

Alexander Hamilton School HSA**October General Meeting**

October 18, 2011, 7:30 p.m., Media Room

Holly Goshin, Presiding

Attendance: C Calbi, H Brown, D Famularo (1M), C Finegold (KPM), M. Jeffries (4B) H Goshin, E Howe, M Kapiloff, D Mangome, G Mauceri, M Roh, M Sapoff, J Silva (2R), K Stephenson (1C), S Stern (4B), K Verkem, M Walsh, (Holly's Mom)

Approval of Minutes, Goshin

Sapoff made a motion to approve the September HSA Meeting Minutes, Kapiloff seconded the motion, followed by a unanimous vote to approve them.

Treasurer's Report, Kapiloff

Currently, there is still so much coming and going that I don't have an accurate account balance sheet. Our total is \$28,828, but more than half of that money will go back out to pay for things, such as pizza, etc. On surplus spending, we have spent about \$1,200 plus what we already approved.

All money from Pizza Day, Membership dues, etc., is pretty much in and we made more than what was expected – we have more participation than last year. All the Subway and Bagel Day money is in. 5K is pretty much finished – one more payout to the Elite Racing guys that ran the timing. We are clearing about \$6,000 from the 5K. Still collecting for Kids Stuff books and little bits here and there from Amazon click-throughs. Hopefully people will remember our Amazon click-through when ordering for the holidays. The script flyer is out and we've added Whole Foods to that program. CVS has always been an option but now it's on the form. If you go to the website you'll see lots of companies offer through Script, and you can order their cards from Hamilton (contact Ann Teicher).

We now have 21 accounts at Boiling Springs! Per Walsh, who is organizing this: We will get a percentage of all the money that is linked to our account. There will be a Super Saturday for Hamilton School on December 3rd – there will be people to hand out refreshments, possibly raffle prizes, etc. They are really catering to Hamilton families and encouraging them to open accounts and link them to Hamilton. Even if its not new account, it can be linked to Hamilton.

Right now, we all write checks for individual orders, such as pizza, bagels, etc. We are working on a form for next year so that at the beginning of next year you will fill out a master form so that you can write out just one check. You will still need to complete a tear sheet for each thing you sign up for, but at least it will be just one check. Coleman School piloted this form last year, and Kapiloff is adapting their form to work for us. Famularo asked: What if you have multiple kids? Kapiloff said it does accommodate that to a certain extent.

Principal's Report, Irene Pierides

Congrats on the 5K Run! I was impressed that the BOE president came to the run to support Hamilton. It was a great event, and many thanks to all that organized it.

Character Education – There is an emphasis on it across the state. But, we are not getting to much direction from the state. The program is our own and getting better every year. The HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying) information comes from the state, and there is a training on Dec. 6 for parents, details to come.

Here at the school, “Respect” is our theme for the month and the related book is called “Its OK to be Different” – it’s about respecting others and ourselves. I love seeing all those wonderful photos & faces of our students on our lobby board, so I have been “recycling” them when we change themes.

Regarding HIB and bully prevention, there is one formal lesson every two weeks in the classroom. Holmgren presents scenarios, and looks to improve communication between kids so that they can listen better to each other and communicate effectively. So often, misunderstandings are due to confusion about what was said between people. Holmgren has a great idea: recognize bullies from common stories we all know, and look for some traits that define bullies. We might make some wanted posters that relate to those storybook characters and the traits. We also hope to have grades 3-4-5 do related skits for K-1-2.

Holmgren is also in charge of the “social circle”. This is a group of kids selected to target a particular topic, such as kids that are all new to the school, etc., and they can take a lunch time walk around the track (around the field) with Holmgren and talk about things. This group is generally pulled together just one time. The next Social Circle is a different group. There have been about three such Social Circle walks so far, and they have been very fun for the kids, and are a chance to talk and check in on how things are going. He might talk about being kind and respectful, or the difference between unnecessary tattling and when it is important to tell about hurtful behavior. Holmgren keeps it very light and conversational.

We had a Mix-It-Up Lunch today, and it went really well, and was much smoother than in the past. Wright has a great idea for one of the next Mix-It-Up Lunches – to eat with our families. (Many parents at this meeting thought that sounded good.)

