

**Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**June 10, 2015 – 9:00 AM**

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**Attendees (21):** Grace Cosgriff, Elaine Howe, Kathy Duggan, Sandi Stern, Anne Marie Podd, Mona Milbrodt, Ann Feige, Kara Stansel, Ann Boyle, Joyce Silva, Michelle Sapoff, Angela Vila, Heather McDermott (science teacher), Jennifer Scherer, Gretchen Horwitz, Felicia Goldberg, Alissa Somers, Kate Wolfe, Linda Schultz, Jane Geoghegan, Maureen Jeffries

**Administrators (1):** Edward Thompson, MS Principal

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by HSA President, Grace Cosgriff.

**Approval of May 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Submitted by Anne Marie Podd.  
Motion to approve by Ann Feige and seconded by Mona Milbrodt.

**Principal's Report:**

**Middle School – Mr. Thompson**

- Three quarters of the transition for 5<sup>th</sup> graders has been completed with school visits and Fly Up days. There will be a Discovery Day for them in August.
- Spring Fling went well. It was mostly 6<sup>th</sup> graders, but they had a great time.
- The Memorial Day assembly was well received.
- Spring Concert went well.
- Tic Toc Theatre program visited 6<sup>th</sup> grade on June 5<sup>th</sup>
- June 9<sup>th</sup> – Author Todd Strasser visit was wonderful! He presented to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Thank you, HSA!
- Tomorrow, The Promise Foundation is coming to talk to students about skin cancer. This program was well received last year.
- Coming up: 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have a field trip to the Glen Rock Arboretum.
- Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
- Last day of school is a half day on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Robert Ax Awards were in early June. Went well! Mrs. McDermott and Mrs. Nerney were surprised.
- Mr. Thompson asked the audience for opinions on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. Should we keep it, because it has worked for so long, or think about changing the trip to Boston? Similar trip, different location, but might be a little less expensive. Feel free to give him your thoughts.

- Parent Noted: 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Philadelphia, 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. – What about a 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip? Mr. Thomson said there used to be a camping trip in 7<sup>th</sup> grade which got to be too complicated. Now 7<sup>th</sup> grade does day trips. (To see Romeo & Juliet, Broadway shows, etc.) Trip suggestions usually come from teachers, but parent suggestions are welcome. (One parent suggested the Tenement Museum in NYC.) Send ideas to Mr. Thompson.
- Ann Feige will send Mr. Thompson an email confirming all half-days on the school calendar. This is to facilitate the HSA Bagel/Smoothie fundraiser days. Yes – we are clear to do this on the first day of school, which is a half day.
- The Middle School supply lists are online.
- The summer reading lists are online.  
(Parents noted that half the books on the reading list are out of print and hard to find. Even the Curious Reader store can't order them. Try Amazon for used books. Use Amazon link (HSA Fundraiser) through [www.grchips.com](http://www.grchips.com) so HSA gets percentage of sales. The library may have the books, but the wait list gets long.)
- Mr. Thompson noted that teachers recommend books based on literary value and don't necessarily know what's still in print. Parents said maybe the list could be refreshed with some more current options.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Dance isn't happening. There was not enough interest from the students. They wanted an off-site venue, not a dance at the school. (A parent noted that the Sophomore Social at the high school was a big success. Well done.)
- Teacher/Staff updates:  
Ms. Rizzo (gym) is retiring. A new gym teacher has been hired.  
Two of the 6th grade block teachers, Ms. Anari and Ms. Glynn are leaving due to relocations. Ms. Glynn's position has been filled. They are currently interviewing for Ms. Anari's position.
- Thank you for the staff breakfast!

### **High School - Mr. Arlotta was on a school trip and unable to attend.**

#### **Treasurer's Report – Ann Feige**

- Proposed 2015/2016 budget was approved. Motion to approve was made by Angela Vila and seconded by Maureen Jeffries.
- Our Direct Ask fundraising campaign is up to \$5,182. We budgeted for \$5,000, so this is a success!

## Committees

- Nominating Chair, Angela Vila, presented the 2015/2016 Slate:

<b>President</b>	<b>Sandi Stern</b>
<b>Executive VP</b>	<b>Kara Stansel</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP</b>	<b>Mona Milbrodt</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>	<b>Donna Beldner</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> VP</b>	<b>Kathy Duggan</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Anne Marie Small (Podd)</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gretchen Horwitz</b>
<b>Emeritus</b>	<b>Grace Cosgriff</b>

Motion to approve was made by Janet Romano. All voted in favor.

- Volunteer Committee forms for 2015/2016 were passed out. Let Angela Vila know what you would like to do.
- Volunteers positions filled at this meeting:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Ice Cream Social – Janet Romano
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon – Elaine Howe
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Party – Maureen Jeffries and Anne Marie Podd
- Still Need Chairs for these and many other positions:
  - HSA Membership  
Note: For the handbook, some children have 2 homes. They need to add this option to the form.
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Party
  - Academic Awards Hospitality
- Elaine Howe will speak for the HSA at the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony.

### Note: Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Welcome Letter

- Let people know there are still many opportunities to volunteer. Some people drop off the radar once their kids are out of elementary school.

## Fundraising

- Maureen Jeffries explained the **Never Ending Book Fair** at the Curious Reader: Mention the HSA when you buy/order your summer reading books (or any books!) at The Curious Reader and receive a 5% discount. HSA receives a percentage of the sales.

### **Wish List**

- Granted – Chairs for Eileen Besser for her small instruction room.
- The Chicken Coop is coming! Heather McDermott (science teacher) explained that it will be in the enclosed courtyard, near guidance.

### **Book Group**

A parent mentioned that the May 27th Book Group discussing Frank Bruni's ***Where You Go is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania***, was well attended! If you have any good book recommendations for the group, contact high school teachers Mrs. Walter or Mrs. Mahoney.

### **Thank You!!**

Lauren Mitchell (Media Center) sent us an enthusiastic thank you letter for the author, Todd Strasser, visit to the middle school. She stopped by the meeting to thank us personally. Mrs. Mitchell said it was the best author visit she's ever had. Fabulous! So engaging! The kids loved it! She also arranged a luncheon with Mr. Strasser and 24 students (2 from each class). Mr. Strasser said, "In all my years of having student lunches, this was the best ever!" He couldn't believe the insightful questions the students asked and the comments they made. Mrs. Mitchell was so impressed and proud of them. It was wonderful to watch! Thank you, HSA!

### **Outgoing Board Members**

President Grace Cosgriff presented Ann Feige and Elaine Howe with beautiful flower baskets and thanked them for their service to the HSA Executive Board.

### **Next Meeting: TBD in September. Happy Summer!**

The motion to adjourn was made by: Kara Stansel and Mona Milbrodt.

*Minutes respectively submitted by Anne Marie Podd.*