

# HSA Meeting Notes 1/20/23

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## Attendance

Kim Desmond, Liesel Smith, Tara Diamond Kule, Ed Hayward, Barbara Campbell, Mike Parent, Tina Bacolas, Sheila Berard, Jenelle Wise, Michelle Sapoff, Sharon Tishco, Phyllis Simon, Laura Beit-Zuri, Nicole Reicher, Valerie Merlin, Jackie Pappas, Mike Escalante, Lynda Coppola, Katie Fanelli, Jeanette Montgomery, Laura Vitelli, Michelle Torpey, Colleen Manley, Holly Goshin, Marcela Landreau, Michelle Ciffo, Erin McNulty, Jen Lota, Stephanie Carosella, Orlee Goldfeld, Kerri Luftman, Heidi Leder, Anissa Ainbender, Andrea Ceres, Megan Findley

### - **Welcome and Approval of Nov '22 minutes (Holly Goshin and Michelle Sapoff)**

### - **Superintendent's Report**

- Budget process - working through it, proposing a new MS/HS Special Ed teacher and security guard and second athletic director
  - Majority of the budget increase goes to the Hamilton addition. Confident the district will be adding 4 new sections in grades 2-4; waiting for K enrollment (starts 1/23) to add either 1st grade or K, not 5th
  - Climate and culture survey: each building principal has their own data to form own committees and developing action plans as well as district wide committee to share findings probably in March (parent, student, teacher, admin and board member)
  - Not voting on 24-25 calendar at this time, not accurate on social media and not taking questions on it
  - Considering the use of an online tool called "Thought Exchange": a way for the community to solicit input without the negativity of social media. Also a way for the silent majority to voice opinions without getting attacked. Can be run internally/grade level or district wide. Will consider options in the coming months.

## - **Principal's Update**

- Holocaust Remembrance Program 1/27 - survivor speaking to MS/HS
- Snow Ball dance for HS 2/3. New traditions but only sold 1 ticket. Trying new things, will try something else.
- Musical 2/9-2/11. Can buy on Ticket Spicket and can pick your seat if you purchase ahead of time.
- World Cultures Week 2/13-2/17: DEI goals, educating and awareness
  - Working with different clubs in school and have scheduled paid performances of different cultural groups to present to the school for MS and HS. Thursday 2/16, HS gym, parents invited to culture celebration after school
- 9th Grade Night TBA
- Seal of Biliteracy
  - Offered by state; HS Junior or first semester senior AP language exams and if you get 4 or 5 you get this seal on your diploma (demonstrate fluency). Ramapo College offers STAMP testing for juniors who want to take a STAMP test in any language which counts as a seal of biliteracy to have for college applications. You can take even without class (if fluent at language at home), can also get 5 additional credits
- Climate Survey
  - Students, staff and parents reported back. 2.5 or below is a flag based on the Rutgers Survey. All responses are above, but the institution is working on areas. In a good position and established a good community, continue to improve
  - Staff responses generally in the right direction and building upon

## Q & A submitted prior to the meeting:

- One person submitted a question about the Math program and the trajectory: Dr. Parent said that the Supervisor Ms. Della Fortuna was a more appropriate person to direct this question to.

- Concern about kids spending so much time in the auditorium - it's not as much as it was last year and we are currently in a time of a lot of fall/winter illnesses. If long term we will get subs. Students may have a few teachers out but we can't control that.
- College panel - it seemed like all of the panelists were from elite school students. Ms.Giurlando and the guidance counselors invited about 30 past students each and only those panelists responded to the blanket invite. The concern is valuable HSA and parent feedback and we will try to work on a more diverse group of students in future panels.
- Concern about selling of cookies/candies at lunch and after school: Dr. Parent is not going to limit the efforts of clubs to raise money for their goals. It's not mandatory and a great fundraiser for the clubs.
- Concern that Cell phone holders are in disrepair and phones are falling out:This is not a major issue. There was one problem in October when the cell phone holder was not hung up correctly. Dr. Parent has extra holders that a teacher may request if they need a new one.
- Parents raised issues of the girls bathrooms being closed - boys as well. If there is damage in a bathroom, it is closed until it is fixed. Sometimes this requires new equipment. We are currently waiting on some new equipment because certain items were so damaged (indestructible is being installed). Girls had bad graffiti so they had to close it down. By closing bathrooms down, the Principal is sending a message that it's not going to be tolerated and he's not going to just clean up the mess. It's an inconvenience and also wasting the school's time and resources. It's a sign of disrespect and the principal is not tolerating that.
- **MS/HS Survey Results**
  - Entire presentation is on HSA website ([GlenRockMSHSHSA.org/meetings](http://GlenRockMSHSHSA.org/meetings)) for review
  - Nov 22 survey for all parents, 223 respondents (169 HSA, 54 non members), slightly more MS student parents

