

# Federated HSA Meeting Minutes

## Coleman School

October 11, 2018 7:00 pm

Attendees: Colleen Manley, Erica Bratspies, Michelle Schassberger, Mara Trager, Alix Schafer, Kathy Duggan, Hilary Gerber, Kerri Luftman, Sheila Berard, Jenelle Wise, Paul Hegyi, Kate Wolfe, Barbara Gomes, Mike Rinderknecht, Allison Cassin, Sinead Rundell, Minnie Leishear, Chris Leishear, Nancy Bermack, Heidi Ryan, Orlee Goldfeld, Lisa Torsiello, Bryan Torsiello, Allison DeMeulder, Bruce Watson, Ed Thompson, Jennifer Wirt

1. Welcome & Introductions – Colleen Manley & Erica Bratspies

2. Superintendent Search – Dr. Bill Librera

a) Dr. Librera was hired by the BOE to lead the Superintendent search. In addition to the community forums, he is working with the BOE to conduct a survey for two weeks to collect input from the community including students 14 and over. The survey data is then provided to the BOE which will inform the search and the newspaper ad. It takes about 4 weeks for applicants to respond so there is plenty of time for evaluation. They try to keep applicants information private in the early stages. Expect 25-55 candidates to apply. Dr. Librera will create a skeletal outline of all applicants with limited identification for the first round. He will provide his assessment of which ones best fit the criteria. They would like to interview 50% of applicants for first round of interviews. By February/March should have top candidates identified. Expect to make an offer between May and July 1<sup>st</sup>.

b) The search could extend outside of the area, up to the BOE to decide. It could go outside of NJ.

c) Bill's questions to us:

i) What are the strengths of the district?

Answers: Sense of community, neighborhood elementary schools, parent involvement, smart students.

ii) What are the challenges?

Answers: Growing enrollment and lack of space in the schools; not always a setting for special needs; meeting the needs of all the different segments of the population; security in the schools; balancing student ambition with stress levels; administration is stretched for the district (is this the cause of superintendent turnover?).

3. Approval of May 2018 Federated HSA Meeting Minutes –

Approved by all; no dissensions except to correct spelling for Goldfeld name.

4. Approval of Federated HSA Budget for 2018-2019 School Year

- a. Motion to approve: 1st Barbara Gomes, 2nd Sinead Rundell

5. Board Officer Updates

- a. Presidents – Colleen Manley & Erica Bratspies
- i. Jets day success, calendar approved and published this week
- b. Online Directory – Mara Trager & Liz Sonzogni - received data from district last week. Tried to update only but had to do a complete data dump. Will try to find a workaround for next year. People will most likely need to sign-up again for MobileArq. Had low participation last year, so please promote signing up with your members. Hoping it will be set to go live next week. Question: is there an archive in mobile arq other than PDF print out? Answer: No.
- c. Calendar – Alix Schafer - Calendar approved. Please send Alix and [GRFederatedHSA@gmail.com](mailto:GRFederatedHSA@gmail.com) any updates for the bi-weekly updates.
- d. Treasurer – Michele Schassberger - \$465 raised from Jets fundraiser. Now that budget approved as of tonight, bills will be going out for \$100 dues per HSA.
- e. SEPAC – Kristine Gifford & Nicole Redmond – Orlee Goldfeld  
3 district wide meetings are scheduled, please encourage parents whose children are getting or trying to get special services to attend. Calendar of meetings is updated on district schools website.

6. District Updates

- a. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Watson
- i. Referendum  
Dr. Reagan unable to come, but she wants to share that curriculum exists online under "Useful Documents" to see Curriculum initiative. She will be at the next meeting.
- ii. He is meeting with the various HSAs and now have an agreed upon Federated calendar. Next year trying to get HSA involved with school dude program.
- iii. Referendum 4 projects – media center, AC, Hamilton field, central auditorium (needs to be brought up to code/ADA).
- iv. May get some debt service aid from the state to reduce the cost. BOE will then decide on the final projects. Hope that in January will know exact details. May break it out into 4 individual project questions on ballot or keep them all together. If approved by vote in March then go to bid but work will not begin until following Spring/Summer.
- v. Bullying/HIB – Mr. Watson is putting together a special presentation for the HSA in January. Recently did one for BOE which showed all the programs, etc. (see his handout). Anti-bullying law vs. code of conduct (see notes from pre-fed). Number of parents told him not enough was being done last year. Will have all 5/6/7<sup>th</sup> graders prepped for the Lizzie Sider concert. In response to question, Mr. Watson responded saying the schools are not penalized for reporting HIB infractions.

