



Attendees (18): Mona Milbrodt, Kara Stansel, Heidi Ryan, Ann Feige, Sandi Stern | Ann Boyle, Megan Findley, Becky Goglia, Pam Griffin, Thomas Hinkle, Arati Kreibich, Kerri Luftman, Joe Quvus, Michelle Sapoff, Leslie Schraer, Linda Schultz, Pam Sturiale, Kate Wolfe

Administrators/Staff (4): John Arlotta, Brian Pepe, Kevin Brennan, Kim Hayes (guest speaker)

Welcome, Sign-in and Approval of Minutes

Mona welcomed everybody. Ann Feige made a motion to approve the 9/15/17 minutes, seconded by Linda Schultz. Unanimous approval.

1. Principals' Reports

Mr. Arlotta reported that first marking period went well, kids are well-behaved with less issues than last year. Happy to report that Pathways for Exceptional Children was awarded a 1st Place "Be Wise" award from Bergen County Prosecutor's office. Very proud of the program and how it teaches empathy and tolerance for special needs children, giving those children a social outlet. Coffee House coming up on 12/7, Winter Concert on 12/13. Still interviewing (first candidate accepted another job) for a new guidance counselor to replace Ms. Easton; interim guidance counselor is in place until permanent one is found.

Mr. Pepe filled in for Dr. Wirt. The MS staff had a full day of Schoology. Mr. Pepe brought log-in directions for Schoology to the HSA meeting and reminded parents about training sessions. Assemblies: Breaking the Cycle was great from the administration's point of view, but some parents were concerned it was too heavy. HAPPY (Heroin Addiction Prevents People's Years) 7th and 8th grade assembly was well-received. The 2nd Annual MS Kickball Tournament was a great night, teachers ended up winning in a rock-paper-scissors battle. Winter sports are about to kick off. This year's MS musical is *Mary Poppins* and auditions are coming up. Fall Fling is 11/17 from 7-9pm. Graphic artist/author George O'Connor is visiting on 11/28, thank you to the HSA for supporting this author visit where he will give an assembly and then give breakout sessions to visual arts students. HSA bagel sale is on Wednesday 11/22, send money in.

2. Treasurer's Report – Ann Feige for Gretchen Horwitz

Ann introduced herself and explained her role as Special Finance Committee chair - Gretchen's assistant for whenever Gretchen is unavailable.

Membership is at \$9,000, which is still a little low.

Expecting at least \$1,700 from new Spirit Wear sales.

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

Amazon Smile reminder for holiday shopping.

\$750 spent on dinner for the College Fair reps.

3. **BOE Report** – Kevin Brennan gave a BOE report and introduced Megan Findley as a new BOE member. Described how the BOE has moved to a Committee of the Whole format, to do away with many of the smaller committee meetings that would normally be held more privately.
 - a. **Traffic Study:** BOE voted down contributing \$10,000 toward the traffic study.
 - b. **Air Quality Tests:** another round just performed, preliminary report was that no levels of toxic compounds found in the media center.
 - c. **Superintendent Search:** Mr. Watson is doing an amazing job, the BOE is using a search firm and it is taking time. Most likely won't be resolved this year. Mr. Watson has expressed that he will stay for the legal limit of up to 2 years, but the hope is that the process goes faster.
 - d. **Ad Hoc Committee for Revenue Generation:** this BOE committee is still in existence and Kevin Brennan is interested in hearing from parents if anyone has any ideas for revenue generation for the district.
 - e. **Ad Hoc Committee for Under-Enrollment Classes:** committee to seek out ways to make under-enrollment classes more efficient—such as adding or collapsing classes, rethinking curriculum tracks.
 - f. **BOE Goals:** Initial goal was to “get a new superintendent.” Now the BOE’s goals are focusing on wellness of the child and the staff.
 - g. **Referendum for the elementary A/C:** BOE is having a retreat in early January to learn about referendums and determine how to move the process forward.
4. **HSA MobilArq Handbook:** Welcome email came from the school (sent from “support-grhsa@mobilearq.com”) to your last email known by the school (make sure the school has your current email). Leslie Schraer and Michele Sapoff will answer any questions.

5. **Guidance Department Updates**

Answers to some of your questions:

- Ms. Eaton has left and an interim counselor is here and working to ensure no kid — especially college seniors applying to schools— falls through the cracks.
- The question was asked why parents cannot have their own Naviance account? Our guidance department believes this should be the child’s responsibility to prepare them for college.
- A question was asked about college essays; why don’t more classes have essay requirements or why don’t we provide essay bootcamps or other essay help? Guidance reminded that we have Kim Hayes, HS Media Specialist, who has a great skill set in College Essays. She was previously an English teacher and editor. She is a great resource. She runs lunch and learn tutoring sessions.
 - **Kim Hayes spoke as a special guest.** As a media specialist, her focus is on literacy promotion, helping all students become better readers and writers. She set up a writer’s workshop in the library and can help kids develop their essays and think about their majors. She is familiar through

her previous job with what colleges are looking for in terms of essays. She works with seniors to help them prepare their college essays. During the school day, Ms. Hayes is here to help any student develop their writing and work on any writing assignments.

- Thank you from GRHS Guidance (Dinner for College Fair reps)

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

- MS Author Visit: George O’Connor author of the Olympians coming (\$1800)
- String Quartet for HS Concert Choir (\$800): hired for the winter concert to accompany choir’s rendition of Mozart’s Requiem in D Minor on 12/13.
- HS Poet: partial funding to bring in Ross Gay (\$1500) to speak to at least 100 students
- HS Business Classroom Upgrade: Frank Manziano, the HS Business teacher, is asking for a stock ticker and a suite of software (\$6000). [Here’s more about the financial laboratory concept and content](#). It hasn’t been approved yet, as we are looking in the community for someone to help work a donation from their company, or for other donor organizations in Glen Rock to help defray the cost.

7. **Field Trip Fund Update**

- \$10,000 left! Encouraging teachers to partake and request funds for more field trips.
- Museum of Natural History –Sally Binder’s fall and spring HS Forensic Science classes will attend a 90-min. advanced lab and use forensic anthropology techniques. (Jan 8 and April 16).
- Thank you from Theatre Arts teacher Juliet McKinley (*Hello Dolly*).

8. **Upcoming events**

- Staff Winter Holiday Brunch for the staff Thurs., December 21, sponsored by HSA. [Volunteers needed](#). (*Contact Bari Engel*)
- Spiritwear Distribution, Monday December 11, Volunteers needed to help distribute items. (*Contact Sharon Israel Childs*)
- HSA Social/Fundraiser, scheduled for Friday evening, March 2
- Career “Speed Dating” Event – March 2018. Contact Jen Scherer, who is working with Guidance’s Larry Wolff. Asking for community professionals to do brief “speed dates” to learn about different careers and how to prepare for them.

9. **Old business:** Working on bringing in a Teenage Brain presentation (for parents).

10. **New business:** MS Yearbooks must be purchased [online](#) by February 23, there will be no sales in June. This Tuesday night is 8th Grade Parent night.

11. **Next meeting** is January 26th at 9:00 am.

12. **Adjournment:** Motion made by Heidi Ryan, seconded by Kara Stansel.