

## Federated HSA Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2018

Hamilton School

7:30 p.m.

**Attendees:** Andrea Silk, Cathy Courtney Fintzy, Colleen Manley, Mona Milbrodt, Sara Mazin, Michelle Torpey, Lisa Torsiello, Kristine Gifford, Jennifer Scherer, Nicole Redmond, Orlee Guldfeed, Mara Trager, Holly Goshin, Allison Cassin, Sinead Rundell, Bryon Torsiello, Mike Rinderknecht, Bruce Watson

1. **Approval of the Minutes** – Approved by Lisa Tosiello and Michelle Torpey
2. **Board Officer Updates**
  - a. **Welcome – Mrs. Allison Cassin and Mrs. Sinead Rundell**
    - \* Welcome to our March meeting at Hamilton
    - \* Thanked Mr. Watson for holding Coffee with the Superintendent immediately prior to the meeting.
  - b. **Calendar Report – Mrs. Holly Goshin**
    - \* If you have any changes for the calendar, please send to Holly at hollysgoshin@gmail.com.
    - Treasurer Report – Mrs. Sara Mazin
    - \* No activity since the last meeting
    - \* Balance is \$3,664.49
  - c. **SEPAC Report – Mrs. Kristine Gifford**
    - \* Next meeting on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in MS/HS Media Center
    - \* Middle School and High School specific SEPAC meeting being held on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am in MS/HS
    - \* This year, the individual school meetings have not been well attended. But general meetings have been fairly well attended. About 20 parents at the last meeting.
    - \* Best Buddies program chapter starting at the High School. Best Buddies is an international nonprofit that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Holly Goshin's daughter is starting the chapter, which has 20 members so far.
    - \* Mrs. Pierides is starting a pilot program for elementary school at Hamilton. It will start in April with one event and then next year will do throughout the year. And then Just for Hamilton now – starting next month with one event and meeting and then next year, program and events will run throughout the year. In the future, other elementary schools can offer.

\* Goal is to connect special education students in Glen Rock with the High School chapter. And to start a chapter in the Middle School so there is continuity all the year through school years.

### 3. District Update

#### a. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Bruce Watson

\* On April 6<sup>th</sup> the school district will be open to make up for the 3<sup>rd</sup> snow day.

\* Regarding the National Walk Out Day on March 14th. The school district was not taking a political stand but supporting the students who wanted to express their opposition to gun violence in schools. Lot of planning went into it. Many things need to be taken into consideration: students who don't attend, instruction continuity, Board policy re: walk outs, etc. Had 3 large meetings with district leadership about how to handle at various school levels, how to communicate, safety, etc. Police in GR were phenomenal. Commitment to keeping students safe and connected academically to past sit ins, etc.

\* Happy to announce that Glen Rock had three presentations selected to be presented at the Bergen County Superintendent's educational program happening at Bergen Community College on March 16th. School districts have the opportunity to present a proposal of something outstanding going on in their classes/district that they want to share with other school districts. Hamilton 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers presented on using technology in the classroom to engage children with the literacy curriculum program. Middle School teachers presented about how to organize and run STEEM Day for the whole school. And at the High School level, Dr. Regan and Mr. Arlotta presented on the process of presenting and getting approval for a one on one computer program for students including partnering hardware and learning management systems. Their presentation highlighted teacher leadership and the school and district collaboration.

\* Board and Mr. Watson have been working with town officials and Byrd parents on traffic study that the town has been conducting. The financial impact is currently being assessed and there will be an announcement of a solution soon.

\* March 29th Superintendent and Principals will be attending a meeting with the police. Some of the GR Officers have gone through training to offer programs to our schools at no cost. They meeting will be an opportunity for the Officers to present the programs and discuss where they might fit into the curriculum. Great example of our schools, Mayor, Council and police talking and working together, sharing resources.

\* One of the questions that was submitted that Mr. Watson wanted to address was SAGE program at the High School. Sage School is a private school for students with special prescriptions in life. There is a Sage Counselor at the school and they have been there for a while. Their purpose is to help the students who need special services. They provide more therapeutic experience in our public school setting. They have drop in services for students, and the Counselor works with parents to get outside counselling and outside therapists – coordinate service and support.

