

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA
General Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2015

Attendees (28): Anne Marie Podd, Joyce Silva, Holly Goshen, Jill Pupuis, Jen Scherer, Alissa Somers, Ann Boyle, Kristin Heidcamp, Jennifer Park, Donna Heller, Kathy Duggan, Ann Feige, Maureen Jeffries, Donna Beldner, Grace Cosgriff, Paula Hegyi, Kate Wolfe, Merri Kapiloff, Janer Romano, Eileen Murphy, Linda Schultz, Mary Jane Donohue, Julianna Moore, Kristine F. Clifford, Sandi Stern, Jill Orlich, Stasha Vicinanza, Elaine Howe

Administrators (3): Edward S. Thompson, John Arlotta, Dan DiGuglielmo (HS Interim Assistant Principal)

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 by HAS President, Grace Cosgriff.

Approval of November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Anne Marie Podd
Motion to approve by Elaine Howe and seconded by Holly Goshin.

Principals' Reports:

Middle School (Mr. Thompson)

- Geography Bee was January 7th
- Ski trip was January 7th
- January 14th was a homework-free night
- On January 16th the MS ran a "Code Blue Drill" which teaches safety in an emergency such as calling 911, what to do if there's a cardiac arrest, using a defibrillator, administering CPR, etc. The drill went well. This is new this year.
- On February 11th at 7:00 PM, an FBI agent is coming to speak to parents about cyberbullying.
- Per parents' requests, they have made it clear that e-cigarettes are not allowed at school. No cigarettes of any kind are allowed at school.
- Student assembly – Bergen County Prosecutors are here today for 6th & 7th grades to talk about drug and alcohol abuse and the legal consequences.
- Assemblies - on February 4th, Dr. Paula Rodriguez Rust (sociologist and educational consultant), will talk to grades 6-12 regarding gender issues. Her program, entitled "Safe and Welcoming School for All" will also be presented to parents at 7:00PM in the HS/MS Media Center.
- Discussed MS schedule for next year with MS faculty. Staff feels HS schedule in NOT a fit for MS.

Reasons why:

- 6th grade block –good/needed/works/don't want to change
- Lunchtime – One big lunch for both schools won't work.
- Transitions: Now, MS & HS are NOT in the halls at the same time. Good! They are not dismissed at the same time, which is also good. HS departs at 2:54/ MS departs at 3:07. This works well!
- Staff feels developmentally that 58 minute classes are too long for MS. Also, 58 minutes is too long for MS lunch. Too much free time.
- Math and World Language want students daily. This is important.

- 5th grade acceleration program comes up to the MS for 1st two periods of the day. We would need a new schedule and new location for these students.
- Outside time at lunch will be available to students again in the spring. Some parents asked if they can have the outside option all year. No, due to overall supervision & safety issues. Also, kids tend to go out in freezing weather in shorts and t-shirts. Also, in cold weather, he finds many students prefer staying in and studying. They can get homework done in school.
- PARC – teachers are offering practice tests now. Actual tests are in March: March 2-6 (6th grade), March 9th week is 8th grade and March 16th week is 7th grade.

High School (Mr. Arlotta)

- Mr. Arlotta introduced Mr. Dan DiGuglielmo, the interim Assistant Principal (Our former Assistant Principal, Mr. Steven Purciello, retired.) Mr. “D” is retired, has 30 years of experience, has coached multiple sports, and will be with us through June.
- New HS schedule – Feedback is 95% positive from students! He continues to get feedback. 3 periods/lunch for all/3 periods – seems to work very well! Students report that new schedule is less stressful. You don’t have every class every day. It’s easier to plan homework and assignments. He has noticed that the kids are not as intense all the time, as they were with the old schedule.
- Juniors – As of now, current school policy does not allow second semester juniors out for lunch. Our lunch contract with Pomptonian is also an issue. With the new schedule, profits are down. If we pull juniors too, they will lose profits.
- Seniors – They can go out for lunch. This is a privilege and privileges can be pulled.
- Issue – Currently dealing with HS students being late for school.
- Lunch – Kids have choices: Media Center (packed 2nd half of lunch!), Computer lab, Courtyard (in nice weather), Cafeteria, and there is a group that prefers to eat in the Gym.
- Parent Question: Can there be guidance time during lunch? So students can get to know their counselors? Mr. Arlotta said he will explore this suggestion with guidance.
- Mr. Dan DiGuglielmo – He is impressed by the way Glen Rock HS students use their time at lunch. They utilize the Media Center and study opportunities and are working with teachers on homework. In his previous school, 50% of the problems occurred outside at lunch.
- Parent Question: Midterms – 4 days straight is very stressful. Couldn’t they break it up over a weekend? Mr. Arlotta said it was complicated planning this year due to the way the marking period ends and getting grades in.
- Parent Issue: The bigger concern is the amount of testing our kids have to go through! What can be done about this? Mr. Arlotta said we can’t control what the state requires, but we can control what we do. They are in discussion with faculty regarding midterms and finals. Is this time well spent? Some other high schools have dropped midterms and finals.
- PARC testing – Mr. Arlotta said students are prepared. The mechanics of the test are a concern, because all the tests are done on the computer. Parents want to know what the tests are measuring for high school students. Placement? Graduation?

- Professional Development – Do teachers get any training on how to best use the longer, 58 minute classes?

Treasurer’s Report (Ann Feige)

- We need a fundraiser! Idea: Direct request? Outline benefits provided by HSA and accomplishments on behalf of students and ask parents for donations? Generally we raise \$12,000 per year. Even if we raise \$6,000 with the direct ask, it would be worth it. Outline benefits verses hours of effort saved? Make it easy for people. Volunteers to write letter: Eileen Murphy and Merri Kapiloff.
- Got \$600 for hosting Catalyst Prep SAT Bootcamp.
- Approved and in the works: Chicken Coop for 6th grade biology department.
- Parents – Shop through Amazon on homepage for CHIPS! Money for us.
- Boiling Springs Community Program – We almost have 20 linked accounts! Once we hit 20 we get a % of what’s in the accounts. Even if you open a \$20 savings account for your child, it counts.

Board of Education Report

- The big issue at the next meeting is the outsourcing of four custodians who are very close to getting their pensions. Look on BOE website for details.

Wishlist Approvals:

- New signs for MS/HS lobby
- \$250 for HS musical Beauty and the Beast special effects
- Dance team for the Multicultural Festival
- Boombox and sewing machine for the Drama Department
- Donation to “The Well-Balanced Student” program for students, faculty and parents with Dr. Denise Pope of Stanford University and Challenge Success. The evening presentation for parents is 7:00 PM in the MS/HS auditorium on Monday, March 2, 2015.

Upcoming Events:

- The Glen Rock HS Hockey Team is having a family dinner fundraiser on Wednesday, 1//28 at Francesca’s. Team gets 15% of proceeds.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 9:00 AM in the Media Center

The motion to adjourn was made by Ann Boyle and Janet Romano.

Minutes respectively submitted by Anne Marie Podd.