



# MEETING MINUTES

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA - Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2017 7:30 PM Media Center

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The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by HSA President, Sandi Stern.

**Welcome:** Sandi Stern welcomed parents, administrators and staff.<sup>1</sup>

**Approval of the March 24, 2017 Meeting Minutes:** Submitted by Heidi Ryan.  
Motion to approve by Kara Stansel and seconded by Anne Marie Podd.

Report by Mr. Arlotta:

PARCC- making it more meaningful- data is important. Good news refusals way down- only 13 this year. Data will be more representative of our students Used last **year's** data a bit but will use this year more.

Spring concert next week- 5/17

Annual world language Honor Society and National Honors Society next week

Middle School- Finished PARCC - representatives visited all elementary schools for orientation and transition

Upcoming- May 25 Memorial day assembly. 8th grade end-of-year activities.

High School - Drug and alcohol use has increased - No secret that this has been a tough year for substance abuse at the HS and some at MS. Mid-year, approximately 20 students had to be sent out for testing, with almost all testing **positive...a** big jump in numbers. We have done programming in HS, sent letters, working with Police and Mayor, locked down some bathrooms temporarily and added checking of restrooms, had the SAC go to all health classes and more. We are making a dent by working together.

Not just school problem - community, town, state etc. Parents need to be vigilant. Anything parents can do to support will help. There is a lot to lose and much risk and liability involved for parents. House parties are constant.

Big problem is pot done by vaping, which is stronger and more dangerous. Kids were getting brazen and taking risks in school, and that has been curbed.

Procedure when there is suspicion - Parent has to take them straight to testing. If cleared, the student may come back - not clear means the student must enroll in a 10 week treatment course. That facility makes judgment of next steps. Out-patient normally. School pays for testing - if positive, it goes to parents for coverage.

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<sup>1</sup> List of attendees was misplaced, so no official entry

Kids are good kids for the most part - sometimes you have to take some freedom away to show them where you stand and to curb poor decision-making.

Random drug testing? It is controversial. Cost is high. It would have to go through BOE policy.

Is it more boys or girls with drugs? Boys in general, but both are doing it. Boys seem to take more risks in school. It is hard for administrators to patrol the bathrooms, since they are both male and cannot enter the bathroom themselves.

BOE report: Homework policy was addressed again. Air quality was the big issue with much representation present, but the topic went largely unaddressed. Can Dr. Valenti answer some our questions now? Testing was done, BOE took action to bring levels down and add ventilation. There have been many questions about present levels and concerns about future testing/monitoring. What are the details? Getting a lot of questions from parents.

QUESTION: The ventilation “**fix**” in this room is clearly not working. (Referenced tissues hung from ceiling vents. Only one tissue was moving.) Will this be fixed properly?

Dr. Valenti said they will look into it.

QUESTION: What is BOE doing with room repurposing in the Media Center? **Won't** this construction work compromise air quality? Can it wait until students and teachers have left for the summer?

Dr. Valenti said all parties toured facility for room repurposing and reviewed. Needed more room to store new laptops for one-to-one initiative. Looking at program SAGE to be moved. Some space in the media center will be used for the **district's** professional development academy. None of these repurposed spaces will be used as instructional space for students. Office of Curriculum and Instruction is moving to media center space as well.

QUESTION: There are still air quality questions and concerns, and parents are wondering about their **kids'** health and safety. Can you assure us students **won't** be present during work on rooms?

Dr. Valenti said that no work is done during the day. It will be done in SUMMER, not now. Now they are only moving furniture. The areas will be sealed off during the summer, if there are programs in the school.

Mrs. Walters: Teachers hired an outside testing company and are very concerned about the health and safety of students and staff. Their company believes they have identified the source of the problem.

Dr. Valenti welcomes the teachers to come meet and discuss. Work will not be done in day and anything otherwise is false. All parties were consulted and toured facility before-hand looking for alternatives. She did not share who was going where - said she **can't** always share all details when people want it. There may have been a spin put on it, which is unfortunate. There is nothing nefarious happening here. We have openly shared all reports for air quality. In fact, at 3:30 today a report from a third party showed up on her desk. It is unclear who this is from or who hired them. Very confusing.

QUESTION: The two original companies who did testing - are they doing more? Will they be working together? Will the source of the problem identified by the **teachers'** company be fixed?

Dr. Valenti said: We will be doing another testing and more assessment - The BOE deserves to talk about this first, so she **can't** say more. We want healthy environment for everyone, and there are no subversive actions.

QUESTION: Can further testing also include a couple of classrooms?

Dr. Valenti: We will mirror the testing we did in the first round. We are managing the bad press now.

QUESTION: So far the district has done testing, identified something, increased ventilation, and now you say we will test again. What are the other additional steps that the professional companies recommend? Will the district address the source of the issue identified by the environmental company hired by the teachers?

Dr. V: The only thing is to cover/fix is the ceiling gap. That is extent of discussion. This media center is safe. Took steps to increase ventilation - took steps to stop cars idling outside etc. Simple steps - All cosmetic that we are talking about. We want to put to rest. We all agree to do more testing.

Ms. Walter: There is a report from the **teacher's** environmental company - there should have been a ceiling layer before the roof to avoid the off-gassing. That is where they believe the irritants are coming from. They requested that it is looked at and remedied.

After further questioning from HSA members and extended discussion, Sandi asked for a review of the main points made by Dr. Valenti.

1) None of the media center spaces will be used for instructional space for students. True? Answer: **"Yes"**

2) All the stakeholders, including administrators and teachers, were included in the discussions on repurposing space in the media center. True? Answer: **"Yes."**

3) The ventilation in the Media Center is still not working. Will that be looked at and fixed properly? Answer: **"Yes."**

4) The District is committing to fixing the ceiling gap problem identified by the company hired by the teachers. True? **"Yes."**

5) The district will retest the media center and remediate any problems further testing reveals? True? Answer. **Yes."**

#### Treasurer's Report:

Gretchen: Budget for next year will include profit from a big social event. Would like to do this for MS/HS, with aim to raise at least \$5,000. Direct Ask \$4300 raised so far. This is great but it represents a small percentage of families. We will try a social instead next year. Membership dues left same for next year. Leaving income from Membership at \$12,000.

Misc. Income leaving at \$0. Looking for other ideas for social/fundraising programs.

Boiling Springs averages \$500 a quarter for us, and it runs itself. They have great accounts and great programs. Please open an account or link the one you have to the HSA. We will vote next HSA meeting on next **year's** budget.

Old Business:

June 9 is the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast - need help with food donations and or any other - held in faculty room 6am-1pm. Will have a sheet for volunteers. Need to staff this position for next year with new volunteers. Ann Feige, Linda Schultz and Maureen Jeffries are the contacts.

Openings for committees next year - See Angela Vila if interested.

Welcoming Committee for 6th grade families needs a committee chair. So needed, and easy with just a social event or two.

We will partner with Curious Reader book store in town for summer reading requirements again. Mention the school, and 5% of your purchase goes to the MS/HS.

New Business:

Voting on new Board next month.

Teachers here tonight so welcome, and we thank them for all they do for our children each and every day.

Motion to adjourn

Leslie Schraer, seconded by Holly Goshin.

**Minutes respectfully recorded by Holly Goshin and submitted by Heidi Ryan**