



Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA  
June 8, 2018 9:06AM Media Center

*Respectfully submitted by Kathy Duggan and Ann Feige*

Attendees (18): Mona Milbrodt, Kara Stansel, Kathy Duggan, Heidi Ryan, Gretchen Horowitz, Sandi Stern, Sara Mazin, Ann Boyle, Ann Feige, Barbara Gomes, Sharon Israel Childs, Joe Quvus, Michele Sapoff, Michelle Torpey, Angela Vila | Admins/Trustees: Tina Bacolas, Dr. Jennifer Wirt, Ed Hayward

**1. Welcome, Sign-in, and Approval of May 9 minutes** – (Motion to approve by Michele Sapoff, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Feige).

**2. Principal's Reports –**

**Dr. Jennifer Wirt for Middle School (MS):**

- Thank you for the staff breakfast.
- 77 MS students inducted to Jr. Honors Society last night.
- Bronx Zoo field trip happened on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- DC Trip for 8<sup>th</sup> graders departed this morning. Yes, buses do have seatbelts.
- MS teachers and Student Council visited and donated to Eastbrook School in Paramus.
- Broadway trip to see SpongeBob musical .
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance was Monday night offsite – good turnout with 170 kids – Great DJ kept the kids off their phones all night.
- The MS Twitter feed is now embedded on the MS website.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade end-of-year activities coming up. Dress code for graduation is “nicely dressed.”
- MS Teacher of the Year is Tara Leibman/Social Studies.
- Retiring teachers: Jeffrey Kurland (Music) and Tara Smith (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Block) – hiring to fill those positions.
- Requests that people do NOT pull into the MS parking lot using the exit driveway! There have been multiple incidents of people doing this and nearly hitting staff and students walking in the parking lot.

**Ms. Tina Bacolas for High School (HS):**

- Academic Awards for seniors are this week.
- Senior yearbook signing party occurred.
- Junior Prom tonight at Macaluso's.
- Hiring 3 new teachers: Biology, Physics, and SpEd/Math, still looking for two more for English and Spanish
- Starting a new professional learning community for new staff with a focus on peer observations.
- Mr. Arlotta and Ms. Bacolas have been visiting Senior English classes to speak with them about keeping calm during end of year activities (finals, grad ball) and discouraging any senior prank. No senior prank has happened in the past two years.
- Senior trip is to Point Pleasant.
- Dress code for Graduation to be sent out soon.

- Laptop initiative student survey conducted – 81% (611) responded.
  - Response was overwhelming positive citing laptops help them stay organized, share/collaborate with peers, electronically submit assignments, etc.
  - 55% stated they prefer paper textbooks over electronic, and they prefer handwritten notes over typing.
  - Top request was to have less internet restriction. The school can unblock legit sites if requested.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> most cited request was for access to gmail, which is currently blocked.
  - HS is working on a Cloud Printing solution so that they can print from anywhere in the building and pick up in the media center.
  - Tina to send survey results to Mona for distribution. (Now posted on GRChips under [Story Archive](#))
  - Many kids want to use their own laptops, but the school cannot track what they are doing with those, so the school is opposed to students using their own.
  - Netflix is an issue – kids accessing during class.

**3. Treasurer’s Report:**

- The \$5k budgeted for major fundraiser did not happen – HSA is brainstorming on other ideas for next year.
- Dues came in at 80% of plan.
- Spiritwear raised nearly \$3k – thank you Sharon Israel.
- Bagel Day fundraiser on target – thank you Joyce Silva.
- Other sources of funds include Jaycee’s donation, Boxtops, Boiling Springs Community Alliance Program, etc.
- Funded seven or eight field trips this year. Still have half of the money that was put in the field trip fund from the liquidation of a CD. \$6,000 left to fund trips in 2018-19.
- Expenses same as previous year; closing the year with about \$35k cash.
- 2018/19 Budget very similar to prior year. Barbara Gomes made motion to approve the budget, Michelle Torpey seconded. Budget passed with no opposition or abstention.

