

Federated HSA Minutes

Hamilton School

May 22, 2019 9:00 am

Attendees: Rona McNabola, Colleen Manley, Erica Bratspies, Liz Sonzogni, Sheila Berard, Michele Schassberger, Sharon Scarpelli, Ed Thompson, Lynda Coppola, Alix Schaefer, Melissa Antonelli, Bruce Watson, Ann Boyle, Valerie Merlin, Sharon Tisco, Jenelle Wise, Nancy Bermack, Katie Fanelli, Brett Charleston, Ed Hayward, Anna Weyant, Kerri Luftman, Sinead Rundell, Kathy Regan, Lisa Tomaselli, Sharon Israel, Kathy Duggan.

1. Welcome & Thank You

Colleen and Erica Welcome Dr. Charleston, thank the Executive Board, the HSA Presidents, the Principals and Administrative staff. Special thanks to Mr. Watson.

2. Approval of March 2019 Federated HSA Meeting Minutes

Sheila Berard motions to approve the minutes. Lynda Coppola seconds. Minutes from March meeting are approved.

3. Board Officer Updates

a. Presidents – Colleen Manley & Erica Bratspies

- i. Vote on Changes to Federated HSA Bylaws – Motion to approve the bylaw changes made by Katie Fanelli; seconded by Melissa Antonelli. Bylaw changes passed.
- ii. Vote on Incoming 2019/2020 Federated HSA Executive Board – Motion to approve the new board made by Heidi Ryan; seconded by Ann Boyle. Motion passed.
- iii. Jets Day 2019 update – not many tickets sold yet but people have until 5/28 to purchase. See Colleen if you need a link to the site to purchase.

b. Online Directory – Mara Trager & Liz Sonzogni

Rich Santos will be involved in new directory for 2019/20 school year.

c. Calendar – Alixandra Schafer

Katie Fanelli will be the coordinator for next year and she will be meeting with Sandy Marinos and next year's HSA Presidents next week to begin development of the 2019/20 calendar.

d. Treasurer – Michele Schassberger

We are ending the year with a net loss of \$1457 and a cash balance of \$2169, as was expected. A budget of \$250 was planned for Jets Day revenue in 2019/20 budget, but the suggestion was made to remove that due to the lack of participation to date.

- i. Vote on 2019/2020 Federated HSA Budget – Motion to approve 2019/20 budget with \$2250 income and \$2240 in expense (does not include any income from Jets Day) made by Lynda Coppola; seconded by Heidi Ryan. Motion passed.

4. District Updates

a. Superintendent's Report – Mr. Bruce Watson

Mr. Watson acknowledged Laurie Babin for doing a great job. He also complimented GR parents as a class act, and the BOE as outstanding for having the kids interests in their hearts.

He added that he had a great working relationship with the administrators and they had many accomplishments in the past two years including:

- Random QSC challenge
- Referendum
- Addition of a new Kindergarten section due to growth in the community being 200+ over the projection, and he recommended a new projection be calculated.
- Addition of incremental Special Ed staff; and based on the success of this year's Math Specialist, they will add a Literary Specialist to work with the teachers, hold workshops, etc.
- Increasing the Gifted and Talented staff in the district.
- Addition of an Assistant Superintendent in the budget
- All K-5 will have Chromebooks in 2 years. All teachers will have new laptops and an additional 220 laptops will be available in the schools.
- Security improvements were made (cannot provide details), but they worked with the town to improve radio communications, and invested in a technology based security system that will be in the MS/HS first and extended to other schools in future years.
- Mr. Watson complimented Mr. Rinderknecht for 2 consecutive perfect audits which leads us to expect the best possible bond interest rate.
- Compliments to Dr. Regan for exceptional curriculum development, and to the instructional leadership provided by the school principals who were also helpful in determining curriculum.
- The BOE has used Mr. Watson as a guinea pig for a new superintendent evaluation process.
- Mr. Watson encourages parents to stay involved with their children throughout their school career, even as they get older in MS and HS and appear to need parent involvement less.
- In closing Mr. Watson believes we are poised to become a Lighthouse district with all the improvements made and if we continue to invest in it.

i. Introduction of Incoming Superintendent Dr. Brett Charleston

- He feels very fortunate to be here. Mr. Watson keeps telling him "Don't screw it up".
- He started as a history teacher in 1995 in New Brunswick
- He has also taught Special Ed, and was an Athletic Director for 3 years.
- Spent 3 years as Principal before becoming a Superintendent 4 years ago.
- He believes he will be successful if at the end of year 1 on the job he not only has met his objectives, but also if he has gotten to know people and built new relationships.
- Dr. Charleston also raises chickens at home and has brought eggs to share with people.

b. Elementary School Principal Report – Mrs. Irene Pierides

- Welcome to Dr. Charleston and thanks to Mr. Watson.

Hamilton School

- Thanks to Peter Slump for providing and planting a tree which will now be a new tradition for the school each year.
- The children's artwork around school is amazing- thanks to the parents for their support.
- Held a terrific multi-cultural festival and thanks again to the parents for sharing their various cultures.

Central School

- Thanks to the parents for Teacher Appreciation Week
- Recently held Circus Week, Spring Art Show and the Lion King play
- Spring Concert and Talent Show are upcoming along with Field Day

Byrd School

- Byrd won the read-a-thon. Ms. Costello's class had 100% participation and won the mannequin challenge which the kids are very excited for.
- Many thanks to Connie Cippoli for the fabulous dessert themed art show
- Thanks to Ms. Satler for the Spring Concert.

Coleman School – Mr. Ed Thompson

- Thanks to Mr. Watson and welcome to Dr. Charleston.
- Thank you to the HSA parents; he appreciates all we do.
- Wrapped up NJ SLA testing
- Held their Art Show – thanks to Wendy Roche
- Field day was on Monday, 5/20
- 4th grade water day and 5th grade colonial day are coming up as is the Spring Concert
- Kindergarten orientation is next Thursday.
- Thanks to Mr. Slump who also donated a tree to Coleman.

c. MS/HS Principal Report – Dr. Jennifer Wirt

- Thanks to Mr. Watson, welcome Dr. Charleston.
- High School was ranked very highly in US News & World Report
- Four HS students travelled to Florida to receive a DECA award
- Relay for Life begins June 1
- MS Spring Concert and art show was great, but unfortunately the audio recording did not work due to a technical glitch.
- 7th grade took a trip to Camp Mason and enjoyed the high ropes course
- 6th orientation already happened, but there will be another one in August.
- Spring social was attended mostly by 6th graders
- Talent show upcoming on May 29
- June 11 is the Bronx Zoo trip
- June 12-14 is the 8th grade DC trip

- d. **Community School Report – Ms. Allison DeMeulder**
- Thank you Mr. Watson, and welcome to Dr. Charleston
 - Community school has 26 camps this summer including Busy Bee, Specialty and Sports camps for kids thru 9th grade.
 - They are increasing their Pre and After school care.
 - Pre-school is filling up quickly
 - Fall enrichment will be coming out soon including College Tours which are full-day trips on a luxury bus to various college campuses. Cost is \$100 per student and includes lunch and dinner. They have a 1:10 ratio of chaperones.
- e. **Board of Education Report – Mrs. Sharon Scarpelli**
- Thanks to Mr. Watson, and so excited to have found Dr. Charleston.
 - There are 3 BOE meetings left this year.
 - The Board will be doing their evaluation of Mr. Watson.
 - They may have some kind of retreat prior to next fall.
 - Thank you to the HSA.
- f. **Curriculum & Instruction Report – Dr. Kathleen Regan**
- Thanks to Mr. Watson who has moved us forward on many levels, and thanks to Dr. Charleston for making time to join us today and welcome.
 - Dr. Regan has 20 projects in process including:
 - Language Arts for 6-12th - reviewing the curriculum with the teachers and looking at what colleges are doing.
 - Science – they are waiting one more year to make changes due to this being only the 2nd year with Science testing.
 - Kicking off a 5 year review for elementary schools.
 - Elementary school world language has been exciting. Kids are enjoying and it will continue.
 - Computer Science – Teaching thru STEAM program for Gifted and Talented teachers. They are teaching coding and bringing down to Kindergarten next year.
 - HS Social Studies – tweaking AP World History.
 - MS Social Studies – They are still tweaking this area. Previous changes have been moved down to 3rd grade for better flow from grade to grade.
 - Math – the new specialist will find tune assessments.
 - ESL – Making sure they are in alignment with the state’s new criteria.
 - HS Math – She is still tweaking Honors Calculus, Algebra III, etc.
 - Schoology – had a nice launch; teachers liked it. She is working on more teacher training this summer.

5. Open Discussion

- Gifts presented by Mr. Watson to outgoing and incoming HSA Co-Presidents.
- Colleen Manley presents Mr. Watson with a thank you gift certificate.

- Sharon Israel requests support for Special Olympics Torch Run. Sharon Scarpelli will be running and would like to have more audience to cheer her on. Sharon Israel welcomes ideas on how to get more student participation.

Ed Thompson motions to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathy Duggan.

2019-2020 Federated HSA Board Members

Co-Presidents:	Liz Sonzogni & Stephanie Carosella	(Hamilton)
Secretary/Website:	Sharon Tishco, Jen Lota & Alix Schafer	(Byrd)
Treasurer:	Stacy Hendl	(Coleman)
Calendar:	Katie Fannelli	(Central)
Online Directory:	Colleen Manley	(MS/HS)