

Glen Rock Federated HSA Meeting
Wednesday, Jan 28, 2021
Zoom - 7 p.m

Attendees:

Colleen Manley, Christa Folco, Julia Wang, Stacy Hendl, Nicole Redmond, Brett Charleston, Michael Parent, Irene Pierides, Sharon Scarpelli, Anita Schwartz, Ann Da, Barbara Gomes, Cynthia Pucci, Erica Bratspies, Erika Goldberg, Erin McNulty, Mike McNulty, Heidi Leder, Heidi Ryan, Hilary Gerber, Jackie Schwartz, Katie Gibs, Kallie Laurent, Kristen Hochleitner, Kristen Kurth, Laura Beit-zuri, Lauren Suero, Lindsay Brown, Lynda Coppola, Megan Findley, Michelle Nolan, Monica Lauro, Nancy Bermack, Neetu Arora, Orlee Goldfeld, Sheila Berard, Valerie Merlin.

1. President's Report

- Colleen Manley welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a short description of the Federated HSA, which is an umbrella of all the Glen Rock HSAs. Federated HSA provides a school district directory, contact list, calendar and various coordination efforts. For next year, Central school will do the directory, Coleman and Hamilton school will do the Calendar, the MS/HS will be the Treasurer and the Byrd school will be the President. Colleen encouraged everyone to support their HSAs and to approach the HSA President's if you have an interest in serving on the Federated HSA Board.
- Colleen also shared some exciting news from the MS/HS HSA. Barbara Gomes, a long-time supporter, won \$20,000 for the HSA by entering a sweepstakes through Boxtops for Education. If you sign up for the app, you will also get their emails which includes sweepstakes on a regular basis. She encouraged everyone to start doing so.

2. Votes: Approval of October 2020 Minutes

The October meeting minutes and the Treasury report are posted on the Federated HSA website. The minutes were approved by Christa Folco and Lisa

3. Board Officer Updates

- **Online Directory Update**

The online directory is working well. Colleen Manley updated that the Federated HSA continues to evaluate other vendors, potentially looking for other online directory solutions to streamline the process and save money for the HSAs. FedHSA is open to suggestions for new vendors, so if anyone knows of a good online directory vendor please share that with Colleen.

- **Federated Calendar Update**

Stacy Hendl updated that HSA group regarding the status of the Calendar. The Calendar is open to each HSA to update events through the end of the year by Feb 3rd. The next Calendar will be released on February 5. The latest calendar can always be found at grfederatedhsa.org/federated-calendar.

- **Treasurer Update**

Colleen Manley reported that the Treasury Report is on the website. Reimbursement was made for a donation made at the end of last year. The final payment to MobileArq has been made for this year.

- **SEPAC update**

Orlee Goldfeld provided the update that there were online SEPAC meetings in the MS/HS and Elementary schools. More meetings can be held to support each other under the current situation. She noted inconsistency among teachers using technology and thought more work can be done to support teachers to use technology more consistently. For example, teachers can use the same calendar so the students know when the homework is due. Orlee reiterated that SEPAC shares resources and students can help each other. The district meetings and other meetings are posted on the website under special services.

4. District Updates

- **Superintendent update - Dr. Brett Charleston**

- a. The BOE approved the diversity training for educators to improve diversity in the teaching staff. Four 2-hour training sections will be started in 2-3 weeks. The hiring season is in March /April. Dr. Charleston and middle school teachers will attend the training for team-building best practices, then the school team leaders will be trained. Investments will be made for middle school reimagination. Training provided by the Birken Mire consulting firm will be given to administrators and team leaders via virtual first. Then the training will be provided on campus when feasible. There will be bi-monthly meetings provided to the school teachers related to diversity. Later this year there will be a virtual job fair where 40 school districts will attend. The job fair was first started in central Jersey and now Glen Rock district will attend as well. The new middle school schedule next year, the first of a 3 yr revamp, was approved this week.
- b. The new curriculum will include reading and literature in grade K-5. For grade 6-8 there will be algebra, pre-algebra, etc. Also, there is some early thinking (no decisions) regarding perhaps having 2 teachers instead of 1 teacher for 5th or 4th grade. The teachers would split subjects so that every student would have at least 2 teachers. One teacher may focus on science and the other one can focus on literature, etc. No decisions have been made on this idea, just some early thinking.

- c. The school budget will be discussed in Feb. For 2021, there are probably 9 sections for Kindergarten students. Currently there are 140 students registered for kindergarten. It is estimated that there will be 200 when the school starts in September 2021.
 - d. School goals will be discussed with the BOE later this year.
 - e. Regarding COVID-19, the school district is committed to remaining open. The school environment is safe. Contact tracing is good. There were some positive cases in the Hamilton school in Nov. and Central school before the holidays. Under some recently revised state rules, there is no need to quarantine students if there is only symptom per instruction, but the school district will continue to quarantine students affected by contact tracing until a negative test result for the student with symptoms is received.
- **Middle/High School Principal Update – Dr. Michael Parent**
 - a. Dr. Parent welcomed Mr. Michael Escalante, who used to be a GRHS physical education teacher, as the acting Assistant Principal for GRMS. Monday February 1st the middle school students will return to school with the same hybrid schedule. It is not feasible to keep the virtual schedule that was temporarily used during the all-remote period in the hybrid model. The school has to be back to A day/B day schedule.
 - b. High school students will return to school on Feb. 4th with the A1/B1 schedule. For High school students, there will be no midterm or final exams going forward. End of quarter evaluations will be discussed with teachers next year. The new scoring system is more student friendly, and focuses more on understanding than memorization.
 - c. Starting Feb. 14, the MS/HS will start school scheduling for 2021. Schedule requests will be online this year. Students will select their preferences first, then discuss with their guidance counselors. There will be changes to the past practice. There is no need for application if students wish to take advanced classes. More guidance will be provided regarding the path to show how students can take the AP.
 - d. Dr. Parent met with the Senior class and Grand ball parents and senior advisor. It is determined that there will be an outdoor PROM this year.
- **Elementary School Principal Update – Irene Pierides**
 - a. On Behalf of all the elementary principals, we wish everyone a healthy and Happy New Year!
 - b. All elementary GR families enjoyed a joint Tubing Night last week. It was great seeing children and adults getting a much needed break from the indoors. We are hopeful other events involving all four schools can be coordinated in the future!
 - c. Our students are looking forward to Valentine’s Day as well as our 100th day next month!