\* Board and Superintendent's have set a goal of Well-being and Safety for the district. As part of

that goal, Mr. Watson recommends we expand the type of services of the Sage Program to “Gen Ed” students who have anxiety issues. Want to help support them.

\* Another position at the school is SAC – student assistance counsellor. Works with students, focuses on counselling and gets involved in potential drug and alcohol issues. This is another example of the type of programs Mr. Watson thinks we need to expand.

\* In response to a question about Safety & Security that was asked, Mr. Watson advised that the school has \$80K designated to spend this summer for ongoing improvements for security. One expenditure will be to add a “Person trap” like the elementary schools have (the double door access points) at the special services office. They are also intending to add a lot more cameras and different swipes cards. All have been put into the budget.

\* In response to a question about school safety gadgets that have been very visible on places like Facebook, Mr. Watson explained that anything like that needs to be approved by the Board. And that a number of the devices have safety issues. The best way to secure the doors is to make them so they can be locked from the inside and that the locks are universal so that teachers can lock the doors at any classroom they are in.

\* Another question was regarding shades on the windows in the classroom doors. That can be a large expense. One solution is to add tape to the wall and floor to show students and teachers where they need to be positioned (behind the line) to make sure they aren’t visible from the window.

\* In New Jersey there is a new law that designates that safety officers need to be administrators. Go get trained and then come back and train everyone.

\* Working on budgets right now. Vote on tentative budget will happen on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Board meeting. This gives the administration the go ahead to plan and so when the public budget hearing is held, the budget becomes official. The Board will work with the administration in the month between the two votes.

\* PARCC testing coming up. Change this year in Science - 5<sup>th</sup> grade not the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be tested. Mr. Watson asks parents to please support the test. Encourage kids to do their best and don’t get upset. For high school, now that everyone has their own computers, students will all take the test simultaneously in their classrooms.

**b. Board of Education Report – Mr. Bryon Torsiello**

\* Meetings usually Tuesdays. Next week the meeting has been moved to Wednesday to give the staff extra time to prepare for the Board budget meeting, being held in MS/HS Media Center.

\* Been a busy time – 5 meetings and budget meeting since last Federated meeting at end of January. Board has been holding smaller group and Board, as well as meeting with Town Council on various topics. Byrd traffic study. Most important thing in last 6 weeks has been the budget. Think at relatively good place with it. Come a long way in short period of time. Fair for everyone district, community.

\* As Mr. Watson explained, the boards goal will be to focus on health, wellness and safety.

\* Referendum – Committed to moving ahead with the referendum. But needed to be put on hold while they worked through the budget. Once that’s enacted, they will revisit. Along with the Board goals.

c. **Business Administration Report – Mr. Michael Rinderknecht**

\* Next Wednesday Board acting on tentative budget. Meeting will start at 7:30pm with small business and at 8pm regular session will start. Probably one of the most challenging budgets to put together. Maybe even more than 2010-2011 when lost state aid. Salary and budgets are 80-85% of budget. Caps are \$875,000 however district is allowed to grow budget for enrollment adjustments (40 new students YOY growth), as well as health benefits. Plus there is banked cap which can be carried for 3 years.

\* Pleasure working with Mr. Watson and administrators were great. Mr. Torsiello did great job working the board through the process. Very low increase on avg assessed home. Yet still have put educational initiatives into the budget. Take a minute to view the tape video and you can hear the initiatives. It's not a maintenance budget. We are moving the district forward.

\* Pleasantly surprised to learn that we picked up \$275,000 in state aid. This will be used to drive general fund tax levy down. Goes to tax payer relief. \$85K in state aid that came through in July of 2017 will also be used to drive down tax levy.

