

**Hillsborough Elementary School  
Home and School Association  
March 2022 Meeting  
3/16/2022**

**Meghann Valeo, HSA President, opened the meeting at 7:03pm.**

**Welcome**

There were 12 people present at the meeting via google meet.

**Minutes**

February 2022 meeting minutes were approved and are posted on the website and on Konstella. (<https://www.heshsa.org>). Andrew P. made a motion. Mrs. Moore seconded, minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report (Fundraising Ideas/updates)**

Andrew P. the report is through February. We had about \$200 in box tops. \$663 for restaurant nights, total annual is about \$1700, waiting for Jersey Mikes. Better than projected. We received a check from Colgate/Palmolive, sent us \$100 HES was chosen as their charity of the month. Most of the budget has gone towards our school beautification led by Mrs. Kozack. We have an influx of cash, but much of it is earmarked for paying for the yearbooks. Overall doing very well. Mrs. Moore mentioned for next week March 23<sup>rd</sup> restaurant night, having a Marianna's/Rita's night. Rita's is very excited about this event. We are looking for April, Andrew mentioned Smoothie King, looking for options. If anyone gets a date and restaurant, please forward to Andrew.

**Yearbook**

Meghann reported on the committee's behalf. We committed to a slightly smaller book and we have many pictures so we are hoping to add pages to the book. Working with Milan Rose. Meghan asked for the picture taken yesterday of the entire school, Ms. Eckstein will forward along. Ms. Eckstein mentioned changing from twitter to facebook after surveying the parents which platform is most used. She is willing to change to the more popular social media platform. Meghan mentioned possibly going over to Instagram. Will decide once the survey goes out in the Fall. Yearbook sales are open until Friday 4/8/22. We have over 150 right now. Collecting photos is still in process, email [yearbook@heshsa.org](mailto:yearbook@heshsa.org). We don't order extras so strongly encouraged to order early.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Day**

Melanie is on the call for the committee. We have a committee of 3, working on T shirt design. It will be sent to Mrs. Moore to share with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and then finalized by Ms. Eckstein. Looking for volunteers to help with the event. We need to plan on being at HES, hopefully in person. Ms. Eckstein mentioned that we are not able to go offsite is not COVID related, the issue we are running into is bussing availability and nursing. We have no substitute nurses. We need a nurse on the trip. Ms. Eckstein has replied to Mr. Cooper's email inquiry with the previously mentioned reasons. There is a meeting regarding the transportation and nursing in the coming week. Meghann mentioned Iron Peak last year hosted an off hour time block for 4<sup>th</sup> graders for another school in district. Maybe we can consider a HES 4<sup>th</sup> grade spirit night there. Mrs. Moore mentioned Woodfern did it last year. Ms. Eckstein mentioned getting an inflatable obstacle course for our 4<sup>th</sup> grade day at HES. Meghann confirmed other schools are doing similar events in addition to others. We will send a Konstella message and Ms. Eckstein will send a school messenger for volunteers. Meghann asked Melanie to help coordinate volunteers and work with Nicole G. Mrs. Moore will also work with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to send an email out to the parents.

## **STEM Fair**

Andrew discussed our first in person event since 2019. The concept is to eliminate the poster section of the STEM fair where teachers/judges walk around and listen to the explanations. We are going to have 2 main events, popsicle bridge breaking event. Parameters are given to kids to work on at home with their parents. They will bring to the fair and we will measure the pressure it takes to break the bridge. The second event is the sled challenge. Parameters are given for a sled to go down an inclined ramp. Trying to increase participation by limiting options and decreasing the stress it puts on families to participate. Looking to coordinate with the Robotics team from the high school for volunteers as well as robotic demonstration. Sign up for both events will be on Community Pass. \$3 each event or \$5 for both. Spectators can come for no charge to participate in various smaller challenges which will keep scores and encourage to break the others scores, some examples, penny boats, designing paper airplanes, origami table as well as other activities. We may add some basket raffles too. Looking to have indoors, but can plan for outdoors just in case. Andrew asked about hosting a bake sale, Ms. Eckstein doesn't see any issues with it.

## **School Beautification**

Meghann turned things over to Liz Kozack head of the committee to discuss the projects. We invested in the beginning for this project. Home Depot in Bridgewater gave us \$50 worth of potting soil. Lowes has given us 50% off our fence posts and other supplies for this project. 2 parents volunteered to prime the posts. The first bricks drop-off have all been clear coated. They will be placed as a library in one of the areas until all of the planting is completed. We have almost 150 bricks for this part of the project. We added a custodian's garden and will add some aesthetics to spruce it up. Ms. Kozack planted with first grade a couple of weeks ago. Also working with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to plant some of the veggies and herbs for the custodian garden. We still need more jogs for this project. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Kindergarten will participate in the Spring. 4<sup>th</sup> grade cleaned up the Amwell Rd. side of the school. They gave up their Fun Friday time to finish it up. Still on the lookout for trees for around the grounds. Rock painting is next month, will set a date with each class to participate. Mrs. Moore thanked Mrs. Kozack for her efforts, her class talked about their experience the rest of the day. She had multiple emails from parents. Mrs. Moore would love to continue this annually.

## **Teacher Forum**

Mrs. Goodwin mentioned that the teachers supported the Jersey Mike's fundraiser. They enjoyed the fun lunch. Having the teachers participate in these nights for ordering lunch, they would love to help. Mrs. Hopson mentioned that we sent a card to Mrs. Chung. Mrs. Hopson also mentioned about planning a Somerset Patriots game and mentioned trying to coordinate with teacher assignments to help a "meet the teacher" atmosphere. Mrs. Goodwin mentioned maybe putting the classes up on the big screen.

## **Principal Forum**

Ms. Eckstein reported on collecting for Ukraine. She complimented all the students with great questions and art to send to Ukraine. Everyone is very engaged. Most of the conversation they are creating are out of gaining knowledge and not fear. Any fear is being addressed and overall the kids are engaged and compassionate. Again complimented Mrs. Kozack for her heroic efforts with school beautification. Ms. Eckstein shared her painted rock of a starfish.

## **Closing Comments**

Meghann announced our next meeting will be in person. We will move the meeting up to 630pm. The board will be updating bylaws and adding additional volunteers. Looking for the rest of the meetings to be in person. We will dedicate the June meeting for volunteer appreciation. Next meeting is April 6th. May meeting is May 11th and June is the 8<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Eckstein is asking if we can move the May meeting to May 18<sup>th</sup>. We will look into and confirm the change.

**Meghann Valeo, President of the HSA, closed the meeting at 8:17pm.**