One of our next displays will be a Kindness Tree – every child has a mailbox and there can be kind comments written as “leaves” – the kids have already started by writing on post-its about how nice someone was to them.

Book buddies will now reach across all levels, not just 5th and K. The third Friday of every month will be Book Buddy day. Currently, the first Friday is Character Education, the second and fourth Fridays are Family.

A Kindergarten Coffee was held; about 10 or 11 people attended and it was really lovely. Regarding staffing, Ms. Reggio leaves after this week. Mrs. McClosky is back and they will work together this week.

Husky Café will open for the first grade on Friday - this is their first one, should be fun! Harvest Fest is next week, and will involve some great activities, including a mock farmer’s market, food tasting, a carbon footprint path, and creating ads to promote fruit & vegetables. This is a joint project between the Environmental and Nutrition Committees. Nutrition Committee is holding a pomegranate tomorrow – kids are encouraged to wear red tomorrow.

Kapiloff asked about the next two weeks of “its ok to be different activities” – Can we put the weekly to-dos in the weekly HSA letter? (The message behind this is that its ok to all be different.) Pierides said great, and Brown said yes.

Many thanks to Denise Mangome for helping with picture day – Mangome said it was fun to see everybody's kids.

BOE Report, Calbi

Six people were at the meeting; sometimes its only one or two. The meeting is going to be on Glen Rock's TV channel on Tuesdays if you want to watch it. Cuts were discussed, including \$160,000 saved due to more positions being eliminated. Results from the World Language survey will be up next month; you can see the results on the main web site. Rona McNabola wore her Hamilton 5K shirt and said she wants a scooter race – Walk, Run and Roll – to include handicapped participants. Goshin: I will invite her to roll! Per Goshin: No, you cannot ride your bike.

Federated Meeting is this Thursday.

Dr. Weber did a presentation on bullying. There is a survey for 4th grade and up regarding bullying so that students have a place for feedback. There is a December 6th meeting for parents regarding bullying, but the details are not yet announced. Verducci did a report on bullying and it's on the web site.

NJASK scores are on each school's web site. Stephenson noted that the scores over the years show tremendous growth in our math results since we introduced the Everyday Math. When asked, Stephenson noted that when compared to other J districts, we did better in some areas and worse in others. She said she heard we might move down a district, but that is due to the demographics of the town, not because of the students or the scores.

Communications Report, Brown

The website is now fabulous! If you check it out, you will see that it is wider. This is thanks to someone that will remain nameless, but ... by the way Karin Speizer is really a fabulous person for taking the time to re-format each page. The Home Page and Happenings are combined so that now they are all together on the home page. This way everyone will see all the important dates right away.

Event Reports, Goshin

Book Fair: Finegold gave a thorough presentation of the Book Fair. Total product sold by dollar is \$6,673.08. Last years total was \$7,033.40. (The difference is 360.32.) Based on profits, the school will receive \$1,500 in cash and an additional \$336.54 in Scholastic Dollars to make purchases for the school.

Last year we had Rick Riordin and Wimpy Kid books, which really drove sales. We also had one extra class. Price point average is \$5.00, so based on this we put 4-5 books in each child's hand, lending to about 230,000 reading minutes.

If Pierides were open to it, we could do it again in the Spring and tie it to summer reading list. After April 1st, Scholastic would offer that students could "Buy one, Get One Free". This would not be a fundraiser, but just think of the books we would be bringing in to our community. Jeffries asked if we do a pre-order? Finegold said she would check on that.

5K Run and Family Fun Day: Sapoff reported on this event. Great day! We had 127 runners on the list, 60 walkers, and a good group of Fun Run participants. About 12 football players volunteered. The next day, we spoke to the Police Captain and we heard

not one went thing wrong! The Gazette & Patch covered the event and had a huge articles and lots of pictures. The story is already up in the hallway at school. And, Brad Howe rocks for taking pictures of everyone. Many 6th grade Hamilton alumni helped, lots of people volunteered. Calbi suggested more people on publicity and promotions. Michele Biskobing and Dawn Beaudoin helped immensely. Someone suggested using the pictures of the football players that helped next year in our publicity. Goshin noted that \$6000 is great, but of course we try for better every year.

