

MS/HS HSA Meeting Minutes

Sep 23 2022

Attendance

- Presenters: Brett Charleston, Michael Parent, Mike Escalante, Rob McCorry, Tina Bacolas, Olivia Sluka, Joe Torres, Frank Klump
- In-Person: Parul Harley, Marcela Landreu, Michele Sapoff, Holly Goshin, Ann Boyle, Valerie Merlin, Sujatha Venugopalan, Sharon Tishco, Sheila Berard, Jackie Pappas, Felicia Goldberg, Jocelyn Reiman, Colleen Manley, Jen Scherer, Megan Findley, Laura Vitalli
- Virtual: Heather Olenick, Katie Gibs, Erica Bratspies, Isaac Rosenfeld, Nancy Bermack, Orlee Goldfeld

Approval of Minutes and President's Report: Colleen Manley

Motion to approve minutes by Holly Goshin, seconded by Jen Scherer.

Reported that the HSA-sponsored Staff luncheon on the first day of school was a success.

Reviewed HSA goals for the 22-23 school year. One major goal is to increase family participation rate in HSA from 30-40% to 75%.

Volunteer opportunities still available on the website.

Superintendent's Report: Brett Charleston

District recently conducted a Bandwidth survey of administrators and teachers. 260 teachers took the survey, with a goal to understand stresses and burdens and how to address them. Some results:

- Student Growth Objectives (SGOs—used for teacher evaluations) were cited as a negative; these are mandated by the state so cannot be eliminated, but the district will try to reduce the stress around them.
- Teachers asked for a quiet space to work – will look to create that.
- Teachers asked for less pressure to respond to email outside business hours – so school has set expectations with staff, parents and students around response times.
- Created a bandwidth committee to look at taking more things off teacher's plates.

Will be conducting a climate survey for all students/parents – will be totally voluntary and anonymous.

Formed a climate and culture committee with Asst. Superintendent Van Nest and ~30 staff members who will think about ways to develop activities, improve morale and bring the teacher community together.

Smaller Kindergarten enrollment than expected, but overall enrollment is very slightly up this year.

Have sufficient certificated teachers to staff the schools. Strong interest in GR when hiring for long term subs and other staff. Very positive, high energy new teacher orientation. New teachers coming in seem to be doing well so far.

Security Report : Rob McCorry

Shared a review of key security protocols, in response to some recent questions by parents:

- Duties for HS/MS security greeters are to assist students, staff and parents. They monitor the Hamilton entrance, check people in w/ ID, document ins and outs, issue passes.
- Staff all have swipe cards to access doors. All doors are locked during the school day so non-staff can only use the monitored (Hamilton Circle) entrance.
- Phasing in a process where kids can start using card IDs through a scanner to check in (and in future to purchase at Cafeteria as well.) Just MS right now, will be expanding.
- Morning entrance process allows for three doors to enter: Hamilton for HS and Harristown for MS. Gym doors open for athletes.
- Two drills per month. Tech glitch in the lockdown drill this past week. Shows why drills are done – to catch potential problems and address them. Parents are always informed after the drill.
- All crossing guards in place, with active schedule updates from HS when needed. Good communication with GR Police overall. School Security staff have police radios for emergencies.

Principal's Report: Dr. Parent, Mr. Escalante, Ms. Bacolas

Reported that the start of school went smoothly with “restart days” to get acclimated back to school rules.

Shared several policy updates at the MS/HS:

- New requirement for MS students to wear IDs on lanyards. This is a security protocol to confirm no unauthorized individuals on campus, and to identify everyone in an emergency. Will expand to HS next year. Will also expand lanyards to teachers in a different color. Dr. Parent tells students lanyards

are a way to be “part of the team.” It is not punitive if they forget. Have ordered breakaway lanyards to address choking risk.

- Teachers will not be emailing after hours under the new policy. Teachers have been directed to ensure that Schoology assignments are detailed, clear, and always posted before 3pm. Question: Can teachers be asked to tell students some options to meet with them or reach them during the school day with instructional questions, since they are not going to be reachable after hours?
- Strictness has reduced the rate of tardiness. 5 tardies = absence to the class. This seems to be more effective than detention.
- New rules in place for the MS include no phones in class and no backpacks at lunch. This is helping with socialization and focus. The phone rule will expand to the high school campus next year.

