



MEETING MINUTES

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA

January 26, 2018 9:00AM Media Center

Attendees (24): Mona Milbrodt, Kara Stansel, Holly Goshin, Kathy Duggan, Heidi Ryan, Gretchen Horwitz, Jennifer Scherer, Sandi Stern, Ann Feige | Stephanie Beaudoin, Sheila Berard, Ann Boyle, Bari Engel, Megan Findley, Barbara Gomes, Felicia Goldberg, Donna Heller, Ed Hayward, Laura Occhipinti, Janet Romano, Joe Quvus, Lisa Saavedra, Michele Sapoff, Joyce Silva

1. Welcome, Sign-in and Approval of Minutes

Mona welcomed everybody.

Ann Feige made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sandi Stern. Unanimous approval.

2. MS/HS Fundraiser – Bari Engel is working with Stone & Rail in Glen Rock for this year's big fundraiser.

- Stone & Rail has a max of 130pp.
- Charging \$100 per ticket, which includes full dinner, beer and wine. If we sell out, we will make \$2,860 in profit. (not including the 50/50)
- Kerry Egan and Karyn Stephenson will handle the 50/50. Planning on charging \$25 per ticket
- Need to get final headcount to Stone & Rail five days before the event; Bari asked for suggestions on getting people to sign up early. Some suggestions: door prize ticket, ticket refund (raffle to pick one name), offer lower "early bird" price if get tickets by a certain date. Tickets go up to \$125 if you do not get them by the set date. (Bari liked the latter idea)

3. Principals' Reports

Mr. Arlotta — reported that HS students are finishing up mid-term week. There have been two exams per day for the entire week. Things were going smoothly.

The HS is also very excited about the upcoming musical "Legally Blonde." It is running February 8-10 at 7pm each evening.

Glen Rock HS also received their new rating from the NJ Department of Education this month. According to this rating system, GRHS ranked #1 among Public High Schools in New Jersey. The components of this rating system were: **PARCC performance, attendance record of the students, and the graduation rate.**

Mr. Arlotta spoke about the increase of students taking the most recent PARCC exam. In the past, there was much confusion regarding the importance of taking the PARCC so many students "opted out." He is extremely pleased that most students now participate. If a student opts out it can jeopardize eligibility for graduation.

Mr. Arlotta touched on the current graduation requirements that including scoring "proficient" on Algebra 1 and 10th grade Language Arts on the PARCC exam. He also

emphasized how the PARCC gives the school meaningful data. This data is often used to analyze the school's curriculum.

There is still some confusion on "excused absences." Excused absences are only for approved religious holidays, drivers test, college visits, or an approved school function.

Dr. Wirt — spoke about the 7th grade full-day field trip to Camp Mason on May 7 this Spring. The purpose is to bring the two MS teams (Glen and Rock) together in a fun way. Students will participate in boating, archery, ropes courses, geocaching, and pond ecology while enjoying the great outdoors and learning how to work as a team. She is hoping that this can be an overnight trip in the future.

The ski trips have been very successful.

The MS Musical "Mary Poppins" will be performed March 7-10.

The MS yearbook is currently on sale. The deadline to order is February 23. Online ordering only. See GRChips.com for details.

The MS is having "Spirit Week" leading up to the Super Bowl, and Lunchtime Olympics leading up to the February 8 Winter Olympics kick off, featuring fun games which set teachers vs. students in friendly competition.

There is an 8th grade dance on June 4 offsite. It is from 6:30-9:00 pm and will include a DJ and food. This replaces the MS Winter Dance.

The MS has a Twitter feed. Principal, Vice Principal and teachers do the tweeting.

Stephanie Beaudoin announced that there will be a MS Game Night on February 2 at the GR Community Church. It is open to all MS students. She is asking that each student bring \$5 to cover the cost of pizza – the remaining \$ left over will be for a charity that the kids vote on. Emphasized the need to have fun activities for MS kids to keep them busy and out of trouble.