- vi. Superintendent search – The law capped salaries so smaller district means smaller salary. They will have to project this district positively via a marketing campaign to be competitive for the best talent. Utilizing FB page to promote the district.
- vii. PARCC results – good especially compared to other schools in NJ. Need to continue working in Math. New Middle School Math program. Hired a math specialist in elementary schools. Year to year 70 more kids took the test. Everyday Math is not going away since Math scores are still better than the state overall.
- viii. NJQSAC – getting ready for state audit.

b. Elementary School Principal Update – Mr. Thompson

**Byrd –**

- Byrd’s school year has been off to a great start! We celebrated Family Fun Day on September 15th. Many thanks to our HSA for a fantastic day!
- Our Week of Respect was a huge success. After a week of themed days, we finished off the week with an assembly from Mighty Mike.
- Our school wide motto contest was a big hit! The votes are in and our new school motto is, “Be brave, be bold, be beautiful, be Byrd!”

**Central –**

- WE are happy to welcome – Miss Colonna in first grade, Mrs. Garrido in the resource center and Mr. Hernandez who is teaching Spanish at Byrd and Central.
- We love having and meeting all of our new students and our kindergarteners.
- Another Thank you to the amazing HSA for our newly decorated Hallway – It looks amazing we are so very grateful for their time.
- Celebration of Respect Week: Daily announcements over the loud speaker. Ann Chon, our guidance counselor, did a lesson in each classroom. Our first “Families” meeting will be this Friday afternoon centered on The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates.
- Walk to School Day October 10th : Parents and Teachers met at various stops along the route and walked with the children. We also “Dunk Our Kick” - where we donated old sneakers to benefit pediatric Cancer.
- Central School’s Haunted House will be held on Friday, October 19th and Saturday, October 20th. It is a fifth grade fundraiser and is open to the public.

**Hamilton –**

- Thank you to our H.S.A. for the welcome back coffee for our parents and luncheon for our staff.
- Back to School Night was well attended at Hamilton.
- Hamilton’s Book Fair was held last week.
- Scott Chesney joined us on October 1st to speak to children about friendships, inclusion, confidence, and to promote a positive attitude. Scott also presented to parents in the evening. The information was well-received by the 30+ attendees.

- Walk to School Day: October 10<sup>th</sup>. Students meet our PE teacher, Mr. H. at Starbucks and walk together to school. Fruit and water will await them at the school when they arrive.
- There will be a **Coffee with the Principal** session on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for new K parents and all new families to Hamilton.
- On October 24<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton and Coleman Schools welcomes **Amy VanDerwater** who will work with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders on poetry.
- A wonderful tradition continues at Hamilton...Our **First Grade Manners Husky Café** will take place on Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.
- We look forward to the **Halloween Parade** on October 31<sup>st</sup>

Coleman -

- Thanks to our HSA for paying for new flexible seating arrangements for teachers and students.
- The HSA also purchased new 5th grade activities for lunchtime fun: Gaga, Cornhole, etc.
- Thanks to the BOE for giving us half-days in September when the weather was so hot.
- Our first Coleman Café of the year, for 5th graders, was a great success!
- No homework day Oct 17
- Circus week starts next week
- Farm Fest will be 10/12
- 5th grade will visit Fair Lawn HS for the Lizzie Sider concert on 10/29

c. MS/HS Principal Updates – Dr. Wirt

- 1) HS awarded national blue ribbon school
- 2) 9/26 blood drive collected 40 pints
- 3) A Girl Like Her movie presentation
- 4) MS – diaper drive for NC disaster relief
- 5) Collecting lightly use Halloween costumes for the disadvantaged
- 6) 3<sup>rd</sup> annual staff vs. students football game
- 7) HIB specialist conducting sessions during lunch
- 8) Hackensack hospital doctors spoke about dangers of vaping
- 9) Referendum in MS/HS media space – lower viewing room used as a classroom – would like to see it used as a TV studio. Would also like to have a maker space. Add more, small class spaces in the media center. Update the furniture (outlets in seating, more flexible).

d. Community School Update – Allison DeMeulder

- i. Brand new to district – pre-school pre-registration will be available for returning families; new summer camps; before and after care requests increased 14% year over year; registration for before and after care will open at the end of the school year for following Fall.

e. Board of Education Update – Bryan Torsiello

- 10/17 candidates night
- Thanks to Ms. Findley for getting superintendent search survey going.

7. New Business

- a. Relay for Life – Barbara Gomes
    - i. Overnight cancer fundraiser June 1 & 2. Combined GR and Fair Lawn. This year will be held at GRHS. This past year the MS team raised close to \$11k in 2018. Would like more elementary school involvement. Will have more activities and want it to be more of a community event. HS team doing a bowling fundraiser on 10/23.
8. Reminder: Order Spirit Wear by 10/26.

Motion to adjourn: Made at 9:00 pm by Sinead Rundell.