



November 2017 - MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order - Ridge Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

▪ Agenda Items

1. Voluntary Random Drug Testing
2. Option II
3. Social Media
4. PARCC Activities (volunteer opportunities)
5. Rotating Drop Schedule
6. FTGOTO

▪ Attendee Names

- ❖ Drew Krause - Principal
- ❖ Kathleen Dusebout – Assistant Principal
- ❖ Alyson McCauley – PTO Co-President
- ❖ Christine Ziegler – PTO Co-President
- ❖ Betsy Bacot-Aigner – PTO VP, Newsletter
- ❖ Ged Ong – PTO Co-VP Communications
- ❖ Rebecca Cuadros – PTO VP, Programs
- ❖ Shannon Yu – PTO Co-VP, Volunteers
- ❖ Lisa Laurino – PTO Secretary and 10th Grade Class Parent
- ❖ Yongyong Tang – 10th Grade Class Parent
- ❖ Kristina Folkhart – 11th Grade Class Parent

Agenda Items

1. Voluntary Random Drug Testing

As per Mr. Krause's October 20th letter to all Ridge Parents and Guardians [October 20 VRDT letter](#), In accordance with Board of Education Policy 5530.1, the Bernards Township School District has a Voluntary Random Student Drug Testing (VRDT) Program. This Program is meant to assist in keeping our student body safe. Policy 5530.1 requires all families of students in grades 6 to 12 to make an active selection to either participate or to not participate



in the VRDT Program. As of the date of Mr. Krause's October 20th letter, approximately 1500 students had responded (yes/no), but roughly 400 students had not yet complied. Mr. Krause is asking for our assistance in getting the word out and urging the families that have not responded to do so in a timely manner so that we may move forward with randomly choosing students to test.

2. Option II

Mr. Krause and Mr. Thorp are the new Option II Athletics Supervisors. The program is no longer coordinated by Mrs. Shadis. Mrs. Eckel remains the Option II Secretary, and she is now located in the front Counseling Suite.

Option II was implemented at Ridge for our school's athletes. The program was designed to allow the athletes extra study time during the day because they practice 5/6 days a week for 3+ hours a day. A large percentage of our student body is now participating in Option II, which has forced the school to increase the number of study halls offered. The increased number of study halls, and the associated need to use teachers to supervise the study halls, has presented challenges in terms of effectively monitoring the rest of the building.

3. Social Media

There are an increasing number of Ridge families taking to social media to vent or share a problem or concern. Mr. Krause is asking for assistance from the PTO and PAC members to encourage Ridge families to reach out directly to a teacher, coach, assistant principals, or Mr. Krause with any school-related concern before turning to social media (Basking Ridge Moms, Ridge Moms and Dads, etc.).

4. PARCC Activities (volunteer opportunities)

PARCC testing is scheduled for the week of April 23rd. The actual Testing Window is April 24th – April 27th for grades 9 – 11. There will be early dismissals on April 24th, 25th and 26th. The Ridge Administration and Faculty are working on programming for students not required to test on those days. We would like to encourage local business and service organizations in the community to allow students not required to test to do some volunteer work for them on those days. The timing would be 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The final day of testing is April 27th but only for about 2 hours. The testing will take place that morning and then an abbreviated schedule for the rest of the day. Students attending the Junior Prom will be dismissed early. PARCC testing for those students enrolled in Algebra I will occur on May 21 and May 22. Here is the link to the District Testing Schedule [PARCC District Testing Schedule](#)

5. Rotating Drop Schedule



The Board of Ed is still considering a Rotating Drop Schedule for Ridge High School as there are many benefits; such as, teachers look to gain at least 8 or 9 instruction periods throughout the year; Department Heads can hold meetings with their staff during the common lunch, etc. The topic will be discussed at the next Board of Ed meeting on Monday, December 18th. There are questions still to be answered (how will it affect Science Labs, Phys Ed etc.; what to do about lunch) before making a determination.

6. For the Good of the Order (FTGOTO)

- **Vaping** – Vaping (e-cigarettes) has become a statewide problem in most Middle and High Schools including Ridge. Juul’s and Phix’s are considered drug paraphernalia. If a student is caught vaping in school they need to go to a doctor or hospital and get drug tested pursuant to the Suspicion Based Drug Policy. Because a large percentage of the student body is eligible for Option II, there is limited staff available to monitor all the bathrooms as the teachers are needed in Option II Study Halls.
- **Potholes** – There is a big pothole by the weight room that needs to be fixed as a young spectator attending an event at the school tripped and fell. The pothole by the entrance to the school also needs to be looked at. We are waiting on the Paving Company we use to schedule time to come to the school.