

## **MS/HS HSA Meeting**

**October 9, 2025**

**In person:** Angela Delaney Kircher, Krista Hochleutner, Louise Kennan, Yuliya Zolenla, Sharon Tischo, Monica Lauro, Kelly St. Laurent, Jenelle Wise, Tracy Cairol, Kristin Hodges, Colleen Manley, Kathryn Morris, Liz Tullo, Valerie Merlin, Marissa Stoinge, Michele Schassberger

**Virtually:** : Lynda Coppola, Lauren Suero, Sarah Goldberg, Lindsay Cappello, Christine Palarmis

### **Welcome and Approval of June 2025 Minutes:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve: Colleen Manley
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve: Sheila Berard

### **MS/HS Principal Update (Ms. Guirlando, Mr. Ferrara, Mr. Morelli):**

- Implemented model around discipline and restorative practices in school – how discipline is managed and detention is given – expanded this year and moved model into the HS (largely successful)
- Brought workshop in restorative practices – worked with Middle School and High School teachers, counselors and administrators K-12 initiative – Ms. Higgins – pilot with community circles in classrooms and survey kids before and after to understand how they impact the students and a sense of community – move in a direction of community base and how students can learn from their mistakes
  - 3 High School teachers that stepped up and were excited about the initiative and attended a personal development meeting October to review training and what a pilot would look like in the high school
  - High School disciplinary consequences –detention moved from lunch to after school - kids feel impact to missing sports practices – coaches were made aware and are on board with change, it is nice to have alignment and have everyone on board with managing consequences
    - Detention – students write a reflection on how they can improve and then complete non-electronic homework
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> year in middle school using restorative practices – writing reflection goes a long way and allows for a meeting with students on a smaller group to come up with plan moving forward
- Field Testing – NJSLA, NJGPA – week of October 27<sup>th</sup> – MS and HS – practice test used for state to gather data – adaptive test determined by how a student answers each question
- Q: Policy on limiting tests in a given day A: System used in High School to work around work load planner in Schoology, see how many assignments are due in a particular day – quick shorthand for teachers to see what students have on a given day – helps to plan assessments, slow start to this year and will reinforce to staff. Does not limit number of tests, but is informative and encourage students to advocate for themselves
- Q: Finals were brought back what do you do with that data? What are you looking at, are supervisors looking at tests? Stress of students during that week? A: Department meetings are looking at benchmark data, final exam falls into that data. Teachers with a common course plan

benchmark and exams together, provides data on where to tighten up. In terms of stress, Sean Prichard – mindfulness and breathing work with students in different assemblies. Opportunities for students to be in gym and study rooms and have options for students to have access to before or during the exams. Big change – based on student advisory committee, seniors can be exempt from exams. As long as projected final grade is a 90 by June 1<sup>st</sup> you are exempt as a senior

- Midterms vs. Final – different types of experiences of exams –
- Focus on second half of the year – but more on themes over the course of the year
  - Some of content and subject areas are not second half of the year –

#### **HSA Activities So Far (Michele Schassberger)**

- Teacher & Staff Back to School Lunch
- “Welcome Back” Signage
- Information sharing: HSA Supporter emails, FB, website
- Spiritwear Sale kickoff
- HSA membership drive continues
- Volunteer Opportunity Sign up continues

#### **Treasurer’s Report (Kristin Hodges)**

- Snapshot of how 2024-2025 year ended – ended in loss
- 2025-2026 current balance sheet – new proposed budget to a vote
  - Income: ~\$10,307 in revenue is driven by new membership.
  - Expenses: ~ \$3,733 in expenses primarily driven by:
    - \$1,395 Wish List (ping pong table)
    - \$1,734 Back to school staff luncheon
- Proposed budget amended from last meeting – Wishlist submissions that were approved for previous years and not submitted for reimbursement until September 2025
  - Budget Amendment Approved - Unanimously
- Fundraisers to consider: spring spirit wear for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and bring back easiest fundraiser ever – donations!

#### **HSA Board Vote**

- Tracy Cairolì – to become Asst Treasurer,
- Vote – unanimously

#### **Meeting Adjourned**