Ann Boyle asked Dr. Wirt about the implementation of Schoology. Dr. Wirt said it was going well but still a work in progress. A few parents complained about getting erroneous notifications about their children's assignments. Dr. Wirt said she is aware, but many teachers are still learning and have not yet moved completely over from Google Classroom and School Fusion. Ann Boyle felt this was not acceptable. "How can you expect the students and parents to embrace Schoology when the teachers are not using it properly," she said. Suggested making them "cheat sheets" to walk them through the steps. Dr. Wirt said she would look into it.

A question about vaping in the MS was asked. Dr. Wirt confirmed that there have been cases of vaping, and the HS & MS are working with the police department to come up with a consistent way to address this problem. They are considering following suit with other districts. The district was looking into seeing if vaping was a violation of the Clean Air Act and thus could be penalized with a \$250 fine, but it doesn't look like it.

4. **Treasurer's Report** –Gretchen Horwitz

Membership is around \$9,000, which is still a little low but a few more families have recently signed up.

Expecting \$1,700 from new spirit wear sales, which were boosted by additional sales of custom sweatshirt blankets About 30 left and available for sale.

Other income (\$336) from the CAP program at Boiling Springs Savings Bank. This is great “free money,” so please link your account.

5. **BOE Report** – New trustee Ed Hayward introduced himself as HSA's new liaison.

Trustee Megan Findley was also in attendance, but as a parent.

- a. Annual Audit was perfect. Gave kudos to Mike Rinderknecht, the District Business Administrator/Board of Education Secretary.
- b. Beginning the budget process, but no decisions have been made. They are starting to prioritize the list.
- c. Superintendent Search: Mr. Watson is doing an amazing job as interim, but the BOE is looking to hire a search firm to find candidates for a permanent Superintendent. Mr. Watson should be here for another year.
- d. The 2018/2019 school calendar will be available after the next BOE meeting.
- e. Ad Hoc Committee for Under-Enrollment Classes to seek out ways to make such classes more efficient — such as adding or collapsing classes, rethinking curriculum tracks.
- f. Possible referendum for the elementary A/C

6. **Relay for Life** – Rochelle Forstot

- a. Barbara Gomes is working to include the MS. This was done in the past.
- b. We are now partnering up with Fair Lawn and using their Dubrow Field Facility
- c. Date is June 9
- d. Great relationship with the Fair Lawn organizers
- e. Participants can register online
- f. There is a fundraising Movie Night on April 20

7. **Wish List Updates/Approvals** – Ann Feige

- Seton Hall “After the Fire” speakers for senior assembly in May (\$1000)
- HS Theater department (\$750) for raw materials for play scenery, etc. The theater teacher Carl Helder assured Ann that they will preserve and reuse for future shows.
- MS/HS Media Center (\$600)- Four (4) Breakout EDU kits. They have been described as fun and customizable. Players use teamwork and critical thinking (among other things) to solve puzzles, like an Escape Room.

- Environmental Science- (\$490)- for Chicken Supplies including an incubator. Teacher Heather McDermott is very grateful and will use this equipment for the STEM camps affiliated with the Community School this summer.
- HS Business Classroom Upgrade: the HS econ/financial literacy teacher is asking for a stock ticker and a suite of software (\$6000) The GREF, Boosters Club and Jaycees are all willing to contribute. The HSA will fund the remaining balance.
- Ann said we have spent \$12,000 of the \$20,000 Wish List budget.
- There was a question/suggestion about purchasing a driving simulator. It demonstrates to the students the influence of driving under the influence of alcohol as well as the possible results of texting and driving. Ann said to have the Drivers Ed teacher send her an email.

8. **Anti- Idling Campaign** — Laura Occhipinti and Megan Findley

- a. They wanted feedback from MS/HS parents about how to reach this demographic
- b. Although they are currently focusing on the elementary schools they want to expand to the parents of older children.
- c. HSA members suggested just getting the facts out. There are many parents who idle their cars around the MS/HS.
- d. Laura and Megan felt the best approach was to be friendly and simply provide information.
- e. It was suggested to have students take the lead, perhaps for a Girl Scout Gold Award project or a Boy Scout Eagle Scout project.

9. **New Business**

- a. Bylaws need to be updated. Changes coming in the future.

10. **Next Meeting:** Friday, March 23 at 9 a.m.

11. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Heidi Ryan, seconded Ann Feige