Everyone should know that Prominents Tickets was amazing to Hamilton with a sponsorship of \$3,000 in CASH. The Patania family is amazing, and generous. As part of the sponsorship agreement, we will continue to support their business through limited outreach to parents. One such event is coming in December, as Prominent Tickets will offer that if anyone from Hamilton comes in and purchases tickets from the store, Prominent Tickets will give 5% of the ticket prices to the Hamilton HSA. This is a great deal for Hamilton! This arrangement is a business agreement; we will only publicize this offer because it is part of that 3K sponsorship for the Fun Run.

Octoberfest: Stern reported that 80 people have already RSVP'd, including lots of kindergarten families. Last year it was 90 people. Fire pit, hay bales, dinner, drinks, no need to spend money there – only if you want to participate in the raffle, which will be kind of wonderful – an iPod dock from Panasonic, etc.

Spirit Wear: Stern reported that we have really cute stuff this year, and there should be something for everyone in regard to price point and style. Everyone should have access to something, such as the \$13 t-shirt. There are also \$10 water bottles that are BPA-free, the sweatshirt is good quality, etc. Suggestion we received is to have other colors, and so one shirt is purple but says Hamilton. Ski cap is \$15, sweatshirt, flannel pants, etc. Samples the following week. Size samples may not look like our merchandise but it's just for sizing. Stephenson said that recently, a family in Paterson had a house fire and lost everything and Jenny from the Rock (our vendor for these things) was very generous and donated clothes when she heard about it. Stern noted that we really tried to support local businesses, and she is one.

Kid Stuff Books: Silva noted that orders are due Friday, and we have received many checks and some people are ordering more than one. We do get 50% profit. Jeffries said it would be great to get them every year – we should check in and see if other schools do it and we can get it from them on our off years. Based on responses from those gathered, only Coleman does it.

Box Tops: Brown said the forms are ready to go – home on Thursday in your backpacks. We just get a dime for every box top that you turn in. Soup labels can be turned into her as well. If you are interested, there is a Box Top Market Place that will give us credit for box tops – the link is on the website page. Also, check out the Box Top Market Place for logos that you might want to click through – we will get credit for the click throughs from the Box Top organization. Mauceri: How do we turn in the labels for education? I just need the SKU, and it can be Goldfish, Pepperidge Farm, etc., and it doesn't matter if the box tip is expired. Look at Forms and Flyers site for more info.

Francesca's Pizza Night: Goshin noted that there might be a special twist to the next pizza night, with Pierides possibly attending. Sal likes the idea, so we'll see how it goes. Several people in the room noted that they ordered the whole wheat pizza and it was even better than the regular one. And, they have gluten-free pizza.

Upcoming Events

- 10/20 Federated HSA Meeting, Byrd
- 10/21 First Grade Husky Café
- 10/21 Kids Stuff Ends
- 10/22 Oktoberfest
- 10/25 Pizza Day
- 10/27 Harvest Fest
- 10/31 Halloween Parties & Parade
- 11/3 Subway Day
- 11/8 Pizza Day
- 11/9 Visitation Day
- 11/10-11/11 – NJEA Convention, no school

Discussion Items, Goshin

Why is Visitation Day only in the morning? Pierides can answer that, although it will very likely come up at the Federated Meeting at Byrd. Really suggest going to that meeting if possible.

Thank you notes from Mrs. Rorro, and from Mrs. Kessler.

Donna Famularo said that this year she has had several problems with distribution of the lunch orders – we ordered pizza and they got the chicken, both my kids got lunch one day but only one was supposed to, etc. Others shared similar issues.

Please be aware, that it is now a state law that teachers have to live in NJ, all current teachers are grandfathered in.

Monster Golf in Paramus donated time there for the Box Top winning class. Many thanks to Monster Golf!

Jeffries noted the Parking Rules seem to have gone out the window, that cones are not in place, and people are pulling out at 3:22. Many people agreed with this. Pierides needs to send an email.

Adjournment, Goshin

Finegold made a motion to adjourn, and that was seconded by Kapiloff. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Howe