

Maugham HSA Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2020
~AGENDA~

1. Welcome - added this meeting to stay connected since we're not in the building

2. Faculty Representatives

a. Mrs. Brown – thanks for joining

3. Dr. Ferrara's Principal Report

a. Staff updates: Virtual teachers; Afternoon teacher hours: Mrs. Langford out on medical leave; replacement started last week. Ms. Schiano doing great. Ms. St. John on medical leave as well. She is teaching virtually from home until we find a qualified candidate. Vetting process a couple weeks with paperwork and fingerprinting. Virtual teachers for every grade level now in place. They are for students that are solely virtual. We have 68 all virtual now: 6 in K, 6 in 1st, 5 in 2nd, 14-15 each for 3-5. In K it's Mrs. Cusack. Cimler for 1st, Gordon for 2nd, Herbst 3rd, Meehan 4th, Lennett for 5th (technology development), taught 5 grade; have reached out to virtual parents. Spending 45 min a day with those virtual kids. Different depending on what each grade level needs. Everyone should have heard from virtual teacher, but if not reach out to Dr. Ferrara. When kids leave building, staff has lunch, curricular work and staff meetings; 2 afternoons working with students. Could be spending more time in say math for everyone, small groups for reading, or could be more individualized for students that might be struggling. Teachers will be connecting...might not be with every student every week, but reach out to teacher if you need to. Trying to create a little extra for 5th. With specialists, exploration classes. Teachers will be writing a blurb. Looking to launch in November. Would be in the 2:30 hour. Not mandatory.

b. School protocol/Daily Tracker reminders – tracker getting better. Should only get it on days when your child is coming into school in person. Have had issues in past, not perfect, but getting better. If having issues, let Dr. Ferrara know.

c. Student council announcements: elections coming up. Mrs. Herbst is the student council advisor. 4th and 5th can run. 3rd are homeroom classroom reps. Students interested in running make videos as a kind of primary. Every student can watch, then narrow down, then have an election. Will live stream so parents can watch. Want to have some pomp and circumstance around it. Students will be able to give a speech. Maybe HSA will be able to do some decorations for the stage to spruce it up? Kids will vote on google form. Wonderful way for students to get involved. Mrs. Herbst will send out a survey to find out the best time for those kids to meet.

d. Halloween: all parents should have heard from teachers what the schedule is. Most K and 1 will have on Friday. For 2-5, both cohorts will have the opportunity, and virtual can celebrate at home. The simpler, the more comfortable the costume, the better. Want them to have fun, but kids will be in costume 4-5 hours and will need to go to the bathroom independently.

e. Mr. Peace assembly – was really wonderful. Spotlighted diversity: disabilities, ethnic and cultural diversity, poverty, wealth, etc. Wonderful stories to share. Different than in person, but he did a great job on the screen.

f. Building updates (retaining wall) Over the summer did a walk through with architects. Walked outside to think about long term projects for school. One of the things is to replace turf

in a few years. Also looked at retaining wall: it was leaning and needed to be replaced. It is completed, looks great. Same stone. All updated, repaired correctly, completed project.

g. Picture Day (Schedule): able to get us in with photographer. Will be sending out the schedule for pictures. Same company Irvin Simon. Cohort A, Monday Nov 2 (with K). Afternoon all virtual students can come if they want. Tuesday election day. Wed 4 Cohort B and 1st. All outside. Will reschedule if inclement weather. Can kind of create a composite for a class picture as an option but not a traditional class picture.

Will send out a communication about being virtual. Have had some families going back and forth. Really challenging for the teachers to keep up with materials. If home sick, they absolutely can participate from home, but please don't expect all materials ready for pick up that day. Will send specific guidelines. Starting to have some discussions about next steps. Will it be phase 2 or something different? Overall, we have been successful so far, no spread in the school, parents cooperative. Not sure what it will look like or when. We know that kids learn better in school but balancing that with safety. Will be meeting with the pandemic response team and will have that dialogue.

Mrs. Brown appreciative of money for teachers. Have had some unusual expenses. HSA to purchase additional 10 microphones. Appreciate because we know HSA not bringing in as much money this year.

4. HSA Updates

a. Maugham Directory & Dues

Membership toolkit: 43% of families registered. Going really well. Would be great to remind people to sign up. 87% of those registered have paid dues. Will try our best to do more virtual assemblies, would like to utilize classroom funds: class parents will have that. Will be helpful to get dues so we can do as much as we can.

b. Open volunteer opportunities:

- i. Fine Arts, International Day, School Supplies, Teacher Appreciation, Community Awareness, 5th Grade Committee/Yearbook
- Would be great to have a lead person for each.

5. HSA Committee Reports

a. Maughamwear - spirit week: reopened their site, did another push. Got about 65 orders. Planning on doing a spirit day. Thanks for your support. Website through Likewear, so have to get permission to open and close the site. Dr. Ferrara would like to open for staff. Some have ordered a while ago. Will receive when the sale closes and everyone has placed order. Also have mask straps, hats, and bracelets for immediate sale. Reach out to Gabby Marcus.

b. Class Parents: just sent out an email today. Had over 40 volunteers. Role may be different. Not in the classroom but secondhand support for teacher. Will set up a meeting once we know what that will look like. Probably in the next week or so.

c. Book Fair & Read-A-Thon: going to try and do a virtual bookfair. Live on site for 14 days. When you go online, it will be like shopping on the shelves. 25% of all sales will go to

Maugham school. Has to be used at Scholastic, but the teachers may need more books anyway right now so there is less sharing. May pair with a read-a-thon that will be HSA run.

6. Upcoming Events and Reminders

a. Project Graduation - restaurant cards available: good fundraiser, gives you good deals at the local restaurants

b. Tenafly Scavenger Hunt – sending a flyer. Through the library. Happening all month. Must submit form by end of month. Will send out more info.

c. 11/3 - Election Day - full virtual; no school on 5th and 6th for teacher's convention

d. 11/5 & 11/6 - Teachers Convention - no school

7. Questions, Comments, Concerns...

8. Next HSA Meeting: Thursday, November 19th

Will still have parent teacher conferences. Probably first week of December. Half days. All virtual. Regular reports cards (not like summary at the end of last year).

Next Friday: if want to nominate teacher and profess svcs of the year; can still do that. You can type as much as you want. Kids can submit as well. Oct 30th due. Will probably give an extra week. Selection process mid-November.