

Maugham HSA Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018, 7:15pm
Minutes

1. Welcome by Dara Wasserlauf.
2. Introduction of Executive Board Members
 - a. Co-presidents: Dara Wasserlauf, Cheryl Shuster, Jiyun Park, Sam Endick
 - b. Co-Treasurers: Kate Williams and Sheenam Khosla
 - c. Co-Secretaries: Christine Chun and Lori Capon
3. Principal's Report - Dr. Ferrara welcomed all parents. It has been outstanding start to school year despite outrageous temperatures. The School tried to do its best to deal with the heat (eg. rotate classrooms). The HSA has a new format of meeting every other month instead of monthly so this meeting will cover September and October. For any new parents, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Ferrara by email or phone with any concerns. Also, a great place to start is by reaching out to your teacher with any questions about your child and the classroom.
 - a. Lunch – The School is finishing up the lunch buffet run by the 5th grade Committee as a 5th grade fundraiser which has gone smoothly. This year the only difference is that all the food is being provided through Pomptonian Food Service which will be our new lunch program food provider. Starting Monday we will have two Pomptonian employees who will work with our lunch paraprofessionals to serve food. Kids' feedback about food has been positive. Parents can enter orders up to 8am that morning. Food will be delivered by 11am. Every classroom has a crate with classroom/kids' names on it. Every classroom has a paraprofessional/Pomptonian person assigned to their class. Kids will not have to wait at least 5 minutes for their food because orders are ready already with their names on each student's lunch order. Will be giving surveys in classroom and to parents periodically for feedback. Pomptonian has been very receptive to our feedback, especially since this is a new pilot program for our elementary schools. Parents can reach out to the HSA or Dr. Ferrara with comments even before the surveys

Parent Question: On Friday's, Pizza Nova is offered. Does that mean other local vendors can be used? Dr. Ferrara: No, the pizza will be provided by Pizza Nova but still delivered through Pomptonian.

Parent Question: I did not see fruit choices offered on the menu. Dr. Ferrara: If a student orders food, there is a daily fruit stand available with seasonal fruits

and veggies offered for students to choose from (eg. apples slices). There is no option to order a specific fruit or vegetable.

- b. Orchestra – A letter was sent out to parents regarding new changes to the instrumental program at Maugham and Mackay. For 3rd -5th grade students, we have a new instrumental music teacher, Mrs. DeJoseph. She has been at the Tenafly Middle School for six years so she has a good sense of how our students are when they enter TMS from the elementary schools. Ms. Yoo (Mackay principal) and Dr. Ferrara thought this was a good opportunity to review the current program and make changes as needed. Under the old program, band and orchestra kids practiced together but that did not serve both well. There are certain scales non-string instruments need to know and other scales string instruments need to know. Now for 4th and 5th graders, rehearsals will be separate for Band and Orchestra. 3rd grade will be an exploratory music year. There are three marking periods and 3rd graders can pick a new instrument each marking period or play the same one. Then in 4th grade they can choose one instrument to play and join the general orchestra (orchestra and band). Retention of students in the instrumental program and practice routines should improve with this new program because students have some sense of control over their music careers. They will be exploring instruments and learning fundamentals. They need to understand what it means to play a certain instrument before joining a 50 person orchestra. Junior orchestra will be eliminated. General and Super orchestra will be offered for 4th and 5th graders. Maugham has decided to end its 2nd grade Suzuki violin program which usually started in early November. Some kids enjoyed it, some kids did not. Instead our new instrumental teacher will have other ways to introduce them to different instruments so that by 3rd grade they will have some idea of what instrument they may like to try. The instrumental teacher may also work with students in our PAWS program.
- c. Back To School Night – Will be Sept. 20th. Great way to get to know our program and meet your child's teacher. The schedule is: 7-7:40pm Kindergartent, 1st and 2nd grade parents meet teachers, 7:45-8:15pm meet in the auditorium for welcome address and HSA meeting, and 8:20-9pm 3rd, 4th and 5th grade parents meet teachers.
- d. PARCC – next Friday, 4th and 5th grade parents should receive PARCC score reports for English Language Arts and Math. As a District, we always do well. We look at PARCC testing as one piece of data in a large school year. It is important to know how your child is doing since standardized testing continues during their student life, however it is not an indicator of everything. If you go to the PARCC website, there is an explanation of how to interpret the score reports

that you will receive. The test is scored on a scale of 1-5 with 4 (on grade level), 5 (above grade level), 3 (approaching grade level), 2 (partially meeting expectations), and level 1 (did not meet expectations). The report compares how your child performs against the school average, the district average, and the state average. It also gives you a breakdown for reading and writing revealing strengths and weak areas. The PARCC test starts in 3rd grade.

