



MEETING MINUTES

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA - Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2017 9:00 AM Media Center

Attendees (25): Sandi Stern, Donna Beldner, Mona Milbrodt, Gretchen Horwitz, Kara Stansel, Holly Goshin, Heidi Ryan, Margaret Walsh, Felicia Goldberg, Jill Orlich, Leslie Schraer, Donna Heller, Ann Feige, Kate Wolfe, Michelle Sapoff, Nancy Bermack, Jeanne Jones O'Brien, Susan Habler, Angela Catanzar, Ann Boyle, Karen Ryan, Elaine Howe, Barbara Gomes, Joe Quvus, Jen Scherer

Administrators (2): John Arlotta, HS Principal and Jennifer Wirt, MS Principal; Mr. Wolff, guidance.

Staff (2): Guidance counselors: Erin Theodorou and Laura Vargo

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by HSA President, Sandi Stern.

Welcome: Sandi Stern welcomed parents, administrators and staff.

Approval of the November 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Heidi Ryan.
Motion to approve by Holly Goshin and seconded by Ann Feige.

Conversation with Guidance Counselors: Ms. Theodorou, the new 6th grade guidance counselor, updated parents on recent activities such as the career quiz taken by 6th graders, running discussion groups on friendships and study skills which are open to any student and usually are referred by a parent or teacher. Ms. Theodorou was complimented on her open and frequent parent updates. Ms. Vargo, the new high school counselor, also talked about meeting with her students and the degree to which they are busy and trying to reach all kids but that it is difficult and the onus is on the students to come to them when there is a problem. Mr. Wolff gave an overview of changes in the guidance department, emphasizing that they have seen an increase in middle schoolers having the types of issues they used to see only in high school. In response to parents' inquiries for more frequent communication with parents and more initiative in reaching out to all students, Mr. Wolff stressed how difficult it is to reach out to every student in a systematic way and encouraged parents to encourage their kids to take advantage of the services offered.

Conversation with Principals: Mr. Arlotta opened the conversation to discuss the upcoming PARCC test and encourage parents to make sure their kids give their full effort. Discussion regarding the new requirement that the class of 2021 (current 8th graders) must take and pass PARCC to graduate. Reminded parents that we need 95% participation rate to avoid state mandated action plan and emphasized that schools use the data for a variety of reasons, so students should provide the best assessment of their capabilities. When asked if Mr. Feldman would be returning, Mr. Arlotta said it all indications were that he would return. In response to a question about student parking on Belmont, he said parents need to contact the GRPD

directly. He also explained the new parking rules for Hamilton Circle, it is now blocked off to preserve access for emergency vehicles. He also discussed the request made to the HSA for funding for an upgrade to the "All Purpose Room" to make it more of a space to provide life fitness skills for all students by the addition of fitness equipment such as the requested "plyo boxes." After discussion, the membership voted on a gift of \$5,000 from the HSA to fund the purchase of the requested plyo boxes.

Treasurer's Report: Gretchen Horwitz presented the Treasurer's Report which included the Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA 2016-2017 School-Year Budget and activity through January 9, 2017. Of note was the current cash balance for the HSA is \$59,198.33. Gretchen emphasized the importance of continuing to avail ourselves of "free money" sources such as deposits at Boiling Springs Bank and AmazonSmile.

Board of Ed Report: Mona Milbrodt attended the most recent Board of Ed meeting (not sure of date) where a significant portion of the discussion revolved around the latest Air Quality updates. Several parents showed up at the meeting to express their concern. The preliminary results of the testing had conformed to certain legal standards, but public comment showed that people weren't satisfied with this. Specifically, Erin Leonard and Jeff Schwendeman voiced their concern about the benzene levels and how this chemical/substance is related to cancer.

Wish List Report: Ann Feige presented her report on recent Wish List items that the HSA has funded, including: 30 new yoga mats with cart, plus 30 yoga blocks for the new yoga curriculum at the High School (\$800), catering for the MS STEEM Day in June (\$500), STEM/Maker materials for the Middle School which includes five "Makey Kits" with extra add-on clips (\$300), costume rental for the High School production of *The Addams Family* (\$800) and new curtains and a bulletin board for the Nurse's Office (\$200).

In addition, the membership voted in favor of, after a discussion of the details regarding thereof, an expenditure of \$5,000 to be used toward the purchase of new "plyo boxes" for the Weight Room that will be utilized by all the students and were requested by Mr. Arlotta.

Field Trip Fund: Holly Goshin shared the latest field trips funded by the HSA, including \$1,000 to Ms. Bennin/HS Social Studies for the Model UN Club to visit Philadelphia, \$1,000 for Ms. Metcsh-Ampel/HS English to see the play *Jitney* at the Manhattan Theater Club, \$1,000 for Ms. Walter/HS Social Studies to see *Miss Saigon* in May and tour Mott Street to coincide with their studies on immigration and \$1,000 for Ms. McKinley/GRMS Theater Club to see *Hello Dolly* in May.

Other Discussions: Sandi Stern thanked everyone for attending, as well as thanking Bari Engel for chairing the Staff Holiday Luncheon and Jen Scherer for organizing a fantastic GRHS alumni College Panel event. Volunteers were solicited for the New Fundraising Committee and for the 6th Grade Parent Committee.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kara Stansel and seconded by Heidi Ryan.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Heidi Ryan.