

**Maugham HSA Meeting**  
**Thursday, December 14, 2017, 2:00pm**  
**Minutes**

**Call to order:** meeting was called to order by Dara Wasserlauf.

**Approval of November 16, 2017 HSA meeting minutes:** submitted by Dara Wasserlauf, approved by Michele Goldberg and Cheryl Shuster.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – MRS.FERRARA:**

**Teacher of the Year:** The Selection Committee met and selected a school teacher of the year and an educational services professional. The Committee includes Mrs. Ferrara, an HSA Executive member, a winner from last year, and a teacher representative. It was a tough decision as there were a lot of entries. The Committee thanks everyone for participating. Mrs. Ferrara loves to read the entries written by kids. This year 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Ann Brown was named Teacher of the Year and Elaine Matarazzo was named Educational Services Professional of the Year.

**Giving Tree:** This is a wonderful project that the 1<sup>st</sup> grade organizes. We packed 15 bags of gifts for children in need. We are also providing books to the kids through the Coin-A-Day Challenge project. The kids are getting wonderful gifts and great books as well. Thank you to all for participating. It is great for the 1<sup>st</sup> graders to experience the spirit of giving.

**Leave Replacements:**

a) Mrs. Lyman will be leaving. She teaches at Maugham and MacKay so Mrs. Ferrara and Ms. Yoo (Principal at MacKay) are interviewing for a replacement and will see demonstration lessons next week of possible candidates. Goal is to have a replacement by 1/2/18. Also to note, for those interested in Super Orchestra, the list of selected students will go up soon. Super Orchestra is scheduled to begin on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

b) Mrs. Wicker will be leaving next Friday, 12/22, for the year on maternity leave. She is due April and will spend the rest of the school year with her baby boy. Mrs. Craft and Mrs. Ferrara are interviewing candidates.

c) There are a few other pregnant staff members so there will be other maternity leaves coming up and those will be announced at that time.

d) Mrs. Smith just adopted a baby boy, Nathan. She will be out for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Newman will pickup where Mrs. Smith left off for the remainder of the year. We do a thorough search to find leave replacements.

**TREPS:** This is an outstanding and fun program for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders that teaches kids how to start their own business. We will start next week. Mrs. Ferrara will visit 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms next week to introduce the program. Kids will have to come up with business ideas and bring it to fruition on February 13th. Students will sell their products at the TREPS Marketplace in the gym. The kids get really excited about it. Next week they will receive the TREPS workbook. Then they will brainstorm over holiday break, and after the break they will learn how to run a business.

**Families invited to share holiday traditions:** During this time of the year there are a lot of holiday traditions so we want to thank families who come in. We want to celebrate the diversity we have and all the non-religious traditions.

**Parent teacher conference recap:** Conferences went really well. Hopefully you left your conference feeling satisfied. Parents do not need to wait until next March conference time for a meeting with their teacher if they feel the need to meet sooner about their child. It is recommended to communicate with your teacher as frequently as you need to. All the teachers thank the parents for providing a great meal before conferences. It is really special and the staff really appreciates it.

**KPA meeting recap – Math:** Had a wonderful meeting with KPA parents. Also wanted to share some information. One question that came up was whether we have a gifted and talented or accelerated program. Maugham does not have a gifted and talented program but we have a Discovery Program that focuses on math. Dr. Bianchi is our Discovery teacher for K-8<sup>th</sup> grades for Tenafly. She typically works with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders and sometimes 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. There are

multiple ways to determine readiness for Discovery math. Standardized tests are one way to determine but not the sole way. If your child is interested in this program, Dr. Bianchi has a website you can see on the District website. Often work in the program is student generated. A student will have an idea (eg. a desire to learn more with fractions) so then that student may work more in-depth on that. Teachers are skilled to identify those students who may benefit from the Discovery program. All of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders have the opportunity to take a math assessment at the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade which determines if a student can skip 6<sup>th</sup> grade math and take algebra. Typically about 50 of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders take the assessment test, and out of 200 students from across the schools, three kids qualify.

