

Federated HSA Minutes

Byrd School

March 14, 2019 9:30 am

Attendees: Colleen Manly, Erica Bratspies, Bruce Watson, John Arlotta, Jodie Craft, Allison DeMeulder, Jen Lota, Megan Jolin, Heidi Ryan, Ann Boyle, Katie Fanelli, Sharon Tishco, Nancy Bermack, Alison Bloomfield, Janelle Wise, Valerie Merlin, Michelle Schassberger, Sheila Berard, Melissa Antonelli, Lynda Coppola, Kathy Duggan, Jennifer Casey, Sharon Scarpelli

1. Welcome – Colleen Manley, Erica Bratspies

- Thank you for coming today and for all your support the Referendum vote.

2. Approval of January 2019 Federated HSA Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve – Jen Lota; 2nd Megan Jolin

3. Board Officer Updates

- Presented by Colleen Manley and Erica Bratspies
 - a. Online Directory – the team is working with Rich Santos to move up the date for next year. Also have a new family letter that each school will provide to families new to the district to inform them how to be in the online directory.
 - b. Calendar – Thank you for your updates. The team has been meeting with Sandy Marinos to improve the process for next year.
 - c. Treasurer – Budget is on track. Fortunately the Jets Day funds were able to cover the costs of the Referendum signs and senior luncheon. The draft budget for next year will have been distributed and will be voted on at the next Federated meeting.

4. District Updates

- a. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Watson
 - Compliments to the Administration – it was suggested parents listen to them more as they work with the schools and students every day.
 - The Board of Education is great and has a good heart for the kids.
 - The parents in the district are highly engaged; there is outstanding parental involvement. The leadership of the HSA's, particularly Colleen and Erica, has been tremendous.
 - The new Superintendent is fortunate to have all this to work with in his new position.

- The Referendum passed so Mr. Watson and Mike Rinderknecht will be meeting with the architects next week. It is anticipated that construction will begin Spring/Summer of 2020 with estimated completion by October 2020. Would have preferred a better turnout for the Referendum vote.
- State Performance Reports were released yesterday and a letter will go out to each family later this week. Please speak with your respective principals if you have questions.
- Tuesday night, 3/19, the Board of Education will vote on the tentative budget for the 2019-20 school year. This will be a temporary budget submitted to the state for review. Some new items in the budget are a Literacy Specialist and other projects like asbestos tile removal.

b. Elementary School Principal Update – Mrs. Craft

Byrd School

- The kids loved That Physics Show
- Bash the Trash coming in April
- Thanks to the HSA for a successful Health Fair
- Book Fair with new provider (Follett) happening now
- Student Council to run Pennies for Patients
- Read-a-thon coming soon

Hamilton School

- Book Festival last week
- Science Fair had 130 participants
- Held a Husky Café
- Breakfast in School Day
- Multi-cultural Festival
- Spring Arts coming in April

Coleman School

- Coleman Café held on 3/1
- Successful Science Fair
- For 5th grade transition they saw the MS Musical last week
- This is a homework free week
- 4th grade is currently studying the Lenape

Central School

- Read Across America

- PJ Day
- Science Fair happening tonight
- Author visit on 3/20
- Lion King Musical
- Spring concert and art show on April 11
- Poetry Slam on April 12

c. MS/HS Principal Updates – Mr. Arlotta

- Middle School musical Fiddler on the Roof just finished last week
- 6th graders participated in a living wax museum
- March 22 is Makers Day for the 6th grade
- The MS and HS Principals appreciate the passing of the Referendum – they look to model their media center after colleges and they believe the new media center will do just that.
- High School was recently ranked as #3 in the state by the State of NJ. This is influenced partially by Parc Test scores so parental support for students taking the Parc test is appreciated.
- High School Musical was Mama Mia which finished in February
- HS hosted their first Robotics meet on February 24 and were awarded best host!
- March 27th is the Interact Fashion Show to support Hope Lodge.

d. Community School Update – Allison DeMeulder

- SAT fundraiser has 38 students, the ACT fundraiser had 74 students
- In September they will have one day college tours to NYU and Fordham; possibly a second day to either PA or CT colleges. They are looking for chaperones.
- Enrichment for Spring Semester starts later this month. To include Latin, Karate, and Chess.
- Girls Who Code to start in the Fall for students elementary and up.
- Summer Camp registration started in January and they are already about half full.

e. Board of Education Update – Sharon Scarpelli

- Thank you for all the hard work on the Referendum
- Encourages everyone to come to BOE budget meeting on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30. It will be a joint meeting with the Town.
- Expect the budget increase to be bigger than 2% because the banked cap expires at the end of this year.
- The new Superintendent begins July 1.

5. Open Discussion

- Question was asked if a survey could be done to find out why more people didn't vote. Would be helpful if we knew how people wanted to receive information since some senior voices on social media seemed to be unaware.
- Conversation indicated that there were multiple attempts and multiple mediums used to communicate. A suggestion was made to utilize other forums where large groups of parents are already gathered, and to try texting which has been effective for some.

Closing: Colleen and Erica thank you again for all your support. Please come to the May 22 meeting and bring friends as we will be voting on the Federated HSA budget and the new board for 2019-20.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Duggan.