

**Glen Rock Federated HSA Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, Mar 17, 2021
Zoom - 7 p.m**

Attendees:

Andrea Ceres, Ann Boyle, Brett Charleston, Caitlin Boudreau, Christine Heenan, Colleen Manley, Christa Folco, Emily Sadowski, Ed Thompson, Erica Bratspies, Garrett Dale, Heather Olenick, Hilary Gerber, Ilana Schuchman, Jeannine Pragdat, Jen Lota, Jenelle Wise, Jocelyn Reiman, Julia Bogovich, Julia Wang, Julianna Moore, Kate Wolfe, Kelleen Baumbach, Kellie St. Laurent, Kerri Luftman, Kristen Hochleutner, Kristen Kurth, Lauren Schept, Lauren Suero, Laurie McCormack, Liz Behar, Liz Sonzogni, Lynda Coppola, Maggie Jacoby, Marina O’Keeffe, Marina Skurko, Megan Findley, Melissa Antonelli, Michael Parent, Mike Escalante, Monica Lauro, Nancy Bermack, Orlee Goldfeld, Sheila Berard, Stacy Hendl, Sullivan Beit-Zuri, Susan Habler, Susan Kaplan, Toni Monusky, Valerie Merlin, Yuliya Abova

1. Welcome & Introductions

Colleen suggested parents register for the “Angst” documentary at grfederatedhsa.org. Panel with mental health experts is next Wednesday March 24 at 7pm. “It’s OK to not be OK” Panel with HS students and parents is April 15th.

2. Votes: Approval of January 2021 Minutes

The January meeting minutes and the Treasury report are posted on the Federated HSA website. The minutes were approved by Christa Folco and Heather Olenick.

3. Board Officer Updates

a. President's Report

- Next week there the documentary “Angst” will be available to view, which includes interviews with kids, parents and mental health professionals about anxiety in teens and children. 2 years ago a group of parents met at a screening of “Angst” in another town and committed to bringing it to Glen Rock. Those who register will be able to screen the documentary online. Next Wednesday there will be a panel discussion with 3 mental health experts from Glen Rock and one from NYC to talk about film. Parents need to register to get the link for the movie. The documentary will be available Sunday and Monday.
- In addition, there will be a panel on April 15th focusing on mental health in teenagers. More info to come.
- During the last Federated HSA meeting, Nicole Crifo from CRAN asked for Federated HSA to participate. After that meeting, Federated HSA members met with CRAN and agreed they will continue discussing how to best work together. There are several

members of CRAN dedicated specifically to improving diversity and inclusion in the schools and they will continue those efforts.

b. Online Directory Update

- MobileArq will continue to be the Online Directory provider for next year.

c. Federated Calendar Update

- Stacy Hendl updated that the Calendar comes out bi-weekly. The latest calendar can always be found on the Federated HSA website. Kudos to the HSA Presidents as each school come up with many fun events during the year. Continue to submit updates to Stacy.

d. Treasurer Update

- Heather reported that Federated HSA received contributions from all the Elementary schools for the cost of the Documentary “Angst”. Otherwise, there have been no transactions.

e. SEPAC Update

- Orlee Goldfeld reported that the Pathways program will hold a scavenger hunt event where K-5 kids attend and high school students who received training will assist.
- Additional support will be provided to students for writing classes. Kids can choose from a set of global languages. In addition, the District will be hiring a counselor to replace the contracted SAGE counselor. Students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) will return back to school every day unless the school map changes to orange. The district will be starting a pre-school autism classroom. Out of district students can come if in-town student need can be met. During the pandemic period, if any kids are missing any services, parents can reach to the case manager to discuss those missing services.
- This year the elementary schools have not had their own SEPAC groups, but it would be very beneficial for this to start again. It is helpful to get together and discuss issues within the context of individual schools.
- The district is looking to open up the function in Genesis in September that it would show whether teacher has read the student IEP.
- In the future, SEPAC meeting minutes will be posted on the Federated HSA website. grfederatedhsa.org/SEPAC
- All parents are welcome to attend SEPAC meetings. The next meeting will be on 5/11 by Zoom. The meeting invite will be posted on Facebook and the district website.