**Reminder: Birthday party guidelines:** Want to remind parents of the birthday party policy. No birthday treats policy has been working. In lieu of treats kids have been celebrating with various celebration activities. Parents should clear any birthday ideas with the teacher in advance to make sure it is school approved. This should be an opportunity to celebrate the child. In 5<sup>th</sup> grade now they do monthly birthday parties. The party should last 10-15 minutes. We try to make the child feel special on that day.

### **HSA COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Community Service:** \$1,975 in funds was raised by the All for Books Coin-A-Day-Challenge which provided books for 200 kids, all our teachers' wish lists, plus the PAWS class.

**International Day:** This year on March 9<sup>th</sup> will be the International Day assembly and the lunch buffet for the featured country which is India. March 12<sup>th</sup> will be the Festival of Tables where all the participating countries will host a table. If you would like to host a table, please sign up. There will be no food at the tables, just information about each country.

**Book Fair:** We tried a new format this year so the Book Fair was held for two days instead of three days. From a financial standpoint, we are still waiting to see the results but it looks like we did okay. Next year, we will advertise the Coin-A-Day Challenge more in advance. Splitting the book fair into two rooms this year

worked well but for the upcoming spring book sale we may change one room into K-1 instead of K-2 based on feedback. Still debating whether to hold the book fair for two days vs two and a half days. Next time will also get the teachers' wish lists ahead of time for parents.

**Clubs:** Session 1 was successful. Now Session 2 is on track to exceed the amount made in Session 1. Session 3 will be shorter. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome and can be emailed to the Clubs committee.

**Lunch:** Fall session is almost finished and was well received by parents and kids. Winter session ordering period has ended. This time the ordering period was open for a longer time, 12 days. On January 8th we open up for missed orders and change orders.

**Holiday gifts:** This is a reminder that class parents do not collect a group gift from parents for the teachers until the end of the year. Parents may give holiday gifts on their own if they wish.

**Next HSA meeting:** will be held on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm.

### **Questions/Comments/Concerns:**

**Lunch and Clubs:** Parents should be aware that they can use Paypal to pay for lunch and clubs. Even if you do not have a paypal account, you have the option to use a credit card on the paypal website. Before the next lunch change order date, an eblast should be sent out to let parents know they can use a credit card to pay for lunch.

**Question raised by Kindergarten parent:** Is Spirit week always around this time of the year or can it be a different time? Holiday time is hectic and parent did not have adequate notice to prepare spirit attire for her child. Parent asked for more notice and to hold it during a less hectic time so new parents can be prepared with proper spirit attire for their kids. Spirit week is run by the Student Council so Mrs. Ferrara will relay this feedback to the students on the SC executive board.

**Comment and question raised by new 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent:** Impressed with Maugham school spirit. Can other grades participate in the chorus besides 5<sup>th</sup> graders? Mrs. Ferrara would need to discuss this with Mrs. Lyman. Every school does it differently depending on staffing. Maugham School has only a 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and all 5<sup>th</sup> graders are required to participate so every 5<sup>th</sup> grader will have the experience.

**New parents reminder about drop off policy during cold weather (Mrs. Ferrara):** Now that it is chilly, starting now until early March, kids can enter the building at 8:20am because it is too cold to wait outside and also do not want students throwing snow balls. Early kids must wait by their lockers until 8:30am. When it snows, the drop off line moves slower so no one is marked late. Today, 52 kids came in after 8:45am but no one was marked late so please do not rush when it is snowing or pouring heavy rain. Parents should not enter the building unless they sign in at the office. At 8:20am there are safety students at all the usual entry points.

**Photo committee reminder (Susan Carlin):** As holiday festivities continue and field trips happen, please take pictures and send them to the Photo Committee. We still need one representative per grade to help remind parents to send in pictures. We will compile a list of all the grade representatives once we have all the representatives filled.

Minutes submitted by Christine Chun