\* In response to question, Mike explained that we have banked cap of almost \$1.4Million. If Board didn't touch it we would lose only 120K would drop off. For 2018 budget, Board is utilizing \$800K and we will still have a bit to carry forward.

d. **Elementary Schools Principal Report – Mrs. Irene Pierides**

\* Hamilton – On Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, Hamilton held an informative and well-attended presentation on Smartphones for elementary students. Many thanks to Teran Chartier and her colleagues from her therapy office for this successful program. For Read Across America, Hamilton is having No Homework Wednesdays for the month of March as well as fun dress up days. We're also participating in the One School One Book program, reading "Flora and Ulysses" by Kate DiCamillo and will discuss it in our families at school. K-2 Art show was a great success along with the Love and Friendship Concert on Valentine's Day. We thank Kim Menke and John Diomede for the great programs. Last week, Hamilton had a wonderful assembly called That Physics Show to kick off the Science Fair, happening on March 28. Hamilton Helping Hands has been busy with several projects – Pennies for Patients, Great Book Giveaway, and the upcoming Google Hangout with a school in Houston that was devastated by the hurricane. Hamilton collected Gift Cards for Change and will be donating \$500 to the school. Husky Café will wrap up with a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Manners Café at the end of March.

\* Coleman – Coleman Café for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders took place on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, café for 1<sup>st</sup> graders took place on March 1<sup>st</sup> and Puzzle Night took place on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Thompson thanks the HSA for supporting these great events. The first annual Coleman Science Fair was a resounding success. Held on the eve of the great store, there were over 95 experiments and 250 visitors including Board of Ed President Mr. Torsiello. Thanks you to the HAS and Mrs. Perez for coordinating. Explorer Day for 5<sup>th</sup> graders was another successful event led by Ms. Wessely and Mr. Gavin on March 9<sup>th</sup> and later that day, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders walked to the MS to view the musical. Coleman looks forward to Circus Week, March 19-23.

\* Central – Student Council had a PJ dress-up Monday to welcome daylight savings time. Crazy hair day is March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCourt is organizing Jump Rope for Heart for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. In honor of Read Across America, Central is having a Read Aloud by Mrs. LaCroix, "Wonder" by R.J.

Pollacco. Third grade concert will give parents a chance to see their students newly developed recorder skills on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Spring Concert and Art Show will take place on May 3<sup>rd</sup> with 4<sup>th</sup> grade recorder, beginning instruments, experienced instruments and Warly Morning Chorus. Thank you to all students who participated in the STEM Fair, and thanks to all the parents who taught science lessons.

\* Byrd – Byrd’s Scholastic Book Fair was Thursday and Friday, March 15-16. Two therapy dogs will attend the Thursday evening session for children to read to. Byrd’s Science Fair will be the evening of March 22. This year’s theme is what we can do to protect the environment. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Wagner, a Byrd parent who is an opera singer and a music teacher will put on a performance for the students. Byrd will hold a Wild About Animals Assembly on March 29<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on animals typically seen only in the wild. Byrd Students raised money for Pennies for Patients and far exceeded their \$1K goal – they were able to donate \$5,483.43 to the organization.

e. **MS/HS Principal Report – Mrs. Irene Pierides**

\* MS – Students were able to enjoy a few outside recess days in February and they will resume going outside on a consistent basis once the weather gets nice again. MS teachers continue to attend Schoology training and are learning to use more features. Student Council planned some exciting spirit weeks recently, including an Olympic Spirit Week where students, teachers, and administrators competed in Olympic style events including a torch run, curling and slalom chair race. MS theater group had 3 wonderful performances of Mary Poppins. All 5<sup>th</sup> graders got to go see part as a part of their orientation to middle school. The cast and crew included approximately 90 students. Approximately half of the student body chose to participate in a MS walkout demonstration. Students went to the auditorium. They were respectful, considerate and mature. Students made short speeches and read the names of 17 Florida victims. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders will only participate in a Bronx Zoo trip this year. The reasons, among others, include where the scheduled dates fall on the calendar for the trip and PARCC, as well as a realigning of the curriculum map this summer that changed the scope and sequence of the curriculum for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

\* HS – Had the following finalists (top 10 in state) – John Piela and Drew Famularo for their team Roleplay in ETDM; Matt Heller in QSRM and Nick McRae in HRM; Tyler Blazejewski won a medal for scoring highest in the state on his marketing exam portion of his team Roleplay; also overall club received a “Diamond Award” for dramatically growing membership vs year prior. Finally the HS Interact Club once again held a successful Fashion Show Wednesday Night. All proceeds go to Hope Lodge, which supports cancer victims.

