridgewood needs to be completed. R. Yontz is working on this.

Springfield High is working on testing kids out of classes for credit.

MARKETING REPORT: The new Ridgewood brochure will be completed by mid January. B. Woods is looking into prices for different quantities. She will distribute these at businesses, preschools, mailings to individuals, etc. K. Denman suggested using active language in the brochure—ex. **When** you choose Ridgewood as opposed to **If** you choose Ridgewood. Suggestions will be brought to B. Woods attention.

Marketing committee wanted to purchase a sign to place on corner of Bechtle Ave. and St. Paris connector, costing \$437, to promote recruitment as well as market Ridgewood events throughout the year. There was disagreement about the type of board being placed there (how it impacts Ridgewood's image). Would like to put this on hold and see if JVS would make it or if it could be a class gift.

We received a donation from The Springfield Foundation in the name of the Elizabeth Carpentenieri Endowment Fund for \$2000. This money has been given to us for unrestricted use. Drs. Abbott and Pomputious donated \$50,000 for a scholarship endowment. B. Woods would like to advertise our new scholarship money in SNS and on website.

The Ridgewood website now has Ridgewood Times, New brochure and Board Minutes. Student artwork will be displayed at Upper Valley Mall in the spring of 2010.

HEADMASTERS REPORT: Dec. 14-- Ridgewood band performance at Upper Valley Mall, Dec. 15-- Christmas play, Dec. 18--school field trip to Nutcracker and classroom parties. Dec. 10 is Dine to donate at Applebee's. 10% of bill goes to Ridgewood.

R. Yontz would like to pay bills online in future. He will send it to finance committee to begin to start setting it up.

We currently have 3 security agencies. We are canceling protector alarm service. We will still have fire and break in security.

Locks on front and side doors need to be fixed.

OLD BUSINESS: P. Campbell still is working on problem with the Ridgewood sign. The doors in the Gym will be painted this weekend.

NEW BUSINESS: A new nutrition committee was established to work on healthier lunches and snacks for the students. C. Misick will chair and K. Denman, K. Baker, A. Ahmed and B. Woods will work on this committee with her.

It is recommended to have students wear Ridgewood shirts for field trips.

An idea was given to have "Letters" for jackets for academic/drama/sports activities. B. Woods will be given this assignment.

Next meeting January, 21

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Afshan Syed