4. District Updates

a. Board of Education Update (Sharon Scarpelli)

- Sharon reported that board approved the school budget. The final approval will be made in April. There is a 1.75% increase, which is under the cap of 2%. There will be an additional supervisor and staff being hired, special education program being offered, and spending on bringing students back to school. There is \$3M capital approved to spend on construction. One adult bathroom will be added to the Hamilton elementary school as currently there is only one adult bathroom. The Central parking lot will be redone. The Byrd gym floor will be redone as well. The MS/HS roof will be repaired too. There is still a cushion in the capital reserve as \$900K will be added to next year's capital reserve for future projects.
- The school just received the Audit presentation. There were no comments from the audit report which means nothing was found wrong in the school's financial reporting.
- In the last BOE meeting students and teachers were invited for recognition. Students also had an opportunity to introduce the newly started club to the BOE. It is a good occasion to showcase students and teachers.
- Crosswalk guards will be provided during the lunch break for MS/HS in Sept. For now the school has a long-term substitute to use.
- On March. 22 there will be a regular meeting.

b. Superintendent's Report Dr. Brett Charleston

- Dr. Charleston reported that the budget hearing presentation will be on Apr. 26th. Starting Apr. 12th at every BOE meeting they will have students attend to have them recognized.
- Regarding the upcoming spring break, Dr. Charleston reiterated the Travel advisory remains in effect. For students who travel beyond the immediate region (NY, CT, PA and DE), if they pass the COVIC-19 test upon their return, they can return to school after 7 days; otherwise they will return back to school after 10 days.
- Ms. Craft held a meeting to collect more information regarding the Elementary School pilot program in Byrd. For the Pilot program for 4th and 5th grades, the school will have 2 teachers, with each teacher focusing on certain subjects. The benefit is that teachers can focus on one area and students will have 2 teachers and have a bit more complexity in their day as preparation for middle school. There will be no loss of instruction time as no travel is required (the classes are next door to one another). However, parents may have concerns that students will have more cohorts and teachers may want to teach all the subjects for 4th or 5th grade. Therefore, the school will get more feedback first.
- Starting the week of Apr. 12th or Apr. 19th there will be more onsite SEL activities if the school is still under orange or yellow stage. However, there will be no mix of cohorts. Based on the survey sent back from the elementary schools: 95% are open to aspects of SCL during the 1.5 hours, but just need more information from the Principals, such as and FAQ. For 6th -12th grades, 85% are in favor to have students come back to school. There are good comments from parents where they expressed positive comments and

concerns. More will be shared with the board and probably will start onsite learning until it is under the yellow stage.

- Middle school had the team training to develop the responsibilities of team leaders and establish a team with a purpose, obtaining support from administrators for teachers and students. There have been 2 trainings for diversity where attendees learn from each other. Once administrators complete the diversity training, it will roll over to the teachers next year.
- Spring state testing is still on. The test window is from late Apr. to May. Mr. Escalante is the coordinator.
- He estimates 70% of the teachers have received the first shot of the vaccine. Bergen county sponsored some shots for teachers. This week 8 teachers got J&J vaccine and 6 staff also received vaccine. The Glen Rock Democrats group has helped to register teachers and staff to get vaccines. Valley hospital also opened availability to the Glen Rock teachers and staff.
- The district will hire a new supervisor, who will focus on social studies, science and special education to support teachers in complying with IEPs.

c. MS/HS Principal Update – Dr. Michael Parent

- Dr. Parent mentioned that a group of seniors have brought people and resources together to create a student-led organization to reduce stress and improve mental health. They have their own Schoology website, and they discuss health-related topics. Separately, 10-11 Sophomores want to continue this effort at the middle school. They would like to open talks about race, open acceptance, mental health, etc. They would like parents to watch the documentary Angst.
- On Mar. 26 there will have some special SEL sessions for middle school students to build mental health support into the culture.
- The school is planning many exciting events in June. They received a lot of feedback regarding this topic. Six Flags is an option as it is currently open. The school have to wait and see what happens. There is a lot of planning is underway. There are planning for drama, musical, etc. but there is no promise at this point as it is contingent based on state guidance. PROM and graduation are under planning. Cliffside Park has outdoor location for the event. The following eleven weeks will be critical to have events get scheduled. Dr. Parent stated there is a lot of wait and see.

d. Elementary Schools Update - Ed Thompson

- On Behalf of all elementary Schools, the principals would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!
- The students celebrated Valentine's Day on Feb. 14th as well as our 100th day of school on Feb 23 with many classes conducting special activities.

