



Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA
September 14, 2018 9:03 AM Media Center

Respectfully submitted by Jackie Pappas

Attendees: 44 parents, including HSA board, 4 via phone, and HS/MS administrators. Heidi Ryan, Holly Goshin, Kathy Duggan, Mona Milbrodt, Sara Mazin, Jackie Pappas | Yuriko Bertram, Eileen Besser, Debbie Bobovnikova, Erica Bratspies, Barbara Campbell, Carolyn Caras, Michele Cohen, Michelle Cosimano, Andrew Crawford, Hilary Gerber, Felicia Goldberg, Barbara Gomez, Deborah Haus, Thomas Hinkle, Shira Hochman, Debbie Holman, Elaine Howe, Beth Isoldi, Kimberly Kafafion, Merri Kapiloff, Jennifer Knight, Arati Kreibich, Jennifer Kucharz, Katie Machera, Colleen Manley, Lauren Munshower, Kristen Neubart, Moira Nolfo, Anne Marie Podd, Laura Prestigiacomo, Jocelyn Reiman, Michele Sapoff, Sharon Scarpelli, Leslie Schraer, Joyce Silvia, Kara Stansel, Julie Sullivan, Stasha Vicinanza, Angela Vila, Katie Wedeen, Anna Weyant, Kate Wolfe, Jeff Zen

1. Welcome, Sign-in, and Approval of June 8 minutes – (Motion to approve by Kathy Duggan, 2nd by Anne Marie Podd).

2. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Watson:

1. The School Board has hired West Hudson Associates to search for a new Superintendent. Dr. Watson's goal is to market the district. This is a formal process and parents will have input at some point. As the Board has more information and/or candidates, they will present to the district.
2. Schools radios/security – buzzers/swipes/cameras have all been installed in schools and are actively being used. Dr. Watson cannot speak about other security measures being instituted and/or discussed. Parents should be assured that other measures are being taken and there is much partnership between public safety and the schools and all actions are moving forward. Dr. Watson asked that all parents believe that these measures are taken very seriously.
3. Teacher contract – Dr. Watson reminded us that unionized labor has rights. As long as the teachers are conducting themselves according to the current contract, all is good. He believes that all teachers are currently being professional and are conducting themselves appropriately. Dr. Watson and the BOE cannot comment on specifics of contract negotiations due to confidentiality agreements. This is how organized labor works and until a new contract is written, the old contract is still in effect.
4. The Referendum - The BOE is moving forward with the referendum. There are currently 3-4 motions included. They are looking to a March referendum date. 1. The HS/MS media center renovation. 2. Air conditioning in the elementary schools. 3. A renovation of Central School's auditorium. 4. Upgrading the field at Hamilton School due to safety issues. The BOE will submit these motions to the state for approval where the state will decide how much subsidized money we will receive and then the referendum will be presented to the residents.

Questions to Bruce Watson from Parents:

- Sandy Stern: What is the time-line for negotiations of the teachers' contract?
Answer - hopefully soon.

- Sandy Stern – Can there be better communication to the parents about security issues that arise?
Answer – absolutely there will be communication and it certainly can be improved. The HSA should also have a close relationship with the principals in these instances and they can communicate directly.
- Michele: in reference to the referendum...are more details presented to the public about what would be included?
Answer: Of course, a lot of information will be presented.
- Kara Stansel – In reference to senior recommendations – will this be an issue because there is no contact in place? Is guidance included in the contract negotiations?
Answer: recommendation will not be an issue and yes guidance is included in these negotiations.
- Anne Marie Podd – Why are our teacher’s pay scale so much lower vs. our ranking in the state? Our ranking is exciting (latest ranking #2) but our pay scale is #131 in the state. How can we expect to retain great teachers if this is the case?
Answer: there are other reasons people leave; not just for increased pay (which tends to be for an increase of about \$5,000). Last year, 5 individuals left for personal reasons, 5 were non-renewed by superintendent (let go), 4-6 retired, 2-3 moved out of state.
- Heidi Ryan: How can people support our teachers?
Answer: go to BOE meeting and understand the issues and voice your opinion appropriately.

3. Principal’s Reports –

Mr. Arlotta for High School (HS):

- Thank you for the recognition in NJ Monthly. The criteria included the districts participation and support of the Arts. The district wants well-balanced kids. We have a very comprehensive high school that has many offerings for a smaller sized school.
- Teaser – there will be another announcement regarding the above at the end of the month.
- Club Fair – going on now; full of extra-curricular activities for the students to get involved. It’s an opportunity to make new friends. Please encourage your child to participate.
- Blood Drive – will be held at the end of September; September is traditionally a low blood donation month. Please participate; parents will be given priority so they can get through the process quickly.
- Back-to-school-night – 9/27 – emails with information to follow.

Ms. Bacolas for High School (HS):

- Thank you to the HSA for your support on wellness goals. The HSA has partnered with the administration to have a presenter come to the school and speak to 8th and 9th grade students. “Don’t Press Send” will teach students how to deal with social media. There will be both a student and parent component. Parent component will be in the evening. More information to follow.

