

Glen Rock Middle School/High School HSA/Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2015 – 9:00 AM – Media Center

Attendees (40): Sandi Stern, Donna Beldner, Grace Cosgriff, Kathy Duggan, Anne Marie Podd, Mona Milbrodt, Kara Stansel, Gretchen Horwitz, Ann Feige, Maureen Jeffries, Joyce Silva, Lorraine Scarsdale, Ann Boyle, Alissa Somers, Felicia Goldberg, Angela Catanzaro, Donna Carlin, Corrin McCarthy, Liz Cox, Robyn Kampf-Vincent, Christine Heenan, Donna Heller, Sungwoon Lee, Eileen Murphy, Linda Schultz, Jane Geoghey, Janet Romano, Barbara Gomes, Ted Jadick, Julianna Moore, Inna Ostrovskaya, Stephanie Belasco, Sharon Scarpelli, Stasha Vincinanza, Ameri Sardi, Paula Hegyi, Martine Rizzo Levine, Jill Orlich, Joan Fisher, Michele Sapoff

Administrators (4): Edward Thompson (MS Principal), John Arlotta (HS Principal), Michael Pasciuto (HS Asst. Principal), Dr. Paula Valenti (Superintendent)

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by HSA President, Sandi Stern.

Approval of the June 10, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Submitted by Anne Marie Podd. Motion to approve by Grace Cosgriff and seconded by Ann Feige.

Principals' Reports:

High School – Mr. Arlotta

Mr. Arlotta thanked all the parents for coming. Great turnout!

- Mr. Arlotta introduced the high school's new Assistant Principal, Michael Pasciuto. Mr. Pasciuto is from Cresskill and took a few moments to introduce himself. Dr. Valenti and Mr. Arlotta mentioned that Mr. Pasciuto has a well-rounded background, including strong academic, teaching, technical and coaching experience.
- The new fitness center is in the works. We have great new equipment. It uses half of the all-purpose room. With longer gym periods, we have enhanced the phys ed program and the new fitness center is a big part of that.
- The HS is expanding the communications and broadcast media program. Room D113 is now the broadcast media studio. Mr. Arlotta thinks the program will be very popular.
- The World Language Program has added Mandarin and we have a new Mandarin teacher. We now have four languages being taught in our district.
- Field enhancements: New lighting is in. This will greatly expand the use of the fields. Our first home game under the lights is at 6PM on Oct. 9th.
- Blood Drive: The kids organized this. It gives them good leadership experience. The drive is Oct. 30th, for students and parents. The goal is to get 50 donations.

- Oct. 1st at 7:00 PM is the HS Back-to-School Night.
- Oct. 7th is the new Community Showcase. Dr. Valenti mentioned that the showcase idea came from summer discussions on how to build a strong relationship between the school and the community. Community organizations need members, volunteers and support. It's also an excellent way for new families to get to know out district.
- Dr. Valenti also talked about upcoming book clubs for parents and the February 2016 book study and author Skype with Dr. Denise Pope of Challenge Success/ Stanford University. It will be in the media center. Check the high school website for details.
- Mr. Arlotta mentioned that he has not been happy with student behavior at football games (throwing lemons, shouting, etc.). The HS is refocusing students on positive behavior.
- Get kids to school on time, please! He asked for parents help in teaching good skills.
- The replacement for English teacher, Mr. Silver, is in the works. Rather than put in a sub, the current English faculty have stepped up to cover classes.

Middle School- Mr. Thompson

- The middle school currently has 575 students and 4 new teachers.
- 6th grade ice cream social went well. About 125 students attended.
- Back-to-School Night was Sept. 10th. It was well attended by approximately 400 parents.
- Oct. 5-9 is the MS Week of Respect. Mike Fowlin will speak on Fri. 10/9.
- Magazine sale (fundraiser for 8th grade trip to Wash. D.C.) is kicking off.
- Oct. 7th is a homework-free night.
- Oct. 23 is picture day.
- Oct. 30th is the 6th&7th grade dance.
- Nov. 13th is the Fall Fling for 6th, 7th & 8th grades. Great fun!
- The middle school musical is *The Sound of Music*.
- Sports: Soccer, Cross Country and Volleyball are off to a good start.
- Reminder: Please do not drop students off on Harristown Road. It is dangerous!
- Email Mr. Thompson about students getting outside at recess.

Treasurer's Report – Gretchen Horwitz

- Gretchen presented the current financial report and budget.
- HSA dues are coming in. Good because this makes up most of our operating budget.
- Sandi Stern noted that it may look like we have a lot of money in our account, but we are waiting to hear about plans for the new media center. The school has to decide if they want our help.

Committees

Nominating Chair (Angela Vila could not attend. Sandi Stern presented for her.)

- Barbara Gomes volunteered to coordinate volunteers at 6th & 7th grade dance
- Joan Fisher (junior parent) volunteered to run June 9th academic awards.
- Kara Stansel (senior parent) volunteered to run Yearbook Party.

Board of Ed (Donna Beldner)

- The Curriculum Report was presented by Dr. Kathleen Regan. Parents can find it online.
- Our teachers still do not have a contract.
- Parents asked what the holdup is with the contract. Donna said it is between the Board of Education and the Teachers' Union and isn't being discussed in public.
- Sandi Stern pointed out that our teachers continue to work without a contract. Our staff is pitching in and doing an excellent job.
- Overall, the goal is to keep things positive until a resolution.
- BOE elections are coming up! Meet the candidates, Oct. 13th at 7:00PM at Central School. This is sponsored by the League of Women Voters.
- Oct. 20th is the Federated meeting 9:00 AM Byrd School: All schools, all HSAs.

CHIPS (Kathy Duggan)

- Deadline for submissions to the CHIPS email is noon on Monday. CHIPS goes out on Tuesdays.
- Parents can access all MS/HS HSA information at www.grchips.com
- Or find our HSA under the Parents/Students tab on the school website.

MS Back to School Night (Ann Feige)

- Thanks to all who created and participated in the online fundraiser last spring!
- Thanks to all who baked for Back to School Night!

Curious Reader Fundraiser (Maureen Jeffries)

- Please shop at the Curious Reader for school, summer reading, holiday gifts, teen books, etc.
- 10% goes back to us! They can also order books for you. They are very helpful! The Curious Reader works with our teachers.

Other Money Makers for the HSA

- Shop through the AMAZON link on our webpage.
- BOXTOPS! (Yes! We still collect them in the MS and HS offices.)
- Target Card link (Choose MS/HS HSA.)
- Open an account at Boiling Springs Bank. All HSA member accounts are part of their Community Alliance Program. The HSA earns money on the combined balance of all the accounts. The more people who open accounts there, the more money we can make. You can open accounts for your kids, too.

Upcoming Guidance Dates (Anne Marie Podd):

- Oct. 8 – Junior Parent Night
- Oct. 15th – College Admissions Panel
- Oct. 28th – College Fair

Next MS/HS HSA General Meeting will be in the EVENING:

Wednesday, Nov. 18th, 7:30 PM in the Media Center

The motion to adjourn was made at 10:05 AM by: Donna Beldner and Kathy Duggan.

Minutes respectively submitted by Anne Marie Podd.