

Hillsborough Elementary School Home and School Association September 2021 Meeting 9/22/2021

Meghann Valeo, HSA President, opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Welcome

There were 29 people present at the meeting in the Multi-Purpose room of HES. Everyone introduced themselves and named the child(ren) enrolled at HES.

Minutes

June 2021 meeting minutes were approved and are posted on the website. (<https://www.heshsa.org>)

Treasurer's Report (Fundraising Ideas/updates)

Andrew P. discussed Amazon Smile for passive funds. Sign up at smile.amazon.com choose Hillsborough Elementary (HES) to have % of purchases sent to us quarterly, we made \$79 last quarter. The Amazon smile App is also functional. Membership for this year including teachers is at \$955 about \$300 less than last year. Just Subs fundraiser this month was a success over \$400 donated to HES, thank you Mrs. Hopson for organizing. Looking to have a restaurant fundraiser monthly, all are encouraged to volunteer to organize one. Shannon W. will reach out to Lenny's Pizza for October.

Board Members

Each Board Member introduced themselves for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Meghann Valeo, President
2. Melanie Simone, Vice President
3. Andrew Piccirillo, Treasurer
4. Shannon Woerner, Recording Secretary
5. Nicole Mehalick, Corresponding Secretary

By laws

All Board members signed and a copy will be posted on the website.

School Supplies

Fundraiser completed in June 2021, kits were shipped to home. Final amount fundraised TBD.

Committee Chairs

We have still have open committee chairs for 21-22 school year. Maximum commitment for 1 person is 3 committee chairs. Open positions include Griggstown Pie Fundraiser, Penny Wars (new to HES, now can include Venmo), & Teacher Appreciation. Since the meeting School Beautification Chair has been filled.

Konstella

This is the main mode of communication between HSA and school parents, as well as class parents. All are encouraged to sign up. The App is free and allows direct messaging with other parents in your child(ren)'s class. Ms. Eckstein also uses school messenger to send out emails to everyone.

Community Pass

Website to collect funds for the HSA membership and events. Note this is the same log in used for the Hillsborough Township Community events as well. Both are under the same log in. Mrs. Hopson and Mrs. Moore offered to help anyone navigate if needed.

Class Parents

Signups for class parents will remain active until the end of September through Community Pass. Meghann discussed how the role has evolved. This year the head class parent will be responsible for working with co parents to organize a "party in a box". The head class parent will be provided a \$75 check to help fund the parties for the year. The parents may also ask for donations from the class families. Volunteers are still not allowed in the building. The box should include any supplies needed for all children's games/activities/bags etc. There are 3 parties, Halloween, Winter Holidays and End of the Year. Any food in the box must be pre-approved by the school nurse. The Halloween party is a NO FOOD party. Shannon W. will be sending out the "Teacher's Favorites" Form to all teachers via google form. These will be sent to the Class Parent to help with teacher appreciation throughout the year.

Book Fair

The Fall book fair will be virtual, open for 2 weeks. Products will be shipped to home and orders >\$25 will receive free shipping. Families can buddy up to combine orders to receive Free Shipping. Andrew P. brought up the idea of protected time either during Library or in the classrooms for kids to shop online with E-Wallet. Unused E-wallet funds will be rolled over to the Spring Book Fair. Meghann also brought up the virtual scavenger hunt that the kids can do to encourage fair participation. Ms. Eckstein will discuss with her faculty and update the board.

Halloween Spooktacular

Lorrie Mascola is the chair for this event. The event draws a large crowd of families (about 450 ppl) and is always a hit. All are encouraged to help in any way possible. Trying to re-imagine the event in the current pandemic climate. Ideas suggested included a trunk or treat at ARIS, LOWES parking lot, municipal building lot and HHS. Another suggestion was having at Norz Hill Farm. Lorrie will work with the board and Ms. Eckstein to come up with a plan.

Teacher Forum

Mrs. Hopson shared how excited she was to see the turnout at our first meeting. She also mentioned the Somerset Patriots game was a great success and lots of fun. She offered her help with Konstella or Community Pass as well. Mrs. Goodwin echoed Mrs. Hopson's remarks and added if anyone is feeling overwhelmed from all the information to please reach out and will help ease their mind and answer any questions they may have.

Principal Forum

Ms. Eckstein shared how excited she and her faculty/staff were to have the children back in the building full day. Ms. Eckstein praised her team and thanked all members in the community for their continued support.

Closing Comments

Meghann closed with the goals of the HSA, which are parent engagement and building community. The HES community donated over \$1800 to the community impacted by COVID through gift cards. Meghann thanked all attendees for coming to the meeting.

Meghann Valeo, President of the HSA, closed the meeting at 8:00 pm.