

Hamilton HSA General Meeting
November 17, 2022
7pm – Zoom Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Dr. Charleston, Mrs. Pierides, Jyoti Belani, Melissa Kelly, Karyn Stephenson, Sarah Stevenson, Julia Jaffe, Valerie Merlin, Liz O’Loughlin, Samantha Hiskey, Parul Harley, Janna Golund, Nikki Bozanich, Jami Hahn, Melissa Bengal, Tara Kagel, Heather Olenick, Rinku Sinha, Jenelle Wise, Charu Agarwal, Whitney Davis, Andrea Ceres, Laurie Sosson

Welcome

- Sign In & Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2022 meeting.

Superintendent’s Update

- Dr. Charleston reported that arrival & dismissal procedures are going well amidst the construction. Anticipating a September 2023 opening (hope to finalize date in March/April 2023, and determined what classroom use will be like). Also spoke about recent workshops, and the particular interest in social media topics. Reminder that BOE meetings are forums for business and that specific questions should be directed to Mrs. Pierides, your classroom teachers and/or Dr. Charleston. Reviewed Climate Survey scores, with high scores reported from parents (3+ out of 4), a 2.57 out of 4 from students on topics such as “chance for student voices.” Staff reported that “time for collaboration, professional development, and more ways to manage stress” were the lowest scores (below 2.5 out of 4).

Principal’s Report - Mrs. Pierides

- Update on Halloween parade – new route, more private but improvements can be made for next year. Multicultural Festival planning has begun (January 27, 2023), with an assembly to kick off the event, and the idea to bring parents back into the classrooms to share their cultures. Fifth Grade activities have started – rolling out a new program with the yearbook (printing locally, with more involvement from the children, homemade and more elementary age appropriate). Will need to raise money for the class through events such as Holiday Lights, Community Drives, and Frozen Fridays. A reminder for Frozen Fridays, please do not have your children buy for friends b/c of the risk of allergens. In addition, a new allergen information timeline was created by Mrs. Pierides, Nurse Castelli and Melissa Kelly to distribute to class parents for classroom parties this year. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held in December, with evening sessions available. Food Days and Husky Café events have been running smoothly. Class Trips have been restarted this year. Lastly, parking/traffic rules are going ok, there are still some issues with poor driving, speed and unauthorized parking in both staff lots.

President’s Updates – Jyoti

- All Fall events to date have run smoothly, including Picture Day, All School Playdate, Walk to School Day and Book Fair. The Clothing Drive raised ~\$450 and we will host another drive in the Spring. Reminder that any new Hamilton family who has not received a car magnet, please reach out to the HSA. A new bike rack was installed outside of 2G. And a 12 week Mindful Mondays Yoga Program will start on 12/12. Shop & Dine Week is going on now (11/15-20), please support local businesses while also supporting Hamilton School.

Committee Updates

1. Federated (Jenelle) – First Federated Meeting of the year was at Central School on 10/11, positive energy reported in the district. Next meeting will be 12/6 at Byrd School, 9am.
2. Fundraising (Heather & Julia) – Shop & Dine Week is happening now through 11/20. Upcoming events include Husky Holiday Shop (12/16), Francesca’s DIY Pizza Night (1/11), Snow Tubing (1/20) and Save the Date: Spring Social (5/13/23).
3. Social/Community & Volunteers (Sarah & Liz) – Launching a six week STEM/Robotics Program for Grades 1-2 and another for Grades 3-5, afterschool (Dec-Jan). Registration will be shared soon.
4. Treasurers’ Report (Andrea & Kristen) – Reviewed current budget, with ~\$72K available.
5. Communications/Website (Parul & Samantha) – No new updates.
6. Class Parents (Melissa) – Continued collaboration and communication with Class Parents. Also, a new allergen information timeline was created by Mrs. Pierides, Nurse Castelli and Melissa Kelly to distribute to class parents for classroom parties this year.

New Business –

- No new business.

Adjournment