

# Hillsborough Elementary School Home and School Association November 2023 Meeting 11/15/2023

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

## Welcome

There were 13 people at the meeting. This is Mrs. Goodwin's last meeting before her retirement at the end of 2023. Throughout the meeting (every major area!) she was thanked for her contributions to and support of the HSA over the years. We wish her well, but it is a real loss for HES. Thank you Mrs. Goodwin!

## Meeting Minutes

Oct 2023 minutes were approved and have been posted on the website ([www.heshsa.org](http://www.heshsa.org))

## Membership

We're currently at 204 members. Last year was 150, so we're thrilled with progress this year. Efforts to recruit members will continue.

## Fundraising

Pretzel days have been a hit with both students and parents. We have a profit of almost \$600 so far for 4th grade day. There was a larger discussion about raising funds for 4th grade day ongoing. An interesting proposition to have grade level events, such as a penny war, with monies raised being earmarked for each grade's 4th grade day to lessen the load each year. The group loves being able to fund this yearly, but always looking for ways to sustain this.

Pura Vida bracelets have been delivered - we have both HES and Hillsborough colors. We will be looking to sell after Thanksgiving. Pricing will be 1 for \$8 & 2 for \$15

Next restaurant night are Nov 17 - Just Subs and Dec 7 - Adult night at Flounder! Cost is \$18/flight with \$5 back to HSA and will run from 3:30-9 PM. You can bring in food. Food truck availability posted on Flounder's website

2024 plans: January 17 (also 3rd grade concert) - Chipotle, February 12- Mr. Cactus, March - King Wing (will be a Friday), April 17 - Ice house. Can also look at Bella Pizza.

## Treasurer's Report

We have about \$1500 in accounts currently, which is fine but low compared to where we've been the last few years. This is not unexpected as we have brought back a lot of the events and programs to pre-COVID levels. Author day was moved to the fall, which was an expense we'll plan for this [timing](#) moving forward. Things look OK at this point, but we may slow down teacher grants if necessary.

## Spirit Wear

Spirit wear has all been delivered. There have been asks for a spring sale, but that won't occur without a chair/volunteer. We can put the ask out for one when ready through School Messenger.

## Class Parents

Mrs Eckstein will check with Nurse Lisa to confirm snack options for Winter party (Lisa C to send deck). Check in was great and feedback provided that parents can come a little earlier for Winter party and wait in foyer if needed.

## Book Fair

Fall book fair was a fun and successful week! We had over \$9400 in sales and will take our profit in the form of Scholastic Dollars. Between family donations, All for Books & the pencil pull we were able to donate OVER 120 BOOKS to classroom libraries! Spring fair will be Mar 15-22 with Lisa Chiang & Alexandra Coelho co-chairing.

### **Trunk or Treat**

The trunk or treat event was a fun filled night with almost 300 children attending (up from about 200 in 2022). Sadly, our event chair, Natasha Delacruz will not be at HES next year. She has documented this event very well, but we are looking for someone interested in running it next year. Suggestions for next year: make it clear that trunks will provide their own candy with donations supplementing refills. Running the event from 6-7:30 should be ample time for trick or treating and crafts.

### **STEM Fair**

Building on last year's amazing STEM Fair, this year's theme is going to be an Indiana Jones-esque quest. Kids will complete challenges, get stamps (think like a passport) and can earn prizes like homework passes. Robo Raiders are available for the event, which will be held on Jan 19. The goal is to design an interactive fair with minimal volunteers needed. Similar to last year, there will be a kick off assembly in December.

### **PICTO**

Event will be Mar 8 with a Rock star theme. Major discussion around the need for co-chairs. This is our biggest fundraiser and there are several subcommittees (overall event, food, basket raffles) that need help. It's a great opportunity to work side by side with last year's team and get a feel for the event. Zaida S & Jenn W expressed an interest in being involved and had some ideas of people to reach out to. Several ideas for baskets were pitched, such as grabbing a big ticket item on Black Friday, having a neighborhood / bus route 'sponsor' a basket.

### **Chirp workshop**

Jenn W provided a great write up. We will time a pre-order of the kit (bear) in early 2024 with the intent to stuff your item at Family Night during the spring book fair. After a discussion, we will design the star for the shirts and members with a Cricut / Silhouette and a heat press will put together the bear's t-shirt (HES logo). Mrs. Baccarini suggested a bracelet station to let students make a friendship bracelet to name their bear.

### **Fun Run**

We're looking for a school day in April (maybe 17/18 or 24/25), but want to consult with Mrs. Rutz as there are lots of activities. We would like it to be held outside, and need to include a rain date. There are a lot of options - color run, slime, bubbles, etc.

### **Staff update**

Beth Ferry visit was fantastic - November was the perfect time of year. Several teachers commented that they will reference her visit throughout the year.

### **Principal update**

Mrs. Eckstein mentioned a recent article from US World News Report (referenced recently by the Patch) ranked HES at # 174 in over 2000 schools, with it being the top spot for Hillsborough elementary schools. Way to go HES!

**Meeting was closed at 8:27 pm. The next meeting is January 10, 2023.**

Minutes Submitted by: Lisa Chiang, HSA Recording Secretary