- Feedback about membership, communications, format, fundraising, HSA priorities and mission statement
- Communications, fundraising and sponsoring extra activities
  - HSA activities are all volunteer based - not as many as in elementary and not as many activities as a result
  - Verbatim feedbacks: communication, directory; improve inclusivity, night meeting, more teachers at meetings, help new MS parents
  - HSA emails and Groupspot app- mixed use of app based on interest
  - 88% of attendees find meetings valuable, but most members haven't attended (busy or time conflicts)
  - Teacher morale, academic performance, curriculum, student wellbeing are topics parents are interested in - these are already top topics of conversation that have been raised in prior conversations at meetings
  - Preferred fundraising methods include spirit wear, straight up donations, fun social events (need participation and volunteers)
  - HSA Board is focusing on student events and activities
    - Middle school 6th and 7th field day not just athletics
    - Middle school transition events - meeting by principal in May/parent panel for incoming 6th graders
    - Supplemental email updates event other month
    - Best practice suggestions around meetings: teacher attendance; meeting summaries to HSA members within a week; publicity; zoom access and recordings
    - Parent social fundraiser in May - need parent volunteers
    - Reorienting HSA dues - a contribution rather than membership

- Parents questions
  - Outdoor basketball court space for the kids; so far hasn't worked out with landlocked space; need out of the box thinking. Coaches competing for space, parking lots packed. Principal in favor but no available space at this time
  - 8th grade field trip fundraising - maybe can do donations and bake sale at the HS panel with Dr. Parent
  - Request for 8th grade dance. Colleen noted that the social aspect folded into the 8th grade several day trip. Dr. Parent agreed he likes the social or end of the year semi-formal after the pool party day or graduation. He noted that parents sometimes hesitate as they are contributing lots of money for 8th grade events.
  - Sophomore class missed 8th grade trip and parent asked about a makeup 8th grade trip. Dr. Parent will ask sophomore class advisors to put something together.
  - Feedback on Snowball from Junior daughter - don't want to buy additional dresses in addition to junior prom. Boy friends didn't show interest. Dr. Parent wanted to start new tradition for underclassmen but they didn't want to go if older classes didn't attend.
    - Other options: high exposure, amazing race in central park; can cater to any interest.

### **HSA Presidents Update**

- Teachers & Staff holiday luncheon - really full of love and support and incredible experience to have lunch as a group in the Media Center
- Successful student donut day
- Wishlist ideas - share with student to remind teachers for extra funding
- Approved: New panthers suit for the MS; reading area enhancement for teacher; etc.

- Contributions to teachers lounge and outdoor spaces (new umbrellas for courtyard)

- \$1000 donation from GR Jaycees

- Online directory launched in Dec. Instructions for registering at [GRFederatedHSA.org](http://GRFederatedHSA.org).

- Treasurer's Report - \$6600 revenue, spent \$6800 on wishlist and luncheon; doing well except in fundraising to continue building our coffers to spend

### **HSA Volunteer Opportunities**

- 8th grade pool party: co chair and volunteers needed. It's not as involved as 5th grade but is a larger group of kids.

- Robert Ax award presentation at the end of the year: Plan the awards ceremony and refreshments

- Members to support student events in HSA, volunteers needed

- Contact Kate Wolfe and/or SignUpGenius link provided

### **Upcoming events**

- 1/30 Dr. Charleston office hours

- 1/31 End of marking period 2

- 2/20 No school

- 3/8 6:30pm next meeting

Motion to adjourn Lynda coppola and Katie Fanelli