

GLEN ROCK FEDERATED HSA MEETING MINUTES

October 17, 2025

9 AM

Hamilton School

Attendees

James Canellas, Michelle Giurlando, Kristen Gomez, Liz Tullo, Lindsay Cappello, Jenelle Wise, Meghan Grant, Kristina Lautermilch, Stephanie Chan, Suzanne Nathanson, Lynelle Sylvinski, Louise Kennan, Melissa Strauss, Andea Misir, Erin Smith, Lauren Suero, Suzanne Glaser, Yun Luo, Kristen Hochleutner,

Special Presentation: Kathleen Walter

(President of the Glen Rock Historical & Preservation Society & Borough Historian

The historical society is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence Celebration

HS students already attended an event with Ken Burns

Opening celebration for GR Historical & Preservation Society will be on January 10, 2026.

Looking to print coloring books for all district 4th graders; presented HSAs with quotes to print coloring books. Looking for financial assistance to cover the cost of printing.

Welcome

Kristen H and Louise K open meeting

Approval of Previous May 2025 Federated HSA Meeting Minutes (5/21/2025)

Suzanne N and Lynelle S approved minutes

Board Officer Updates

President's Report - *Liz Tullo*

No specific update. Welcomed all to the meeting, thanked administrative representatives for attending.

SEPAC - *Kristen Hochleutner*

Shared the pre-school had meeting and the next meeting is 1/13 and 5/12. All information is on website. HS Next February 4 and May 6

SEPAC Meetings and Scheduled Programs

Elementary School Outreach

SEPAC members attended and spoke at all elementary school Back-to-School Nights in September to share information about SEPAC, its mission, and available parent resources.

SEPAC PreK / Elementary Parent Meeting

The SEPAC PreK / Elementary Parent Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, from 7:30

to 8:30 p.m. (ET).

SEPAC Middle School / High School Parent Meeting

The SEPAC Middle School / High School Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (ET). The meeting will be held via Google Meet. The meeting link is <https://meet.google.com/wkd-zdxr-dvj>.

Upcoming Special Virtual Presentation

The Glen Rock SEPAC will host a virtual presentation titled *Preparing Students with Disabilities for College Success* on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. (ET). The program will be presented by Elizabeth C. Hamblet, author and university learning disabilities consultant.

The presentation will address the transition from high school to college for students with disabilities, including differences between high school and college disability laws, implications for accessing accommodations, and examples of commonly approved accommodations. A question-and-answer session will follow the presentation.

The program will be conducted live online and will not be recorded. The event is open to all Glen Rock parents and guardians. Log-in information will be distributed in advance of the event.

Directory - *Kristina Lautermilch*

Directory is complete for 2025-26 school year. A flyer will be sent out notifying families that the directory is live to all schools and through district social media. HSAs please remember to

Secretary - *Lindsay Cappello*

Federated calendar posted on website both live link and pdf copy.

Calendar - *Meghan Grant*

Federated Calendar is available on the Federated Website. Please continue to email new items for the calendar or updates to existing events

Treasurer - *Jenelle Wise*

Collecting HSA dues, paid for directory and welcome gifts

District Update /Superintendent's Report -*James Cannellas (BA)*

Summer 2025 - there were many Capital Projects. Three Prek classrooms completed along with the playground, Coleman Roof – Partial Replacement. HS Exterior Stairs were replaced as well as the MS Entrance Stairs. Complete renovation of Track.Field Renovation. Sinks, cabinets and counters in the elementary schools- did not get completed but will get completed this november (16 of them), Not completed due to contractor issues. Broadcast Studio renovations-updates so room functions more as working studio- ongoing project.ESIP –Completed over the summer:Replacement of all light fixtures to LED, 3 RTU (Roof Top Units) replaced,Couple of split units replaced. This is to

enhance building management heating and cooling, rooftop units. Coleman Nurses Office with new door.

Enhancements to BMS-Year 1 of 3 of Newline Board Replacements (20 completed).

Painting Project- 3 year plan to paint all elementary classrooms (in year 2)18 classrooms. Final Phases of Painting (every ES classroom –then move to HS).Mural at Hamilton removed.Byrd- new Epoxy floor in CAF and painted art and kitchen area. General repairs have been the baseball field netting, floor in engineering room- found leak so wont occur again (S212 Floor- repaired from damage).Hamilton pot holes filled found good vendor with fair pricing

Some future projects will be with Landscaping-Mulch- ordered and budgeted for and will be installed and landscaping at the elementary schools. Trees being removed .Building and grounds will come up with landscaping plans with elementary school principals.

Powerwashing- purchased several and cleaned buildings. Especially on Saturdays.

2016 community approved RPU at HS. abused during covid- at lifespan and planning for replacement. Board approved phase 1 18/19 units. 8.5 million of work. Going out to bid will be replaced in summer 2026. Maintenance plan for those that can be saved. Phase 1 - \$1.4M – 5 units – Summer 2026. Phase 2 – In planning stages
Summer 2026 all classrooms painted

The district goal- board would like a system wide building review by architects. Identify what is in need of repair and longer term initiatives. Coincides with a 5 year cycle. Would like to create a roadmap of repairs.