Dr. Wirt for the Middle School (MS):

- Congratulations to our High School for being recognized by *NJ Monthly*
- Thanks to the HSA for the ice cream social and discovery day for the incoming 6th Graders. They are off to a great start.
- Back-to-school-night (BTSN) – 9/20. Gifted and Talented and the Music Department will hold a pre-meeting prior to the beginning of BTSN. More information to follow.
- Student Council – they will be fundraising; they will have hurricane relief drives; magazine sale.
- Emails in Genesis – please ensure your email is correct in Genesis. If you are currently not receiving emails from the school, please check that your contact information is correct.

Questions from parents:

- Ally Cassin – Are there any major changes in extra-curricular/field trips this year?
Answer: the 7th grade trip is currently being discussed but all others are status quo. All clubs will begin soon after BTSN.
- Anne – regarding current time constraints for extra help (due to contract negotiations). What should the students do?
Answer: the students can see the teachers at study lunch if possible and they do have about 15 minutes after school. Students should organize their meetings directly with their individual teachers. A suggestion was made to reach out to the National Honor Society students to help with extra help for the students.
- Heidi Ryan: Will the policy for the time constraints the children can be in the building change after the teacher contract is settled? (Letter received by parents the day after school started the new policy is now 7:40 am – 3:20 pm).
Answer: the administration has to ensure that there is enough staff to keep the kids safe in the building. They do not want the children to be unsupervised.

4. Introduction of the HSA Executive Board

5. Treasurer's Report – Sara Mazin

6. Board of Education Report – Ed Hayward:

- In regard to the referendum; the question has been raised on whether the district will be adding extra space to any existing buildings. There are no plans to add space at this time but the current space will be better utilized.
- Superintendent search – there will be a closed session BOE meeting on 9/17 to meet with a search firm to discuss how the BOE would like to carry out the search and what characteristics they would like in a candidate. Once this happens, information will be published to the public. The next public BOE meeting is 9/25.
- Radios – all radios are currently working well; please know your kids are safe.

Question to Ed Hayward from parent:

Are the MS/HS staffed before school?

Answer: I do not know. In regard to the new policy on school hours, specifically in the morning: If you believe that this is not enough time (10 minutes), create a committee to promote a discussion supported by the HSA.

This suggestion was supported by all in attendance.

Questions still remain:

- What led to this decision?
- Does it have to do with the teacher contract negotiations?
- Will this decision be permanent?

Anyone who would like to participate in this discussion, please submit your thoughts to Heidi Ryan or the HSA email with talking points.

- Emails to the board members – board members cannot comment on emails BUT they are all read and concerns are noted and always taken into consideration.
- Umbrella Goals from BOE – the BOE is happy the HSA has aligned with the BOE goals.
1. Health & Wellness. 2. Social Skills. 3. Total well being of a student – this will create culture change.

7. Announcement of HSA's 2018-2019 District-Aligned Platform – Heidi Ryan:

- To align the goals and objectives of the MS/HS HSA with the stated goals of the Glen Rock School District to *“support district initiatives that enhance the safety, health and well-being of our staff and students, thus enabling every student to achieve their fullest potential as a lifetime learner,”* the HSA's platform and focus for 2018-2019 is:
- To support the Middle School and High School in achieving their goals related to Health and Well Being of their Staff and Students and the HSA will promote Community, Empowerment, Mindfulness and Gratitude through our fundraising efforts, funding of programming and sponsorship of activities.
- Ideas to promote these ideals are welcome.
- Possible ideas – food truck event? Cyber civics program.
- The HSA has a field trip fund and a teacher's wish list fund that teachers are welcome to access. Please reach out to [Holly Goshin](#) with questions or ideas.

8. Spirit Wear Sales – Sharon Childs:

- Please buy today.
- No samples this year.
- Online purchase very easy and user friendly.
- Online store will be available until 10/26 and the merchandise will be delivered to the High School Lobby in late November for distribution. Volunteers will be needed to distribute the merchandise.

9. Message from Federated HSA – co-presidents Colleen Manley and Erica Bratspies:

- The Federated HSA is the umbrella organization of the separate HSA's in the district.

- Online Directory – the directory is currently off-line for updates. It will be announced when updates are complete and the directory may be accessed. At that time, parents can update their emails and personal information.
- Integrated calendar – currently being updated and when complete, we will be advised.
- Federated meeting on 10/11 at 7:30 pm. Dr. Watson and the Board Members will be in attendance. The referendum will be discussed.
- Jets Game – 10/21; included is tickets and special field access.
- The Federated HSA is open to submitting a letter supporting the teachers.

10. New Business:

- Back to School Nights: MS 9/20 and HS 9/27
- Glen Rock HSA Day at Jets Game 10/21 (buy tickets by 9/26)
- Blood Drive 9/26 (8 am - 2 pm)
- SAT Bootcamp 9/22-23
- Relay for Life is coming back to Glen Rock. We will be coordinating with Fair Lawn. It will be held June 1-2, 2019. There is currently a high school team in place. They are currently looking for a middle school parent to lead the middle school. This event will kick-off in January 2019.

11. Motion to adjourn made by Heidi Ryan:

- Seconded by Kathy Duggan
- Meeting adjourned at 10:52 am