

**Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA
General Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2015**

Attendees (13): Grace Congriff, Elaine Howe, Kathy Duggan, Donna Beldner, Sandi Stern, Anne Marie Podd, Jennifer Knight, Kristin Heidkamp, Jennifer Park, Linda Schultz, Michele Sapoff, Eileen Murphy, Maureen Jeffries

Administrators (2): Edward S. Thompson, John Arlotta

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

Approval of January 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Anne Marie Podd.
Motion to approve by Kathy Duggan and seconded by Elaine Howe.

Principals' Reports:

High School - Mr. Arlotta

- Year-end book fines: He took our suggestions. Met with teachers. Will give clear guidelines with forms and receipts.
- Student planning sessions with guidance counselors – parents want to know. Their kids are choosing their courses. Grace Cosgriff spoke to Larry Wolfe about this. Mr. Arlotta will also speak to Larry Wolfe. The goal is to give parents advanced notice.
- PARCC testing is happening now.
- The high school musical *Beauty & the Beast* was a huge success.
- A series of one-act plays will be performed Thurs. – Sat. this week.
- We have 2 National Merit Finalists this year
- Winter sports have wrapped up.
- Girls' Basketball won the conference!
- The basketball coach is retiring.
- Ice Hockey won the conference!
- Construction: The baseball field high netting is up to prevent errant balls. Now, we can host multiple sports events at the same time.
- We're gearing up for spring sports.
- Senior Prom is April 17th.
- World Language: Considering adding Chinese. Could be a good option.
- Orchestra: Better on the elementary level. Want to provide improved K-12 continuity.

- Long Term Plan: Redo the Media Center. Technology is very important. Will have different sections of the center dedicated to different things. Will be expensive. Could be a couple of years out.

Middle School – Mr. Thompson

- Thank you for the Week of Respect speaker gift. The sessions with both speakers were well attended: 1) Dr. Paula Rust presented on Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation 2) Special Agent Christian Schorle, from the FBI Cyber Task Force, presented on Internet Safety
- Random Acts of Kindness theme featured Hallway Hearts around the school
- Families stepped up for the Francesca's Night fundraiser for the Litvany Family. Raised \$400.
- 8th Grade went in late February to see *Selma* in Paramus.
- The middle school musical *Anything Goes* was great!
- Wednesday is a Homework Free Night.
- There is a 7th grade party on the 27th from 7-9PM.
- March 31st is the 6th grade Exploratory Arts presentation.
- April 1st is the incoming Sixth Grade Parent Orientation.
- April 17th is the 6th grade Philadelphia Trip.
- Setting a new date in May for the Spring Fling.
- PARCC – We are in the 7th grade week. 8th grade is done. 6th grade math is next.
- Parent Question: How many students opted out? Mr. Thompson reported that 61 out of 571 opted out.
- PARCC testing coming up in May is the end-of-year assessment. Parents noted: All this PARCC testing is a lot of time out of class.
- Mr. Thompson hopes the new, short, weekly email updates are helpful.
- Study Lunch – Sending kids to the gym. Wear sneakers for safety.
- Going outside during SITS is works out well.
- 8th Grade – After morning PARCC, they spent the afternoon doing a Poverty Awareness activity. Students had to figure out living costs for a family and put kits together for the homeless. Well received! Great feedback from the kids. Program was put together by Special Education teacher, Mrs. Carullo.
- Parent Comment: Split lunch not good socially. 7th grade only has 175 kids and is splits friends up.
- Parent Question: At Federated HSA meetings, why are there no school principals there? Mr. Arlotta replied that there is so much repetition. He's been told to save reporting for his local HSA. Also, there is concern about the principal being out of the school building.
- Due to snow days, students will have school on Friday 4/10 of Spring Break.

Treasurer's Report (Delivered by Linda Schultz for Ann Feige)

- Keep saving those **BOX TOPS!** It's free money for us! There are collection boxes in the MS/HS offices.
- Lack of a fundraiser has left a hole in our budget. Hopefully, the planned direct request can fill our coffers. Sandi Stern will tell you more about that.
- Bagel Day is over for the year. Profit \$1,128.08. Thanks to Joyce Silva and her team for this successful fundraiser!
- Most of our expenses are on track for the year. Nice work by the volunteers who run Hospitality events for staying on or below budget.
- Cultural Enrichment (assemblies & speakers) has almost half the budget pledged (\$5,945 or of 12,500). The Wish List is less successful, with just under \$4,000 pledged. The \$1,500 chicken coop from last year is still outstanding.
- The total amount in our checking looks high, but \$4,000 was recently added from Grad Ball seed money and that will go back into Grad Ball accounts. We also have EOY expenses, accounting fees, and some new Wish List/Cultural Enrichment items in the queue.
- Use that **AMAZON** button on the top right of the GRCHIPS page! We get a cut from orders.
- Boiling Springs Community Alliance Program: If you have an account at Boiling Springs or want to open one for you or your child, please link it to the HSA account. Once we get 20 accounts linked, we start getting a monthly payment! It does not cost you any money. Please consider it, as we are REALLY close to our required 20. (Forms were handed out to anyone who is interested.)
- The 2015/2016 budget will be presented at the next meeting.

Fundraising

- "Direct Ask" Letter/email: Eileen Murphy and Merri Kapiloff are working on it. Once you start writing, lots of questions come up. It's coming along.
- Book Fair? – Schoolastic Rep talked to Mrs. Mitchell (Media Center). Author Todd Strasser is coming in June, and it's a big deal! Perhaps a book sale? From past experience, Mrs. Mitchell finds that books don't sell. Also, logistically, can't tie up the Media Center.
- Elaine Howe mentioned the Hamilton Book Fair was very successful. Well done and raises lots of money.
- Parents reported that the Central School Book Fair via Schoolastic was super easy. Do it twice a year (before holidays and before summer) and you get a bigger percent of the profits. Fun! Kids can go together and buy summer reading. Catch: Can sell Schoolastic titles only.
- Central closes gym down for 2.5 days.

- Have to figure out if it can be done, logistically, in the MS/HS.
- May not be able to do it this year. But, could possibly plan for next year.

Board of Education Report – Donna Beldner

- Meeting was very contentious and angry! Total turnaround from the last meeting!
- “NO” votes on HS field lighting and all-day kindergarten were overturned. Now both “Yes”.
- This was done while a key board member was away and the financial board member abstained.
- How are we going to pay for this? So much is unresolved. We’re not ready.
- Go to the BOE and Federated meetings and voice your opinion!

- The hockey budget was voted down even though we are #3 in the state. Costs \$900 out-of-pocket per kid to play. All other sports are covered for their facilities.
- 2015-2016 Calendar approved for next year. 3 snow days.
- Diwali will be a school holiday. (It falls on Nov. 11th, Veteran’s Day.)
- Students will go to school on Election Day.

Wishlist Approvals:

MS Guidance: Speaker Dr. Michael Fowlin, during the week of respect Oct. 2015 - \$2,500
Mr. Thompson thanked the HSA!

Still Needed:

HSA is looking for a Treasurer for next year.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 PM in the Media Center

The motion to adjourn was made by: Linda Schultz and seconded by Kathy Duggan.

Minutes respectively submitted by Anne Marie Podd.