



MEETING MINUTES

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA - Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2017 9:00 AM Media Center

Attendees (20): Holly Goshin, Gretchen Horwitz, Mona Milbrodt, Susan Habler, Anne Marie Podd, Kara Stansel, Donna Heller, Sandi Stern, Felicia Goldberg, Nancy Bermack, Megan Findley, Linda Schultz, Ann Horne-Feige, Ann Boyle, Paula Hegyi, Barbara Gomes, Sharon Israel Childs, Maureen Jeffries, Louise D'Amato, Leslie Schraer

Administrators (2): John Arlotta, HS Principal and Mr. Pepe, MS Asst. Principal;

Staff (2): Mrs. Mitchell, Ms. Zhengyang Yu

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by HSA President, Sandi Stern.

Welcome: Sandi Stern welcomed parents, administrators and staff.

Approval of the November 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Heidi Ryan.
Motion to approve by Ann Feige and seconded by Anne Marie Podd.

Conversation with Ms. Zhengyang Yu Mandarin Chinese Teacher for MS/HS Previously, MS/HS only had two languages and we needed more, so this is a great addition to our curriculum. Most schools are afraid to add Mandarin because it is hard to staff it and Glen Rock looked for dual-certified teaching and ESL certificates. Ms. Yu came to the U.S. four years ago for her Masters from Rutgers University. Glen Rock intrigued her most as an offer because it was a brand new program and a great challenge. We have Chinese 1 and 2 in HS and Chinese 1 in MS are working on ongoing programs. Ms. Yu shared that the language is not harder than other offerings, all languages have their challenges. Middle School students are doing even better because starting earlier is best. This is a way to stay competitive when applying to college because it sets them apart.

Treasurer's Report- Gretchen Horwitz

Wish List items have increased due to more requests coming in, which is good. The HSA funded a Welcome Back lunch and desserts for homecoming and college fair recently. The Grad Ball has extra funds from past year so new mats for lobby were purchased. As a reminder, it was discussed that Grad ball funds are not HSA funds; they are separate and extra funds can't be given to another group but can only be applied directly to the school.

Conversation with Principals:

Mr. Pepe is here for Dr. Wirt, who is at a Makers Day conference. He reported on the following:

- Last year we started a Makers Day for 6th grade - Five stations in the media center. Gifted and Talented students helped present the program.

- *The King and I* musical was presented by the MS with 90 students, run by Kate Larsen.
- 5th Grade transition is happening now: Debbie Hamilton will be the incoming 6th grade guidance counselor, Fly Up day will be early June for presentations here, parent meeting April 19 for incoming 6th Graders, Discovery Day end of August TBD and Mash Up will not be in September (not June again).
- Twitter page is active, please follow the page to increase exposure.
- Upcoming Trips: Philly April 5 for 6th Graders, Bronx Zoo trip-June 6, 7th Grade field trip-Liberty Science Center June 9, Broadway trip June 7, DC June 12-14 for 8th Graders with Dr. Wirt will be attending
- PARCC testing- April 26-28 and May 1-3
- NJASK Science June 6 for 8th Graders
- Teacher of the Year - 8th Grade English Susan Wechtler

Mr. Arlotta reported on the following items for the HS:

- HS Spring Theater next week and will present thematic plays
- PARCC testing April 17-25
- April 20 is a half-day added to the calendar
- First Ice hockey win of State Championship – very proud of the accomplishment
- One to One laptop initiative planned for September 2017
- Will be using a new content management system to replace School Fusion; We are moving to new system to make it easier for parents to navigate through just one system (many teachers are unofficially using Google Classroom, a “blended” platform of several Google apps).
- HS is considering moving to the Big North Athletic Conference and this will be discussed at BOE meeting 3/27 Big North
- Question from Sharon Childs- Can athletes be exempt from gym to have more time for schoolwork? School is considering it but he is not in favor of it. Mahwah tried it and it backfired.
- Drug problem discussion happened last night. To recap, teachers are obligated to report if a child appears under the influence. All reports have to be looked at and student is drug- or alcohol-tested, in many cases. Student can’t return unless cleared. If negative, case is closed but if positive, school meets with family and assessment is done. Plan is made for student to usually attend out-patient treatment. This year is magnified – numbers have gone up drastically. Average is one or two positive a year, but this year has been about 21 of 26 reports positive for substance. Recently had an assembly featuring young girl who was a typical kid in HS who caused a death from messing around in a car. She went to jail for seven years due to drugs in her system.
- Rotary Club of Ridgewood and the GRHS Guidance department is sponsoring a Career Day on April 5. Still in need of Three presenters: Engineering, Tech and Science as well as one presenter for a single Skilled Trades Person. If you can help contact Ms. Rochelle Eaton- eatonr@glenrocknj.org

Mrs. Mitchell: Mrs. Mitchell shared some information regarding NJ Makers Day, which is done in public and school libraries. It's a combo of art and tech and the mantra is to be producers, not only consumers. Be innovators. Examples of Makers Day projects include a robot with LED sensors for coding, Electronic kits, Slide bars for dimmers, 3D printing, micro-processing. Tomorrow is the public library Makers Day 3/25

Board of Ed Report: Mona Milbrodt attended the most recent (March 8) Board of Ed meeting (budget) where it was determined that Activity Fees for clubs and sports will now be separate as follows: \$150 for each HS sport – 3rd is free, \$75 flat fee for club membership (no limit on number), \$100 for each MS sport – 3rd is free, \$25 flat fee for club membership (no limit on number).

Other Discussions:

Kristin Dahl Boutique Shopping Night in Midland Park- April 19. Open house for MS/HS parents 6:30-9 pm. 10% of proceeds back to HAS - drink, shop etc.

Please reach out to Angela Vila if you want to serve on the HSA Executive Board next year.

Bollywood Night is May 5, from 6-9pm

Jaycees are donating \$1,500 to MS/HS HSA

Middle School team for Relay for Life, theme is Neon held at GRHS June 10-11

Meditation for Moms- Sunday, March 26 with Maureen Jeffries

Conclusion

A motion to adjourn was made by Kara Stansel and seconded by Holly Goshin.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heidi Ryan