- d. Kindergarten Report cards will be available to parents on Friday, February 5th.
- e. Teachers received PD on the use of Hover Cams in the event they have to livestream with students.
- f. At Byrd School, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the BYRD HSA gifted each classroom with diversity and inclusion books. Each classroom was able to choose \$50 worth of books from the Curious Reader. Many thanks to our HSA and the Curious Reader!
- g. Coleman School is currently participating in “Pizza Week”. All of the Specials classes are incorporating a pizza theme to their lessons in conjunction with the HSA D.I.Y. Pizza Kit fundraiser. Our staff will celebrate on Friday with pizza provided by Francesca’s!
- h. At Central School, thanks to the HSA for our first annual Winter Wonderland house decorating Tour. It was a lot of fun and enjoyed by many Central School Families! The Student Council is looking forward to our Super Bowl Friday, February 5th – We wear a favorite jersey and bring in a can of soup to donate.
- i. At Hamilton School, for the month of January, our teachers participated in SEL activities just for them – Mindful Mondays; Mid-week Treat; Friday raffle provided by town businesses. Wacky Wednesdays are also back at Hamilton School as we strive to keep everyone’s morale up. Hamilton School will have a Virtual Science Fair on February 25th. We will kick off Science Week with a virtual assembly!
- j. On behalf of all the principals – we are thankful to all of our HSA’s for their continued support and efforts to make our teachers feel appreciated.

- **Board of Education Update – Sharon Scarpelli**

Sharon said that her top items were covered in the Superintendent’s report.

- **Community School Update – Allison DeMeulder**

The Community School is continuing to run programs, both during the school year and planning for summer. Please read the Glen Rock Envelope newsletter or go to the Community School website for updates.

5. Questions

- a. Nicole Crifo, a parent from the Byrd school who is also a member of the Community Relations Advisory Network (CRAN) mentioned that her organization works with schools on diversity initiatives as well. She also shared that the Ridgewood Federated HSA is involved and would be happy to meet to share ideas. She said she would email Glen Rock Federated HSA to provide more information.
- b. Heidi Ryan asked a question regarding the MobileArq directory. She asked Dr. Charleston if there is an opportunity to use Schoology for the directory instead of MobileArq. Dr. Charleston shared he was already planning on speaking to Rich Santos regarding opportunities for providing the directory in-house.

- c. Pam Diamond asked a question regarding the new MS/HS online scheduling. The parent would like to know whether the school counselor will still meet with students. Dr. Parent confirmed that guidance counselors will still go through the schedules with students, but that course selection should be primarily driven by students and parents. Students should not be held back from taking advanced classes by guidance counselors and teachers, as long as the student is adequately prepared to take the class. There will be guardrails to support class selection.
- d. Mike McNulty asked a few questions. He asked about the new middle school schedule that will start next fall (MS and HS on the same schedule). The parent was concerned maybe the timing is not appropriate and that it would not work with a hybrid schedule. Dr. Charleston confirmed if everything is open in September, the new schedule will proceed. If it is still hybrid, the new schedule will be reconsidered. Dr. Parent also confirmed middle school students will have support if needed. Dr. Parent called several teachers and students and understood they like the current temporary schedule. When it starts in fall, not the schedule is not favorable, the school will change the schedule. There was also a question regarding why Google classroom is not used. Per Dr. Parent, Google Classroom is not as robust as Schoology, which supports textbooks. Ms. Sharon Scarpelli also added that Google Classroom was considered as an option when the district first chose it's online platform, but that Schoology was found to be more robust.
- e. Orlee Goldfeld offered a comment that more training is needed in Schoology. In addition, it is disappointing that the school does not offer additional support of basic skills math to middle school students due to scheduling. Elementary and middle school math is very different and the Everyday Math program in middle school is very challenging. The BOE needs to make sure kids have basic skills. Dr. Parent agreed to provide alternative tracks and will look into additional support.
- f. Megan Findley asked a question around timing of the end-of-quarter/semester benchmarks. Dr. Parent responded that while in a typical year it should happen at the end of a quarter, this year the timing is more flexible because of many extenuating circumstances and b/c it's just being introduced this year.
- g. Stacy Hendl asked a question about scheduling for MS/HS and whether there would be involvement of guidance counselors and others for those students with IEPs. Dr. Parent responded that for special needs students, case managers will be involved. Also, there was a question around whether SEL outreach is provided to fully-remote students. Dr. Parent said he would check and ensure that there was outreach to fully-remote students as well.

6. Motion to Adjourn the meeting - Colleen Manley