

Washington School
HSA Meeting Minutes
201 Central Avenue West Caldwell NJ 07006

November 11, 2020

Virtual Meeting called to order at 7:06

Meeting Minutes from October 7, 2020 were approved

Attendance (#) 37

Martha Fava, Stephanie Rosant, Nicole Colello, Kristan Kehoe, Danielle Cochrane, Taryn Kaufman, Cristen Pennello, Rebecca Vlacich, Jen Mattesky, Stephanie Warlick, Janine Barboza, Padma Mukherjee, Liz Hart, Adrienne Mee, Katie Moniello, Jill Olinksy, Emilie Colantoni, Beth Waxman, Megan Jaworksi, Melissa Lace, Michelle Ferraro, Lisbeth Axell-Christiana, Christina Yurkosky, Jennie Riordan, Jennifer Hansen, Carly Luciano, Jenna Hawkswell, Kathleen DeOliviera, Dana LaBattaglia, Laura Silvers, Theresa Migliaccio, Lauren Smith Cohen, Terri Di-Martini Greenlee, Stefanie Swanson, Kerry Guzman, Jeanie Gerdy

Faculty Update

Everyone was so excited, and the kids were smiling and happy to be in school. The faculty is thankful for the support at home and they cannot wait for everyone to come in. The teacher's felt that it was so nice to hear the kids voices in the hallways!

Principal/Staff Update

Mrs. Hawkswell: In-person learning is going well. Having kids in the building has boosted the atmosphere. Teachers and students are bonding and enjoyed celebrating Halloween together. Thank you to parents for all they are doing and for being so involved. Collection of canned goods was a success. Superintendent search continues, it is being run by someone hired from the outside. Principals and other district employees have been asked for their input on what is needed in the district. Everything is in place for a successful search.

Mrs. Gerdy: Thank you to the families. Two staff members (Mrs. Azzari and Mrs. Brock) had babies! Everyone is doing well!

President Update

- Special thanks to:
 - Pumpkin Painting Committee for making the event possible. We are hopeful that we can continue this next year.
 - Family Fun Night Committee for pushing through to make things happen. Scavenger Hunt was great to see.
 - Taryn Kauffman for putting together the Halloween video. It was great to see the kids in costumes. It gave everyone a sense of normal!
- Motion to cancel December meeting.

Budget/Treasurer's Report

- Operating budget: Starting balance \$48,763.07 Ending balance \$46,392.19
- Licensing account remains at \$650 with no activity
- Total deposits: 614.12 (mainly from Membership Dues and First Day School Supplies)
- Total withdrawals: 2,985.00 (mainly Class Dues)

Committee Updates

- Sunshine Committee:
Annual Staff Holiday Breakfast cannot be held this year so creative alternatives are being considered. Catering will still take place but the format will be different (no Sign Up Genius for families to contribute). Suggestion to utilize the JCHS Scholarship Committee Shoprite Gift Card fundraiser to purchase food/catering.
- Fifth Grade Promotion:
Fifth graders will receive their shirts "Virtually Strong" at the end of this week/beginning of next. The Community Service Committee is working with Mrs. Jobes and other teachers to come up with service ideas. All ideas for service came from the kids and there will be multiple projects to help build community. School-wide projects will be promoted and include a coat drive through Jersey Cares (Nov-Jan) and adopt a foster care child through CASA to purchase gifts for those in need. More to come in January. The Yearbook Committee is collecting pictures. In a normal year, photos should be ones taken on school grounds only. Considerations being made for this year. Should have a theme by the next meeting in January.
- James Caldwell HS Scholarship Fund:
Consider purchasing Shoprite gift cards for all your holiday shopping needs

New Business

- Purchase gift cards from the school for our custodians as a way to give back and show our thanks for all they are doing to keep school clean and safe for Thanksgiving. Considering taking the money from Sunshine or another area where there is extra.

Questions

- In regards to Class Parent emails/communication: concerns about being asked to run events in the evening especially the Thanksgiving event. It is difficult to run these evening events. Can we have a better way of communicating ideas between VPS and Class Parents? (Response: Not a teacher-run activity, was talked about over the summer, could be flexible and optional, events were reviewed with Class Parents after having been approved by Mrs. Hawkswell)

- Concern about Frosty Friends interfering with the 5th Grade Community Service projects. Are there other options? (VPs did not know what the 5th grade would be doing when they signed up for Frosty Friends and we are already committed.)
- Too many Class Parent emails...can they all be sent directly from Mrs. Dyer so there is fairness across the board where everyone hears about things at the same time?
- Class Reps want to be more involved in planning events. Can we have meetings beforehand? (VPS are open to another Class Parent meeting if parents feel it would be helpful...YES it would be helpful!) Request was made to have this meeting scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM