

**HSA Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, November 30 - 9 a.m.**  
**Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 834 3068 6204**

**Passcode: 846753**

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- Superintendent's Report
- Principal's Report
- Teacher's Report
- Federated Report
- Treasurer Report
- Corresponding Secretary Report
- Webmaster Report
- Presidents' Report
  - Past Events Recap
  - Upcoming Events & Updates
    - HSA Executive Meeting Friday, 12/15 9:00 AM via Zoom
    - Next HSA General Meeting is Wednesday 2/7 7:00 PM via Zoom
- Call to Adjourn

**HSA Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, October 12 - 9 a.m.**  
**In Person**

**Call to Order** Alyssa Mandara and Kristen Roth

**Approval of Minutes** Kristen Roth and Alyssa Mandara

**Attendees:**

Superintendent Brett Charleston  
Principal Ed Thompson  
Ms. Palo  
Allison Sidorksy  
Marcela Landreau  
Kristen Roth  
Sarah Goldberg  
Andrea McElroy  
Dan Ackerman  
Alyssa Mandara  
Ms. Moger  
Therese Dyman  
Deb Stahl  
Dawna Lopez Serrato  
Becky Weil  
Michelle White  
Lauren Schept  
Germaine Lacqua  
Adrian Hunt-Davies  
Nick Rivadeneira  
Jennifer Schlett  
Seton Davey

Melissa Merchant  
Irene Ziotas  
Melissa Antonelli  
Ann Kirova  
Sasha Blaker

**Virtual**

Lauren Fitzgerald  
Cheryl Moss  
Stefan Tannenbaum  
Vera Leibovich  
Lauren Suero  
Leigh Skinner  
Hatice San  
Olivia Smith  
Thomas Ingrasia  
Manasi Barshlar  
Cathy Lee  
Lynelle Slivinski  
(Cappello)  
(Shana/Reyna)  
(Athena)  
(Iphone 88)

**Superintendent's Report**

The superintendent discussed the Board of Ed goals for this year with a focus on security and communication. For security, there will be a general review of existing policies and suggestions for changes going forward. The Bergen County Attorney General reviewed practices about 10 years ago and we are due for another review. Most security discussions will occur in closed session. We believe that our schools are very safe. This was the highest score in last years climate survey of students and parents. For communications, we have a Director of Community Relations starting at the end of October. This is a shared service with Paramus. This person has 10 years of experience.

The district goals focus on climate and culture with building level programs being implemented like the RULER program. This is a multiyear goal and rollout. We will do the step challenge again this year. We would like to find more activities to do during the school day like stretching, yoga, or relaxation techniques with a goal of doing each school once a month. We will review the energy score for the buildings and focus on improvement plans with a goal of saving money. [Regular Operating District](#) (ROD) grants were submitted for the Coleman roof partial replacement and a roof grant for the MS/HS - these were both awarded. There were 3 grants not accepted.

In regard to staffing, we are struggling to find a Spanish teacher for leave replacement. Otherwise staffing is in a good place. We are in need of at least 2 lunch aides. A parent asked about getting some of the parents to volunteer and the superintendent and principal shared that parents cannot work or volunteer as lunch aides in their own kids' schools. The budget process has started and they will start with projected enrollment for next year to estimate the state aid.

A parent asked about changing the policy to allow for armed guards. The superintendent responded that this analysis would be done during the security analysis.

A few parents asked about the class sizes, specific to 3rd grade where there is a class with 26/27 students. Principal Thompson responded that the expansion at Hamilton School included an effort to ask families if they wanted to change schools and no one opted for this change. The parents asked what other options exist and if the teachers can get an assistant. The Superintendent responded that he doesn't think it is necessary and that the teachers have not asked about this. HSA President Allison asked about a previously mentioned class size maximum of 25 students. The Superintendent responded that the policy makes recommendations, however there is no set number per state policies.

A parent asked about the air siren on top of the school mentioning that their child covers their ears every time and has language impairment and needs to be able to hear properly during instruction. The parent mentioned that the speech pathologist noted how extreme the noise was. The question is what can we do to relocate or decommission the siren? The superintendent said that they will look into the issue and see who the appropriate person is at the Borough.

A parent asked about security at after care and mentioned that they weren't verifying the ID at pick up. Principal Thompson said it is a community school program and that he will look into it.

## **Principal's Report**

The start to the school year went well. I thought it was a great back to school night. We have 5 new staff members, 4 are on site now and 1 will join us on October 30th to replace Mr. Polles. Teachers really appreciated their welcome back luncheon. The Seeing Eye puppy fundraiser is now over the top. We had a week of respect last week run by Ms. Moger and we are looking forward to the farm fest on Friday. Makeup class pictures will be on the 30th followed by the Halloween parade and I ask everyone to check the lost and found.

A parent asked a question about 3rd grade lunch and recess and why the kids can't eat outside. Principal Thompson explained that it is a supervision and control issue and they don't want kids to skip eating their lunch so they can go play with their friends. Only the 5th grade gets to eat outside.

### **Teacher's Report**

Ms. Palo gave a big thank you to the HSA for the Kindergarten t-shirts and back to school luncheon. There has been a supply issue with some of the back to school materials. The Business Administrator has prevented teachers from ordering from specific sites like Oriental Trading and Amazon. Principal Thompson noted that oriental trading is not part of the vendor co-op group and Amazon is a big no-no due to audit procedures. A parent asked if there is anything else the teachers need and Ms. Palo responded that she thinks everyone is good shape.

### **Counselor's Presentation - RULER Program**

The RULER program teaches social and emotional learning and has been implemented in all 4 elementary schools. The school started training on this 2 years ago and this year there is a slow roll-out for students. Implementation started with the 4-Quadrant Mood Meter based on their energy levels and feelings. Emotion matters lessons are being introduced in K, 1 and 2. The teaching is that if you acknowledge and understand your emotions then you can start using strategies to control your emotions before they escalate. A parent component will be introduced in the future. There will be a meeting in the spring and a potential book club to help encourage parents to read the book.

A parent asked if there was coordination with the speech pathologists. The answer is that all speech pathologists have been trained.

### **Federated Report - No update**

### **Treasurer Report**

Income to Note:

Foul Shot brought in \$841.10

HSA Dues generated roughly \$6300

Expenses so far:

Federated Dues, Welcome Back Lunch and Coffee, Kindergarten T and Ice Cream Social, Paperless PTO, Zoom, Field Trip, Wishlist Items for new teachers.

### **Corresponding Secretary Report**

The class parents are doing a great job. Prior to the Halloween Parade the class parents will help with a classroom party and craft project. Reach out to your individual teachers if you haven't heard from them already.

### **Webmaster Report**

Website is being kept up to date as much as possible. Early in the year there is a lot of information going out so there are lots of e-blasts. This will slow down.

### **Presidents' Report**

- Past Events Recap
  - Kindergarten/ New Family Ice Cream Social - this event was a lot of fun with a great turnout. Doing it the day before school starts was a good change and seems to work better for everyone.
  - Welcome Back Coffee - not as successful, we will revisit this
  - Welcome Back Teachers Luncheon - teachers were very appreciative
  - Picture Day - Email [ColemanHSAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:ColemanHSAPresident@gmail.com) if you need a retake or miss picture day.
  - Back to School Night - Seemed like a successful night with great attendance.
  - Food Day Sales - Food days are still rolling out, a little bumpy to start but the routine is coming. Sales will be reopened for the spring. Question about who to reach out to with errors and the answer is [colemanhsapresident@gmail.com](mailto:colemanhsapresident@gmail.com)
  - Foul Shot Contest - This was a great success and is quicker and easier in the gym with the use of two hoops. The snack sales did not work well because kids can't eat in the gym.
  - Spirit Wear - The sales are closed, we haven't got the sales numbers yet. The umbrellas are coming in and will be sold at Farm Fest.
  
- Upcoming Events & Updates

- Walk-A-Thon 10/4-10/13 - so far we have \$3600 in revenue and more to come, the prizes come out of the revenue and will lower the overall total we keep.
- Farm Fest 10/13 - We had to cancel it due to the potential storms and move to the next week. There was some discussion about setup and moving tables off of the basketball court. The volunteer committee will work on this.
- Drama Club Meeting 10/18 at 7:30 PM - will be going over expectations for the upcoming performances
- Book Fair 10/19-10/20 - setup will be done the evening before with additional information going out about timing. You will be able to buy for the classroom wish list as well.
- Masked Principal 10/30
- Picture Retake Day 10/30, 10:30-11:30 AM
- Halloween Parade 10/31 - no masks, no weapons, we will send out communication to support Mr. Thompson with where the parents should line up.
- Wish List Update - As The Co-Presidents have gone through the wish list there are some things that were already purchased and are no longer needed, like new picnic tables. The HSA is working to get all of the wish list purchases done by the end of the school year. How do we get the kids to tell us what they want?
- Weekly Blast - We are looking for feedback on the new style of e-blast, any thoughts? Feedback from the group was that the emails are clear and people like the calendar at the start. There was a larger discussion about the amount of communication since some people complain. The feedback was that the communication is the same as previous years and yes, it is a lot at the beginning of the year, but there is not much to be done. Someone suggested that more social media posts help.
- HSA Membership - Membership has been strong so far, if any families mention to you that they aren't getting the weekly blast then they need to become HSA members.
- DEI - The storywalk books will continue to be updated and we are working to incorporate more reading of the books in the future.
- HSA Executive Meeting Friday, 10/27 9:00 AM via Zoom
- Next HSA General Meeting is Thursday 11/30 9:00 AM via Zoom

There was a question about tying the walkathon fundraiser to a specific budget or wish list item to help with messaging. Some people have received questions about what the money for the fundraiser will go to. There were a number of ideas for the walkathon to add already suggested minute totals to the fill-in sheet, to have groups/classes do meetups and walk to school together. There was also a note that someone needs to take over the walkathon for next year.

**Call to Adjourn:** Kristen Roth and Marcela Landreau