

**Maugham HSA Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2018, 7:15pm**  
**Minutes**

**Call to order** – meeting was called to order by Cheryl Shuster.

**Principal's Report – Mrs. Ferrara**

- a) **New School Safety & Security Procedures**: Thank you to all the parents for cooperating with the new safety procedures. After all the school tragedies, we are trying to tighten up security with new school safety policies. The new procedures are intended to limit traffic in the building and to prevent parents from running back and forth dropping off forgotten items. Traffic has been minimized. Safety patrol students are no longer opening doors. The Safeties still assist Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students once they are inside building. Students are limited to entering the building through only four doors. Next week a Tenafly police officer will come to give feedback for improvements at Maugham School.  
Parent question: Will there be any change to when lunch vendors enter the building for lunch program deliveries? Mrs. Ferrara said that currently there is no change. The lunch vendors who deliver usually send the same delivery person. The deliveries are monitored by the lunch parent volunteers and are all vetted beforehand.
- b) **Pinwheels for Peace (March 14<sup>th</sup>)**: Hopefully everyone saw the wonderful pinwheels for peace that were placed all around the front school lawn yesterday by our students to promote love and acceptance. All the Tenafly elementary schools participated in this event to honor the Parkland, Florida victims of gun violence. Students were asked to pick four things they are proud of themselves and share them with the world through their decorated pinwheels.
- c) **4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Living Museum**: This year the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will no longer be holding a science fair due to the new science and STEM curriculum in our schools. In place of the science fair, there will be a living museum tied to immigration. Students will be required to complete research and do a presentation piece on immigration. Immigration has always been a part of our curriculum. Students will be required to select a friend or family member who is an immigrant, create a binder, and become that person in the living museum. This will be the first year of the program, so it will be tweaked as needed.
- d) **Parent Teacher Conferences**: Conferences are coming up next week. Please note that the teachers are super flexible, so please reach out to the teachers if you need to meet on an alternate day.

- e) **International Day:** The two-day event was an outstanding, cultural explosion for the students. On Friday, the students experienced an awesome celebration of India, the featured country. There was a wonderful assembly with bright colors and dancing. The Indian buffet lunch went over really well with the students and it was kid friendly. On Monday, the students experienced the awesome festival of tables of various countries. The volunteer parents were so motivated and the students were excited. Since the food component has been removed from the festival of tables, it has become more meaningful for the students.
- f) **3 Charities Selected by 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will divide the funds raised by the TREPS marketplace this year with half the funds going toward the 5<sup>th</sup> grade party and the other half going to 3 charities selected by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Each class has about \$400 to donate. Mr. Antonelli's class will donate to Make-A-Wish Foundation. Mrs. Farrell's class will donate to St. Jude's Research Hospital. Mrs. Newman's class will donate to NextGenFace (class voted on this charity after their classmate Liam Tenenbaum shared about his older brother's experience with the organization when he underwent facial reconstruction due to a ski accident).
- g) **Kindergarten Registration:** Maugham School has 52 incoming kindergarteners registered. We expect to be at 60 soon. Smith School has already closed their registration due to full enrollment.
- h) **TMS Wizard of Oz (Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> 7-9pm and Mar 24<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm):** Buy tickets and support the Tenafly Middle School theatre program. This year's production will be The Wizard of Oz. Not many tickets left.
- i) **Unique Week in April:** We are fortunate in that Maugham has been an inclusive school. For seven years we have had a Language/Learning Disabled class for the school district. For three years we have had an autistic class for the school district. April 9-13 will be annual Unique Week when Maugham will celebrate each child's unique qualities and raise disability awareness. Students will wear special Unique Week t-shirts and there will be an assembly by a sports figure with his own unique story and disability journey. The hope is that all the students will learn that everyone has something unique about them.
- j) **NJ PARCC:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take NJ PARCC test during April 16-20. 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will be tested April 23-27. Three days of testing will cover language arts and two days will cover mathematics. Tenafly District is not a teach to the test district since we already cover NJ state education standards in our curriculum. The students do some practice tests to familiarize themselves with the format. This year is also a pilot year in which the

5<sup>th</sup> graders will take a science assessment for two days in mid-May using a computer. This science assessment will replace the NJASK science assessment that 4<sup>th</sup> graders took in prior years.

Parent question: Are there any direct effects from school budget cuts on our school?

Mrs. Ferrara: The Board of Education has agreed to postpone the subcontracting of paraprofessionals until the 2019-2020 school year to give themselves time to work together with the Administration to find sustainable reductions in the budget. The community was very supportive and vocal of keeping our current paraprofessionals. The position of Vice Principal of the Elementary schools will be eliminated (Mrs. Craft). The Middle school and High School levels are where more extras will be eliminated. The Board of Education will attend the next HSA meeting in April.

### HSA Committee Reports

- a) **Lunch:** Spring lunch period starts April 9<sup>th</sup>. A new vendor has been added to the lunch menu – “I Fish” in Tenafly (Asian food). Gluten-free items (pasta and pizza) have also been added to the menu. Due to the shorter lunch period session, there will be no change period for this session. It is recommended for families to try out the new dishes offered before ordering. Online ordering opens March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and ends March 23<sup>rd</sup> at midnight. Sign up Genius for lunch volunteer spots opens on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Due to the large number of volunteers, there will be a new policy allowing parents to volunteer a maximum of one time per month.
- b) **Clubs:** Registration just closed for Session 3. The new session will begin April 10<sup>th</sup> and end June 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be 26 clubs running in Session 3. It is estimated that Clubs collected approximately \$154,000 in revenues this year.
- c) **Book Fair:** Books will arrive on Tuesday. Teachers will make their wish lists. The book fair will run for two days on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> 9am - 3pm, and Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 8am – 2pm and 5:30pm – 8pm. All grades will be in the Library. The Committee is still looking for volunteers to help so please sign up on SignUp Genius on the Maugham HSA webpage.
- d) **Teacher’s Conference Meals:** HSA will be hosting another Teacher’s Appreciation Lunch on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> in the teachers lounge. If you would like to volunteer to bring a dish of your choice, please email Sabrina Epstein or Erica Park.
- e) **Go Green & Stay Healthy (Pollinator Garden):** The Committee will be planting a 4x4 pollinator garden on the north side of the school building (right side of the large steps leading up to the lunch room). They will be setting up the raised cedar bed

and filling it with soil on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Depending on the weather may need to wait until first weeks of April before planting seedlings. The plants are deer resistant perennials that do not require much maintenance. The Committee will create a one-sided flyer for distribution.

- f) **School Supplies (looking for chairs ASAP)**: The Committee still needs two chairpersons. Please contact the HSA if you are interested.

**OCAY's presentation: VAPING, What's in the Mist (March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Clinton Inn)**: Our Community Allied with Youth (OCAY) will be giving a presentation on the dangers of VAPING for our youth featuring renowned speaker Timothy Shoemaker. Vaping is a serious issue at all high schools, including Tenafly High School. Even if you do not have older kids in high school yet, you can still benefit by attending and learning about the issue. Teens are using vaping devices as an inhalant and there are hidden dangers as to what unknown substances they are inhaling.

The next HSA meeting will be held on Thursday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**Questions/Comments/Concerns:**

Parent question: What do the School Supplies Committee Chairs do?

Michele Goldberg: The Chairs would work with the teachers and school supply company to create school supply lists for on-line ordering, put in the student orders and then distribute them. Time commitment would run from June to beginning of the school year. This year HSA will be working with a new company for school supplies, Write Stuff. Approximately 80% of students order their supplies on-line. This is not a fundraiser because we usually come out flat.