Mr. Escalante discussed the 6th grade retreat at Camp Mason. Started this new annual tradition to help the 4 elementary schools to become one class. Opportunity to participate in team bonding and outdoor skills. New 6th grade teachers attended. Beautiful weather – very positive experience. Going forward: 7th grade will do Camp Mason overnight to re-connect. 8th graders will do a trip outside of state

Online fundraising campaign for the 8th grade trip will be run by a 3rd party. Student results are tracked by the company and can reduce individual cost of travel. Parents can opt in, or not. Will only be one year of fundraising. Trip location will be revealed later; Dr. Parent expects to involve students in the decision.

At the high school, college planning events are on the schedule and messages have been sent out to the parents in the relevant grades. Keep a look out for the Guidance Office bulletins.

Doing all the usual spirit activities at the high school this fall – spirit week, pep rally, homecoming. Planning a World Cultures week with the student clubs as an educational effort.

Back to school night for both schools will be in person this year. Details to come via email soon.

Wellness Center Update: Wellness Counselors

Counselors did Grade 6 classroom visits to promote the wellness center. Had seen student anxiety about how and when to use the Center. Positioning it as a place to “take a brain break” - a short departure from class with clearer guidelines. Teachers are understanding better how to invite students to visit the wellness center when they are in emotional difficulty during class.

Wellness center will be open during back-to-school night.

Upcoming events from the Wellness Center counselors:

- Therapy dogs are in the Wellness Center every other week at lunchtime.
- Planning a Teen Mental Health program for the HS health classrooms that allows kids to get “certified” to help peers in crisis. Will be in grade 10 and 11 this year, then grade 10 annually.

- October 19 Wellness Fair with resources for mental and physical health to showcase what kids could access. Will be held in the gym so kids can walk around and ask questions, get information.
- Speaker series for parents in the evenings on addiction, social media and screen time balance, and suicide prevention. Look out for a flier to come soon.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Boyle

Slight updates to the final year report to reflect lower expenses than estimated at end of year.

Current report shows where we are to date on the HSA budget. Starting to get money in from memberships, and starting to outlay money for early school year activities like the staff luncheon.

New HSA website has expense reimbursement forms, tax exempt forms and other items that anyone may need if they are supporting the HSA as a volunteer.

Looking to put some funding to a) enhance the new teacher's lounge and b) buy outdoor furniture for student socializing. Would welcome ideas from parents for items the school may fund.

Spirit-wear Sale is ongoing online until Oct 14th. Important fundraiser for this year.

GroupSpot Tips and Promotions

Only 2/3 of members are members of GroupSpot – need everyone to join. Please look for the invite and log in. Make sure notifications are turned on for your phone. Anyone who wants to promote something on GroupSpot can share with Michele Sapoff for posting via Communications@GlenRockMSSHSA.org.

Apple AirPods Raffle: All HSA members who paid their dues and joined Group Spot were eligible. Two winners were Tanuskhree Kabra and Noreen Hefferman.

Upcoming Events

- Oct 10th Cider donut sale on half day
- Oct 11th 9:00am Federated HSA meeting at Central School
- Oct 11 6:30pm Back to school night at High School. Will kickoff with 15 minute welcome by Dr. Parent and then 10 minute visits for 8 periods of classes (plus travel time between sessions).
- Oct 13 6:30pm Back to School night at Middle School. Will kickoff with 15 minute welcome by Dr. Parent and then 10 minute visits for 8 periods of classes (plus travel time between sessions).
- Superintendent "Office Hours" small group dialogues to be held in HS/MS Media Center - all are welcome:
 - Monday 10/10 9am - BOE and District Goals

- Mon 1/30 9am - Staff and Student Wellness
- Mon 3/27 9am - 2023-24 District Budget
- Weds 6/14 9am - School Year 22-23 In Review

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Ann Boyle, seconded by Holly Goshin.