**4. HSA Executive Board nominees for 2018-19 slate** - Gretchen Horowitz motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Michele Sapoff – Slate passed with no opposition or abstentions

<b>President- Heidi Ryan</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Communications) Mona Milbrodt</b>
<b>Exec VP (Fundraising) - Jennifer Scherer</b>	<b>Treasurer - Sara Mazin</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP (Wish List) Holly Goshin</b>	<b>Secretary – Jackie Pappas</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP (Fed Secretary) Kathy Duggan</b>	<b>President Emeritus- Sandi Stern</b>

**5. BOE Report – Ed Hayward**

- Mentioned letter from Interim Superintendent Watson sent out about seatbelts on buses and school safety (radios).
- RFP’s have been sent out for a firm to assist with the Superintendent search. This was delayed partly due to transition of 3 board members. They would like to find a

Superintendent who will be in the district for a number of years. Believes they will find someone in time for 2019-20 school year. The contingency plan if they do not is to hire another Interim Superintendent since Bruce Watson can only stay for two years.

- The Board has written its goals for the next year, but they are not yet approved.
- A question was asked regarding the sign about the Media Center Specialist for the HS not sitting in the Media Center – Ed declined to speak about this citing it as a Human Resources matter.
- Issues that must be addressed in the Referendum include HVAC (air conditioning) and fields at Hamilton, which were discussed at the BOE meeting.

**6. New Business** – Barbara Gomes mentioned Relay for Life taking place tomorrow at Dobrow Field. So far \$8,500 raised by 57 kids. Middle Schoolers were the #1 fundraisers.

**7. Anti-Bullying Guest Speaker – Ms. Bacolas, HS Vice-Principal**

- School safety team includes five HS teachers, Mr. Arlotta and Ms. Bacolas, who noted that they would like to add a parent member.
- They met twice this year, organized by Mr. Crispino. In the meetings they review HIB reports, meet with Counselors, coaches, and look for trends. They are working closely with the new Juvenile police officer who lets them know what's going on in town.
- If drug paraphernalia is found in the HS, the school notifies the police.
- HIB spikes at the beginning and end of the school year, which is a normal trend.
- Spikes are usually related to Freshman – carrying over issues from Middle School.
  - This year they will work with Mr. Pepe over the summer to try to deter those situations.
- Majority of concerns heard from teachers relate to students seeming tense/anxious, having outbursts in class, not filtering their comments and making anti-Semitic remarks.
- Principals align their goals with the BOE, and this Year One of the goals is Student Well-Being.
  - Jennifer Krug (sp?) and Danielle Helder are working on teacher training to help keep kids calm. SAGE team is pushing into the classroom more, talking with kids about how to handle things better vs. handing out punishment.
- Discussion of cause of stress in our students. Parents checking grades frequently is an example of the culture of stress raised by the BOE rep, Ed Hayward. Sharon Israel raised a question about teachers and parents both needing to be proactive about grades. Various comments were made about communication, relationships, mindfulness training, and overall stress. Sandi Stern reminded the administration that the HSA will consider supporting any initiative they propose in this area, and we have money budgeted for this purpose.
- Substance abuse – 10 incidences in 1<sup>st</sup> marking period, but not all drug testing came back positive for use, just had paraphernalia. This has slowed down at school, but the SAC is always working on this. Mr. Watson has been very supportive, for example, waiving suspensions in favor of treatment.
- HIB follow-up – Laws are followed, but concerns were raised by a parent of a child who is bullied. Communication and follow-up are key. Another parent suggested a

student survey regarding school climate & bullying. Bacolas/Arlotta plan to do survey at the end of this year. Bacolas mentioned that she wants to work with 8<sup>th</sup> graders/new Freshman to better acclimate them to the HS environment. There have been very few incidents this year, but student health & safety is always a priority.

**8. Wish List Update - Ann Feige**

- There is one new GRMS Guidance request that has been approved by the HSA Board: Assembly in November 2018 for 6th, 7th, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade by Dr. Mykee Fowlin addressing inclusion, tolerance, peer mediation, gender equality, diversity, and violence prevention.

**9. Reminders (Mona Milbrodt)**

- At 11:15 GR Police will be running the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" torch through town, please go cheer them on.
- Junior Prom is tonight.
- Finals begin on 15th for underclassmen
- Recognition for people who attend meetings regularly, including Joe Quvus and Michele Sapoff. Thank you for your dedication to the HSA.
- Thanks to Megan Leblanc for running the Staff Appreciation Breakfast this year and agreeing to continue working on this project.
- Special thanks to our Executive Board members – they are awesome!!
- Thank you to Sharon Israel for taking on Spiritwear & making \$3,000 for the HSA.
- Thanks/presentations to Board members who are stepping down- Kara Stansel, Gretchen Horwitz, & Ann Feige.
- Special thanks to Mona Milbrodt for serving as President this year.

Motion to adjourn made by Heidi Ryan, seconded by Kara Stansel.

Meeting adjourned at 10:39am.