

Alexander Hamilton Elementary School HSA General Meeting, November 2016

November 17, 2016 7:30pm, Media Center
Carollyn Finegold and Stephanie Carosella, Presiding

HSA Attendance: Carollyn Finegold, Co-President; Stephanie Carosella, Co-President; Kim Kafafian, 1st Vice President; Andrea Silk, 2nd Vice President; Jenelle Wise, 3rd Vice President; Maria Dreyer, 3rd Vice President; Barbara Livolsi, Co-Treasurer; Linda Pongetti, Co-Communications Vice President; Sheila Berard, Co-Communications Vice President; Stephanie Cece, Secretary; Joyce Silva; Robyn Kampf; , Margaret Walsh; Deirdre Healy; Erica Song

Welcome, Sign In, and Approval of Minutes: Carollyn welcomes the attendees. She asks for approval of the HSA minutes from the September meeting. Minutes are approved.

Principal's Report - Irene Pierides:

- Veteran's Day Assembly was a wonderful experience for children, led by Jen Casey. About eight veterans attended. Robyn Kampf suggested that next year, perhaps each student could put an American flag on the grass in front of the school.
- School Climate Committee: The purpose of this committee is to reduce bullying. Margaret Walsh is the representative parent. At last week's meeting, respect and manners were discussed. We would like children to be more responsible for the mess that they leave at lunch. There will be a Golden Mop award: Mr. Andre will watch for the cleanest class and the winners will get 10 minutes of extra recess with Mr. Andre. In addition, kindness and respect will be promoted with a new program: Hamilton Shining Stars. This will be acknowledged at the monthly Hamilton's Got Talent. Deserving students will get a certificate and a star with their name. Caring for Me, Caring for Each other, Caring for the Environment is another way to promote a positive school climate.
- Technology goal - learning how to use google classroom as a staff so that next year it can be used at Hamilton. Mrs. Lippey and Mr. Diomede are teaching the rest of the staff.
- This past weekend was Gender Conference East in Newark. A transgender child attended Hamilton two years ago. Mrs. Pierides and Mrs. Gloede presented with a parent.
- The kindergarten Coffee with the Principal was a success.
- This year, there are new in-class music concerts. We are promoting the process of learning music, rather than just the final product.
- Frozen Friday money goes toward the 5th grade yearbook

Motion to vote on new sign - Report from Carollyn about the sign for the front of the school: She passed around a sample of what the sign will look like. \$2495 is cost. Motion is approved.

Treasurer's Report - Barbara Livolsi: A projected column was added to the budget.

Communications Update - Linda Pongetti

Committee Update - Jenelle Wise and Maria Dreyer

Federated HSA Update - Kimberly Kafafian:

Each school contributes \$600 to Federated budget. This is the last year for the HSA handbook.

SEPAC - next meeting is 1/24 at 7:30 at HS/MS Media Center.

The Five year survey closed, with a 25% return rate. Borough and district are looking for ways to collaborate.

We are trying to get a grant for a drug free community program for \$125,000 over the next 5 years.

Power Point Presentation by Dr. Regan discussed Social Studies, World Language, various programs.

School Lunch - There was a meeting with Pomptonian to discuss healthier options at lunch. They will pilot some options from January to March.

Event Report

Spirit Wear Sale: 2016 total: \$1320.50. 2015 total: \$1000.03. We need new coordinators for next year.

Kidstuff fundraiser - Maria Dreyer: About 96 books were sold. Some still need to be collected. Possibly hold this fundraiser earlier next year or every other year.

Book Fair (9/27) - Carolyn Finegold: Raised about \$3800 in Scholastic Dollars. Kim Paradise will lead the Spring Book Fair.

Fall Social - Andrea Silk: \$1200 was raised, which will go toward water filtration system.

Hamilton Helping Hands - Robyn Vincenti

Pajamas were collected for the Kindness for Christopher project

Big Sweep - raking leaves for elderly people in the community

Toy Drive - run by Michele Sapoff (11/28-12/7). 5th graders will wrap the presents.

Drive for Ridgewood Social Services Association, led by Margaret Walsh. Every grade will get a child in need and families can donate items. This is for clothes or books, not toys.

5th Grade Community Service: Turkey Grams, led by Alison Chiappetta will sell for \$1. It is a pencil with a turkey topper, and a note that is sent to someone. Parents can participate as well. The 5th graders will help make the turkey toppers, distribute items, and collect money which will be donated at the end of the year to an organization that they select.

Other business:

- Holiday Shop: 12/8 and 12/9, led by Stephanie Carosella and Kim Kafafian. Kids can come shop for holiday gifts. There are about 17 moms who are on the committee. We are using a vendor.
- Starting in January, Carolyn will be emeritus and Stephanie will take over as president.

New Business

- Question about recorders from Joyce Silva - now 3rd graders do not keep them. They will be reused.
- Holiday Decorations for lobby - Joyce Silva. She has \$80 left to use. They usually have a snow theme.

Next Meeting: January 19th at 10:00 am in the Media Center

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Cece
Hamilton HSA Secretary