

Maugham HSA Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7:15pm
Minutes

Call to order: meeting was called to order by Cheryl Shuster.

Approval of October 19, 2017 HSA meeting minutes: submitted by Cheryl Shuster, approved by Dara Wasserlauf and Michele Goldberg.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Mrs. Ferrara

Parent-Teacher Conference Procedures: The week following the Thanksgiving break is Parent-Teacher conferences (11/30, 12/1). Report cards are released on-line the day before conferences on 11/29. Rubrics and expectations are also available on-line at the District website. It is recommended to look at the rubrics on-line before your conference because conference time goes by fast. If you need more time, you can always schedule more time with the teacher for another meeting. It is recommended to be prepared by reading the report card ahead of time and writing down any questions you may have. There are only two scheduled conferences in the school year but your teacher can meet more often as needed. The teachers are very accommodating. Please try to keep your conference time to 15 minutes and be mindful that if there is a knock at the door your time is up.

Report Cards: Report cards are based off State standards. Report cards have academic standards but also social, emotional and work study habit standards. A "1-4" scale is used. A "3" is exactly at grade level, "4" means exceeding the standard, "2" means they are approaching the standard, "1" means there are some concerns in that area. It is not uncommon in the beginning of the year to have some "2's" on the report card. The rubrics tell you what our expectations are now and also look ahead to March and June so that you know where students have to get to.

3rd Grade Play: Maugham is the only elementary school in the District that does three major play productions in a year. While it is a time-consuming process for the teachers and our wonderful physical education teachers give up their gym space, it is a wonderful Maugham tradition and quite remarkable. The 3rd grade play "Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs" is next week. The 3rd grade play is in the fall, 2nd grade play is in the winter, 1st grade play is in May and Kindergarten does its sing-a-long in June.

Harlem Wizards Event (fundraiser by TEF): – Last year was the first year. This is a fundraiser for the Tenafly Educational Fund. The Harlem Wizards play vs. Tenafly All Stars comprised of teachers and staff from all of the Tenafly schools. Mrs. Ferrara will be playing! All profits go to

TEF. It is not too late to buy tickets (\$5 more to buy at the door). The event is this Sunday (11/19) at the THS gym and lasts about 90 minutes. Last year the event sold out.

Our Town (THS play): performances (Nov 16, 17 & 18 at 7:30pm at THS auditorium), purchase tickets online www.tenaflytheatre.com or at the door. Every fall there is a THS play and in the spring there is a THS musical.

NJ Dept. of Education 2017-18 Governor's Educator of the Year Program: Nomination forms are due back to Mrs. Ferrara by Monday, 11/27. Nominees can include teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, basic skills teachers, and speech pathologists. She received several forms already. It is not a lengthy form. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form. You can attach another document with your comments and students are welcome to write nominations as well. Committee will select our Maugham representative in December. Once a nominee wins, he/she is not eligible to win for next five years. The nomination form is available online at the District website and the Maugham website.

Fire prevention poster contest: Every year the Fire Dept. holds a fire prevention poster contest. This year Maugham has a winner, 2nd grader James Williams. A lot of kids participated. Entries are sent to the fire marshal and the award presentation will be early December.

Dogs on School Property Policy Reminder: This is a reminder about the new policy which was discussed at the last HSA meeting. Dogs are not allowed on school property during school hours and must stay on the sidewalk. We still have dog droppings that children are stepping on. Some little kids get nervous around dogs. For safety reasons, no dogs are allowed on school property. A THS soccer player was bitten by opposing team player's dog and had to get a rabies shot. Dogs can get spooked very easily.

TEACHERS REPORT – Mrs. Brown:

-The teachers are looking forward to the book fair.

- Soon you will receive information about the Giving Tree project (toy drive for DYFS children). With parents' permission, the children take tags off the Giving Tree. Children keep track what presents come in, help bag them up and take to vans. It is a time of giving for all of us and a nice hands-on activity for the students.

-The teachers want to bring attention to the need to address the hot temperatures in the classrooms during the beginning and end of the school year. Parents and Board of Education members need to understand that when the classroom temperatures are so hot it is not an ideal time for learning. The teachers would welcome any support they can get for any changes to address this issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2017-2018 Budget - Natalya Michaels:

-2017-2018 Budget report was handed out.

-Some highlights of what HSA pays for include author visits, cultural arts assemblies, classroom funds used by class parents, teachers funds to use for projects and decorating, teacher appreciation (lunches, dinners, flowers plays/concerts), end of year gifts, well wishes gifts, school beautification, buses for field trips, ad hoc expenses (ipads, fans, library books, sound system for auditorium).

-How HSA raises funds - income raised from lunch program (biggest income), clubs program, book fairs, spring event (this year decided that fall event admission was free to welcome new families).

-Bottom line – Net income this year is \$4,500 vs. approx. \$15,000 last two years. Biggest difference is estimate for lunches. HSA has cash in the bank in case needed for other items. Goal is to make sure HSA can pay for what it has budgeted for this year.

HSA COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Book Fair – Will split book fair into two rooms this year. K - 2nd grades will be in the art room and 3rd – 5th grades will be in the library. Trying new format this year with hopes to expand variety and increase sales.

Teachers' Conference Meals – Provide meals to teachers during conferences in fall and spring. On 11/30 need volunteers to drop off a dish 11:30-12. Let Committee know via email what dish you plan to bring in case any adjustments need to be made to menu.

Lost and Found – The week after break there will be open hours during teacher conferences to peruse tables for lost and found items. On Wed. during lunch kids can go up to table and take a look. If an item is labeled, the committee tries to return the item to the child.

Community Service – As part of global Giving Tuesday, Maugham school is still collecting soup cans to be donated to Center for Food Action soup drive. Collection boxes will be out until 11/28.

Photo Committee – This is a new committee this year. Every year the 5th grade Yearbook committee does a lot of scrambling trying to collect pictures from all students' parents. To help make this effort easier for future, Soyung Pak (5th grade yearbook last year) created an on-line repository to hold pictures for each grade. This process needs to be ongoing each year. We need one volunteer representative per grade (K-4th). Low time commitment and work can be done from home. If anyone is interested please email HSA.

Next HSA meeting: will be held on Thursday, December 14th at 2:00pm.

Questions/Comments/Concerns - None.

Minutes submitted by Christine Chun