- e. Social Media – Our new superintendent, Shauna DeMarco, has done an outstanding job so far. She is very knowledgeable about social media and uses it in a positive way. She has a twitter account and has inspired some of the other District principals to join twitter. Dr. Ferrara has joined twitter (jenniferferrara@tenaflymaugham) and hopes to give a snapshot of what’s going on at Maugham each week. Check out our Superintendent on twitter too to see highlights of school happenings to sports. This is also a good time to remind parents to please monitor what your kids are doing online. A parent brought to Dr. Ferrara’s attention the recent deadly “Momo Challenge” which is a suicide game. The Momo challenge uses threats to get kids to perform dangerous tasks. Parents should be aware of this and keep close watch over your kids’ online activity. One cute video can unintentionally lead to another pop up window. Some kids know it’s not real but others may not know and forward it to friends or google it and see disturbing images. Use parent controls. On another note, there are some positive things about social media in particular the Maugham lip dub video that was recorded in June 2018. A group of 5th graders initiated the lip dub and the result was a three minute video that turned into a great collaborative effort. (Dr. Ferrara played the lip dub video for the parents).
- f. School Photos – Parents should be receiving information from their classroom teacher. All ordering is done on-line now. There will be an opportunity for picture retakes. There is a class picture and an individual picture with a choice of many different portrait backgrounds.
- g. School Beautification Volunteer Opportunities – Dr. Ferrara met with Zina regarding opportunities to make school look prettier. We have a beautiful garden called “Jenna’s Garden” in memory of a former student who passed away 16 years ago from cancer. The retaining wall that was painted is fading and weeds are growing there. It would be great to spruce the area up again so that students can go out there to read. Zina will be seeking volunteers to help beautify that area so that our kids will have an inviting, cozy area to go to. Also, Dr. Ferrara purchased a hop scotch board (4 x 16) and a buddy circle stencil for our blacktop. Dr. Ferrara has the stencils and will be getting paint to put them on the blacktop. It will be nice additions for the kids.

- h. Week of Respect – Will occur Oct. 9th . While we always try to encourage students to be respectful of one another, this is a special opportunity for building positive relationships. For some kids, respect may be abstract and it looks different to a kindergartener vs 5th grader. We are hoping to close off the street mid-day (waiting to get approval from the Town). BMX stunt bikes will come to perform a stunt show and the whole school will watch together.
 - i. Halloween Parade – For new parents, on Halloween we have a 12:45pm dismissal day. Parents may pickup their child at 12:45pm, feed them and dress them in costumes at home and return to school for 2pm parade. For working parents, about 50 kids stay at school for lunch and change into their costumes at school. Hopefully it will be good weather. It is always fun to see the kids dressed up. No excessive paraphernalia is allowed (eg. weapons, hooks, guns, knives, covered faces). Masks may be worn on top of their heads. On that day, we will also go over Halloween safety.
- 4. Introduction of the Faculty Representatives: Ann Brown and Cullen Winfield - Mrs. Winfield welcomed back all the parents. Teachers are looking forward to a great year. Teachers are getting ready for back to school night and excited to have families come and visit the classrooms. Mrs. Winfield noted the importance of student engagement and commended that the Maugham lip dub was a great example of engagement of the entire school.
- 5. HSA Committee Reports:
 - a. Treasurers – Kate Williams: HSA is in the process of collecting HSA dues. We will be collecting at Back to School Night and parents can drop off their dues in the HSA mailbox by the front door of the school as well.
 - b. Clubs – Susan Sherman: Clubs registration is open. It will be concluding Sunday at 9pm. We have almost 200 registrants so far. We will have a tablet set up tomorrow for cash collection at 3pm. Feel free to reach out to us if you are a new parent. We have many offerings from art to stem, to sports to music. We have three sessions of after school enrichment program. For K, we have the club train to make sure the Kindergarteners get to their destination. Club supervisors release Kindergartners at the main door. Dr. Ferrara: please be on time to pickup your child from after school clubs at 4:15pm. If you are late, the child cannot return until that child is signed up for SACC (School Age Child Care Program).
 - c. Maugham Directory – Log onto the Maugham Directory and make sure your info is in there and is up to date. If it is not, then email Jocelyn Schwarz.

- d. Fall Event – Will be held on Sat. Oct. 13th at the Maugham backyard. There will be crafts and sports so save the date. If it rains, the event will move indoors to TMS or THS.
 - e. Photo Committee – This Committee collects photos that will be used for your child's 5th grade yearbook. 5th grade comes up quickly. This committee was created so that parents can email maughamphotos@gmail.com with pictures from current trips and classroom events so that later in 5th grade they do not need to search for old photos. In order to submit photos, the pictures need to be taken at school or on a class trip (not pictures from outside the school or non-school related events).
 - f. Rewards Program – This is a new committee. Old programs that we will continue to participate include: TD Bank (if you mention Maugham, our school receives \$10), Box Tops, and Stop and Shop (sign up and our school gets a percentage). A new program we joined this year is the Scrip Gift card program.
 - g. Maugham Night Out – This is a new event this year and it will be a parents' night out with teachers and staff. There will be food, drinks, silent auction and raffle. This is at the planning stage so we need help. It will be held sometime in the spring at a venue TBD.
 - h. 5th Grade Committee – Jocelyn and Soyoung thank all for participating in the 5th grade buffet fundraiser.
6. Next HSA meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 at 2:00pm. HSA meetings are held every other month now. If parents have any questions between now and the next meeting, please email the HSA and feel free to reach out to us. Also note that there will be an HSA table at Back to School night so bring money to buy Maugham wear and pay dues. Project Graduation for the high school will also be selling its restaurant coupon card and other items. There will also be an ELL table with Mr. Nunez and Tenafly soccer team table.
7. Questions/Comments/Concerns – none.