Pomptonian – financial improved; still don't have enough to make required renovations/replacements.Cookie oven is broken but staff comes in early to best utilize the available ovens

Bond Refunding is the Original 2008 Referendum. It was Refinanced in 2016 - \$4.1M. In 2026 Refinancing will save an additional \$1.3M. Only 8 years remaining – attractive rates. Essentially replace 5% bonds with 4% bonds.2026-2027 Budget Prep- Health Ins Premiums rising – 30%. Uncertainty due to changes in Trenton. Last year's guardrails+/- 3% on State Aid only in.Bond -if we can save 3 percent we can refinance. 8 years left. We think we can save another 1.3 million. Sell bonds in november. Hopefully it will provide some relief.

Budget- 26/27 budget. 30 percent increase in health plan is major hurdle

Questions- were only classrooms painted? Initially only classrooms but now we have the budget to extend to HS and larger multipurpose rooms.

Q- football project pressbox- is that going to be repaired?

Still in planning stages. Just bid last wednesday but came in over budget. Needs to have more conversations or table until. Came in over budget steel and aluminum tariffs raised cost. Hoping costs go down and speak to board for direction

Q- is there a budget to keep geese off the field. Geese police. What can be done?

There was a budget but found ineffective. Looking into other options.

Found geese police (dogs) to scare geese. Put up shadow animals. Expensive and doesn't work.

MS/HS Principal Update - Michelle Giurlando

Connection and community at the MS/HS. Rebuild camaraderie. Setting clear expectations for students- grade level meetings. Rules and regulations address/ rights versus privileges. Restorative practices- moved away from consequences to reflective. Written /discussion/positive impact project. Clear expectation of a presentation. In the suspension room, work on a project and also meet with a counselor.

NJ state bar- PD workshop on tier 1 interventions. Initiative for team leaders pre survey for students how they feel in their classes. Then community circle Survey at end to see if there is impact. Principal circle back for each grade 9,10,11,12 to have conversation.

Character education - MS advisory being a part of community 2x a month. Same facilitator and group. Belonging - how do you belong/ feel
Challenge/ success program from Stanford that helps the community define success. Everything is based on college and there is a disconnect. Not attach all to college/future

Peer to peer. Push into 6th grade sessions. Discuss different topics- friends/organization. Mentorship.

Lunch initiative- peer leaders will work with all grade levels (ruler) going to eat with students to model

Voter registration in the HS. had a registration drive.

MS/ HS wellness center activities

Acts of kindness reported kind and empathetic behaviors

HS wellness fair- a lot of mental health, therapy dogs, nutrition. Self care for our high academic achieving students

Many great assemblies occurring. Grade 10 driving safety assembly. Grade 12 alumni in recovery- women who lost a triplet to drug abuse. Someone in recovery. Teaching kids to assist one another - how to react and find help

MS Community building events, club walk around, veterans day assembly, student counsel partner with wellness center with wounded warrior project. It will be a dodge ball tournament .

Preschool halloween parade - first floor parade kids will be in the audience who are on the first floor. HS class pushes into the pre school too. Wonderful to have

Staff / principal meeting to discuss issues and ideas. Make one small change by next weekend

Staff member support will be highlighted by reintroduction of the Sunshine club- Staff appreciation.

Back to school night. Teachers got a lot of positive feedback.

There will be upcoming Counseling workshops for families and a Family workshop for 3/23 topic TBD

Q- How do you communicate to families all these great programs?

Weekly email includes highlights of all upcoming events sent on Fridays (from Mrs. Giurlando)

Elementary School Update - *Kristin Gomez*

Byrd School- Welcome back luncheon for teachers. Completion of basketball court, will be used during shoot a thon. Halloween parade coming up.

Central School- 100th bday. Central haunted house this weekend.

Coleman School- welcome back coffee for parents and teacher luncheon were a success. Farm fest coming up.

Hamilton School- Yearly theme: "team hamilton be the reason_____" - every month add a clause for a call to action. For example OCT respect- be reason someone has a friend. Inclusivity, rock paper scissors tournament. Book fair. Fifth graders have their final Husky Cafe. Invite staff from MS to have familiar faces. Initially it was for manners but now introduced social skills. How to keep a conversation going, eye contact etc.. fifth graders become liaisons for younger grades. Additional upcoming eventsL Fall festival 10/26 similar to colemans fall fest and Halloween parade

All Schools-Second annual ruler night last week. They had a wonderful evening with activities students take part in during the school year. Field test 10/28 and 10/29.No grades just information for the State.November break after halloween.

Q- can we have a biking safety class for elementary students?
Will be brought up at next meeting

Q -can we have enrichment classes at BYRD?
Will be brought up - may be a space issue. I want different opportunities for boys at Byrd for afterschool. That is usually provided by the community school.
Contact Linda Cubby. Mr Cannellas will reach out to Ms Cubby.

Q-Working parents would like aftercare on ½ days.
Need people to staff the programs. Its staffing issue. HS kids are the counselors many times. Community school runs many programs when school is closed. Half days are harder to staff.

Q- Who is best to contact when little things are broken on the grounds, (example-playground equipment)?
Contact building Principal who puts in a work order. We have reorganized the building and grounds. 2 men have that as sole responsibility. Many playgrounds there is difficulty finding the parts. Cant replace with any piece- have to try to replace with like kind.

Q-Does building and ground then maintain HSA sponsored playgrounds?
Yes and it's difficult. District has accepted donations of many pieces of playground equipment, working to maintain all of them is challenging

Q- how can we create a program like Hamilton to bridge to MS?
Its add ons to traditional husky lunch. MS sends counselors in May to each of the schools.

Close Meeting- *Lindsay and Kristina*