**Glen Rock MS/HS HSA Meeting Minutes**

**April 21, 2023**

Attendance

(in-person): Dr. Parent, Jackie DeVore, Shira Hochman, Valerie Merlin, Sharon Tishco, Felicia Goldberg, Holly Goshin, Erica Danziger, Ann Boyle, Jocelyn Reiman, Paula Hegyi, Kate Wolfe, Colleen Manley, Jackie Pappas, Megan Findley

(online): Charu Agarwal, Kelsey Sheridan, Bethany Libenson, Ellen Brunetti, Erin McNulty, Hillary Gerber, Yuri Bertram, Michelle Sapoff, Jen Lota, Tara Diamond, Ellen Brennan, Monica Lauro, Yuliya Abova, Kate Greenberg, Lynda Coppola, Marcela Landreau, Carolyn Stallone, Anna Weyant, Laura Beit-Zuri, Orlee Goldfeld

Motion to approve March meeting minutes made by Holly Goshin, seconded by Valerie Merlin.

Student Presentation

A current HS student shared research completed for the Glen Echo newspaper on the topic of exams. Online survey asked recent GRHS grads how their experience with midterms and finals impacted their college preparation. In the survey, students said they saw benefits and drawbacks of traditional midterm exams: while they can help with study skills, they cause significant stress, and there may be better ways to assess content learning. Most students said that their college courses use a variety of assessment methods, like projects and essays and group work, not just standardized exams. The results generally confirm the current district approach of moving to a more varied set of assessment types.

Principal’s Update

Reviewed the bathroom monitoring system that is now in place. All first-floor bathrooms are open – 10 open in total. Don’t have capacity to place teachers at all bathrooms – the online system helps fill the gaps. They are hoping they can use the records to support an investigation if it is needed. Teachers check bathrooms for vandalism periodically – they don’t stay while students are using the facility. With new system, bathroom usage as a “hangout spot” is reduced. Acknowledged that the online check in process was rolled out in more of a rush than ideal, given the urgency to respond to anti-semitic vandalism.

In future, bringing in a company to readjust hallway cameras to monitor bathroom entry and exit. Also getting bids for a system that would use IDs to swipe in/out of the bathroom doors. Will always need to maintain a log system and bathroom checks, given the persistence of the problems.

Upcoming events include:

* April 20-22th Play that Goes Wrong – High School, online tickets available
* April 27-28 Camp Mason 7th grade retreat – outdoor bonding - 125 students attending
* May 3rd National Jr Honor Society Inductions– for 7th grade (6 marking periods high honor roll)
* May-June Class social BBQs– one for each grade – lunch plus one free period outside
* May 10 Middle School spring concert and art show
* May 15-18 NJSLA testing for Grades 6-9 and May 22-23 For grade 8 and 11 (science only)
* May 17 HS Spring Concert
* May 19 Sophomore semi formal 6:30pm – tickets available online
* May 25 MS Talent Show 6:30 or 7pm
* May 31-June 2 Eigth Grade Class Trip to Boston
* June 1 HS Art Show
* June 2 Pride Flag raising 2pm in front of school
* June 3 Relay for Life

Student Council is discussing organizing an 8th grade dance – will be student led.

Taking a new approach to “GlenStock” tradition. Scheduled June 2 4:00pm-8:30pm. This year the school is working with an outside event company to expand into an outdoor festival. Three bands playing, there will be food trucks and vendors, on the grass behind the bleachers. Tickets available in advance or outdoors.

**Parent Q&A**

Will there be final communication for Camp Mason 7th grade trip? Yes, it is coming out tonight and there will be a meeting with the students next week right before the event.

Will 8th grade dance efforts be supported by adults? yes, the Student Council Advisors are engaged to help the students get it done.

Can communication with families be improved overall? School messenger doesn’t work well for mobile/scrolling and can’t be replied to. Would like to see more clarity on dates, proactive communication of events, and a warmer, more open tone. Dr. Parent will take this feedback.

Can the school address student stress over the new online system of bathroom check in, given roll out was abrupt? Noted that backpacks not allowed in the cafeteria is also a challenge for menstruating students. Maybe need more support for the middle schoolers to adjust to the new system. Dr. Parent and Mr. Escalante acknowledged the feedback and will seek to address it. Can re-explain how to use the system and make sure teachers are fully briefed. Can issue a map marking bathroom numbers. Will ask MS Student Council to gather feedback and ideas on how to help students navigate the new system. Will explore opening second floor bathrooms, but there are staffing challenges to this.

**HSA President Report**

Noted that the HSA Exec Board has sent a letter to the Superintendent and Board of Ed on behalf of our membership asking for prioritization of the ID swipe system installation for bathroom and entrance doors as well as a review of after-hours building security.

Simplest Fundraiser Ever raised more than $8700 to fund wish list projects – thank you everyone!

Teacher Appreciation Gift Card drive raised $3400 in gift cards and money donations. Asking for sign ups for food and drink throughout the week – many open spots in the sign ups.

HSA Board is looking for new members for next year. President, VP-Communications, Assistant Treasurer are all still open roles. Contact the nominating committee if interested (Felicia Goldberg or Amy Handler.)

Federated HSA meeting May 23rd 9am Hamilton School

Final HSA meeting June 2nd at 9am

**Treasurer Report**

Successful fundraiser filled most of the income need budgeted. Expenses increased slightly this month given items such as wish list project spending and teacher lounge enhancements. In May and June we anticipate additional expenses related to year end events such as teacher appreciation, 8th grade events, class socials etc. Still in line with expectations. Expect a loss of ~$5000 for the year, slightly lower deficit that in original budget.