- In honor of Read Across America, Coleman School conducted its very first Virtual All School Read aloud from the Coleman Library. Mr. Thompson was honored to read “Unstoppable” to all students on March 2nd. Our read alouds continue as last night. Mr. Thompson read The Book with No Pictures as a bedtime read aloud!
- Mr. Thompson is pleased to announce that 5th grader Matias Geler won an honorable mention in the recent TIC TOC Art contest for his painting. Matias will be recognized at an upcoming BOE mtg. Coleman is lucky to have a wonderful art program under the guidance of first Mrs. Roche and now Ms. Eftimoski!
- The Student Council reports that the schools are now in the second week of participating in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Hero Squad program! The school is very appreciative of everyone’s support so far. The fundraising is taking place until March 26th.
- The students and staff are very much looking forward to Spring Break and are hopeful for some outdoor events in the coming months!
- The staff and Mr. Thompson continue to be extremely appreciative for all the Coleman HSA does for the school! Mr. Thompson also wants to thank all parents for continuing to reinforce the rules of mask wearing and social distancing with our students.
- Byrd would like to thank the wonderful HSA for going above and beyond to show their appreciation. The amazing St. Patty’s Day T-shirts are great.
- For Read Across America, the Byrd community participated in daily themed days. In addition, Mrs. Craft read bed time stories to students in grades K-5. The fifth graders had a special guest reader, Chris from the Curious Reader, Zoom into their classrooms for a wonderful read aloud.
- Mrs. Craft presented an idea to the Glen Rock Board of Education regarding possibly departmentalizing the 4th and 5th grade classes at Byrd next year. The potential pilot is at the very beginning stages of planning and nothing has been finalized as of yet. Mrs. Craft will be meeting with her incoming 4th and 5th grade parents on March 25th to present the idea and solicit feedback.
- At Hamilton, the focus in this past month has been to incorporate fun and play into our week. Last week, students created ice art and decorated the front of the school with the ice sculptures. This week, everyone brought in a box of cereal and the school played Cereal Dominoes with the boxes. The 150 boxes of cereal were then donated to Ridgewood Social Services.
- The H.S.A. and staff are preparing to start work on The Hamilton Discovery Zone. The Discovery Zone is a playscape that will be built with the help of the Hamilton community. Some things will be built, some donated. The area will promote exploration, creativity, and imagination using natural elements
- At Central school, we celebrated Read Across America week with dress up theme days and mystery readers for every classroom. We also had a night time reading by Anna Kang Weyant.

- On Monday March 15th the school enjoyed a virtual assembly by author Susan Verde. The specialists and guidance counselor created a bitmoji classroom with read alouds of Susan Verde's books for the students to enjoy. Thanks to the HSA for supporting this event.
- Students and teachers voted on out new mascot which will be revealed in May!

e. Community School Update:

- Colleen reported that there are continuous new classes or summer camps opened by the Community School. Colleen encouraged parents to check the community school website to obtain the latest class details.

f. Q&A

- Lauren Schept would like to know the frequency of the SEL sessions for Elementary school students. Dr. Charleston responded that for the week of Apr. 12th, the school will pick a day for each grade. There will be 2 events in Apr. to have planned activities. If it goes well, it can be once a week in May. Until it is in green phase, it will be more often.
- Regarding Sept., Dr. Charleston expects to have regular opening in Sept. that students will be in school every day. Masks will likely be worn. Social distancing might be able to go away. Teachers will be largely vaccinated by next month. The BOE and community are very supportive of having full day for 6th to 12th grades. There is capital budget to buy ionizing air ventilation units to make air quality increase from MERV8 to MERV30 to block virus.
- Jocelyn Reiman asked about when the MS/HS calendar for April will be published. The school Apr. calendar will be published this Friday.
- Lauren Suero asked whether there is any discussion about the possibility of K students will have round-up this year. Dr. Charleston said he would discuss with the elementary school Principals.
- Emily Sadowski asked whether the BOE is considering going virtual after spring break due to the CDC predicting another wave in a few weeks. Dr. Charleston responded that the school has no intention to be virtual. The schools will stay open and continue to follow the NJ DOH guidelines.
- A parent asked about the 5th to 6th grade transition plan. Dr. Parent responded that it will be put together after the spring testing is done.
- Stacy Hendl asked whether there has been any thought of a 6th grade pool party since they missed it last year as 5th graders, maybe this instead of Great Adventure. Dr. Parent responded that 8th grade parents are planning for a pool party and they get a permit from town. He suggested 6th grade parents work with the HSA on this if they'd like something like that to happen. Also the school is waiting for further guidance from the State.

- Colleen reminded attendees that May 13th will be the last Federated HSA meeting of the school year.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting - Colleen Manley