

MS/HS HSA Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2022

Attendance

- *In person* (based on sign-in sheet) Lisa Torsiello, Carolyn Stallone, Laura Vitalli, Colleen Manley, Megan Findley, Holly Goshin, Jackie Pappas, Jen Scherer, Kate Wolfe, Sandra Conford, Christine Heenan, Meghan Consoli, Sheila Berard, Charu Agarwal, Rachel Behar, Ann Boyle, Sharon Tischco, Michele Schassberger
- *Online* (based on full names in zoom) Sujatha Venugopalan, Kristine Gifford, Yuri Bertram, Jennifer Lota, Anna Weyant, Shira Hochman, Michele Sapoff, Rebecca Goglia, Lynda Coppola, Erin McNulty, Sudeshna Mazumdar, Julianna Moore, Kim Desmond, Karen Eterovich
- *Guests/Admin:* Dr. Parent, Mr. Escalante, Ms. Bacolas, Dr. Charleston

Approval of minutes

Minutes approved with one suggested amendment (adding a missing attendee name.) Motion to approve by Jen Scherer, seconded by Laura Vitalli.

Superintendent's Report

Will develop 23-24 district budget Nov-Dec and present to BoE in Jan for discussion, with final approval expected in March. There will be some cost increases such as healthcare benefits, 4 new elementary teachers. But assuming state aid remains stable, they expect no major challenges staying within the cap.

Program of studies for MS/HS to be discussed this month. Will be approved by BOE in December.

BoE members attended School Boards state conference at end of October. Highlights included:

- Sessions about social media. Learned that disinformation and hostility are common across NJ. Several districts have a public relations officer; learned about steps they take to promote accurate info and positive news and are considering how to apply the lessons here in Glen Rock.
- Session on best practices for running Board meetings; confirmed many norms that Glen Rock follows now.

District Climate & Culture Committee has started events to promote positive staff culture. First event was a social gathering. Now doing a teacher recipe swap.

Climate survey results are back. Data is being analyzed and will be shared with BoE soon. Data will be used for Climate & Culture Committee to recommend action steps.

Principal's report

8th grade trip confirmed to Boston in Spring. Fundraising will be done only for the 8th grade year and will be applied to the entire trip.

Launching new site to do all school event ticket sales online (socials, plays, trip etc.) Should help reduce risk of mishandling funds, free up staff time, and be more convenient for parents.

Reviewed HS business internship program. Launched brand new last year and one student has participated so far. Have an advisory board of business exec parents to support program. Policy has been set to allow 2.5 class credits for minimum 60 hours internship. Students go during school day (make up

class work missed) or can pursue during summer. Created a packet of materials for local businesses to encourage them to create internship spots. Currently a handful of students interested.

Highlighted upcoming Wreaths Across America event. All students can come lay wreaths on veteran's graves Dec 17th. Need lots more families to sponsor a wreath – goal is 875 wreaths.

Parent question about offering a “career day.” Considering offering something like this - not on specific professions, but more on pathways, types of roles, what's needed for success. Could be a speed dating format or workshops? Next spring.

Parent question about bringing back midterms and finals. Noted that decision to eliminate these wasn't made due to COVID, but due to latest evidence-based practice. Parents are interested in hearing more about the rationale, as many believe that studying for cumulative exams is helpful for college. Is there more the school could do to help with college prep? Could a presentation about academic rigor in HS be a topic for future HSA meeting?

Parent question about any upcoming changes to program of studies. Noted current document is posted online. Don't expect much to change for HS next year. Possibly adding AP courses in math department. Have reduced some language and other niche courses that could never get sufficient enrollment historically. Stated the preference is to have 15 students minimum to run a class.

Parent question about the MS lunch recess – can there be sports equipment provided? Mr. Escalante responded that they encourage students to bring their own balls, frisbees etc. but can't provide these items since there's no way to ensure students will return them to the school.

Parent comment that the music played before and after school has been very positive for mood. Noted that Dr. Parent has been asking teachers to build playlists as guest DJs and this has been popular.

President's Report

Spirit wear most ever items ordered. Profit margin slightly lower due to rising cost of product but still got \$5000 income from 273 orders. Will need 20 volunteers to deliver items week after Thanksgiving.

Looking for teachers to submit more wish list ideas to HSA. Suggest that when parents hear students talk about an idea, they have student remind the teacher about the HSA wish list as a funding source.

HSA will invest \$1000 for additional enhancements to teacher's lounge. HSA Board members went to visit and got specific suggestions from teachers what they would like to see. Also toured outdoors to come up with other ideas to fund improvements for student socializing.

Reminder that Suka on Rock Rd. sells panther-theme jewelry with a portion of proceeds going to HSA.

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed budget. Membership dues income slightly higher than original estimate. Earned some money from donut sales on half day. Spirit wear income not yet reflected, but profits did match budgeted amount. Main expense so far has been teacher appreciation. Budget cash on hand reflects decision to spend down saved funds over time, but this year and next will need to start rebuilding.

Exec VP Report

Looking for volunteers for fundraising committee. Need 5-6 people to help with Teacher Holiday Lunch. Planning student appreciation in December (something like a donut giveaway) – also need 5-6 people for that. Email Kate Wolfe to sign up or watch for volunteer postings on GroupSpot.

MS/HS Parent Survey

Survey will be out until Nov 21. Looking for both members and non-members to complete the survey. This will give us information about barriers to membership, preferred communications, fundraising etc.

Upcoming Events

Speaker series on mental health: Nov 15th on social media use and Dec 6th on suicide prevention.

Federated meeting Tues Dec 6th at Byrd School.

MS/HS HSA meeting Jan 20th 9:30am.

Please send anything you would like to promote to the HSA for posting on GroupSpot!

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Jackie Pappas, seconded by Ann Boyle.