f. **Curriculum and Instruction Report – Dr. Kathy Regan**

\* Schoology teachers have been taking the program further than expected. GREA wanted to spend in service time with Schoology. Beginning third party integrations to work towards single sign-ons. So far have just done McGraw-Hill programs but will ultimately do for all but it is expensive and labor intensive. Next up is Hart Court. Moving many things online. Interactive and engaging. This is the future. Teachers will be using calendars – most important for students,

updates/ announcements/ assignments and resources.

\* Upper grades are dabbling with assessments in Schoology. Teachers are excited to showcase how they are using Schoology. Still at the early stages. At the infancy. Going slowly. There are many bells and whistles and will implement over time.

\* Schoology will improve communication and be transparent. However main purpose is instructional tool, not communications.

\* STEEM for elementary moving along. Brought coding into 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Doing Bebots. Ultimately would love to see coding go down to kindergarten and first grade.

\* Arts – just completed a 5 year review. Ukeles have arrived in the Elementary school. Very colorful.

\* High school photography program has blossomed. Cameras have arrived and dabbling in MS. Middle school are focusing on imaging part of photography using iPads. Well see more photography.

\* Curriculum focus is to keep vibrant, engaging and relevant.

\* Broadcasting equipment and lighting has arrived in HS. Make them be more mobile, not just green screen. Purchased some GoPro cameras. Teachers are demonstrating and then upload on Schoology.

\* Math – MS and HS teachers finalized recommendations. See new math recommendations for 6-12 on board agenda. New program has customized tutoring. Very exciting and assessment piece. Materials in hands of students so teachers can start dabbling. Personal learning.

\* Elementary – have updated Everyday Math. Teachers love and engages students and prepare to be mathematicians. Have been tweaking the assessments – were too long. Benchmark assessments.

\* Social Studies – 6-11 using their new programs. Bringing digital resources onto Schoology. Students will be well prepared for online learning when get to college.

\* Online language - K-12 all using the same program. Santyana. Incorporates culture. Is developed on the Schoology platform. On elementary level they have online version.

\* Programming currently on both Google Classroom and Schoology. We're in transition. Moving the teachers over. Everything will be on Schoology in the future. Working with Schoology and talking to them to make the collaboration and tools on Google available on Schoology.

g. **Glen Rock Community School Report – Mrs. Andrea Tahinos**

\* Before and After Care staff at all of the schools have been getting push back from parents who want access to the school. Staff has been trained that they can't let anyone in. And parents do not respect. Some have physically forced their way in. Could use help getting the word out. After school/evening activities should be appointing a door person to let in the appropriate people for the program. They would be grateful if we could spread the word about the concerns and policies.

\* Camp Planner now available.

\* Have son or daughter who will be 14 or older by June 25<sup>th</sup>, can pick up applications on web page or Community School Office to apply to work at summer camps. Learn responsibility and earn money. Applications due by March 30.

\* Enrichment Program updates – brought in fun things. Makerspace challenge for elementary

students in the STEM wing at the high school. Run by Heather McDermott. Keep that going. Doing coding.

\* Introduced Chef It Up To Go – program was being held in the elementary school. But moved to MS in the Home Ec classroom. Put out to MS and didn't get enough students registered but offering for elementary currently.

\* Also still offering keyboarding.

\* Preschool registration went well. Just about full in everything. Held off transitional Kindergarten registration. Transitional Kindergarten registration kicks off on March 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-3 until fill all spots available. Only take 12 children.

\* Continuing to fine tune the new websites. Working with the Coleman web master to train – was ill during original training. Getting up to speed.

4. **Questions & Comments.**

\* Linda Webber at Byrd is retiring. Search process just beginning. Just posted the job opening March 14 in papers this weekend. Officially accepted retirement and now advertising the position.

5. **Motion to Adjourn** – 9:10pm by Lisa Torsiello and Andrea Silk