**Byrd School HSA Meeting Minutes**

**March 19, 2018**

**8:45 a.m.**

**Approve Minutes from 1/22/18:**

Motion to approve minutes: Alix Schaefer

Second: Supriya Kapur

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Checking – $61,269.26 *(as of 3/12/2018)*
* Savings - $10,838.61 *(as of 3/12/2018)*

**Board of Education Report – Sharon Scarpelli**

* BOE is currently finalizing budget
  + Currently, budget reflects a ~7% increase in general fund over last year; there is a 2% cap, but some adjustments can be take
  + Increase will ultimately be lower
  + Effect on tax payer of current plan is ~3 ½% increase
* Received increase in State aid
  + Adding Chrome Books for grades K-2
  + Added a Math specialist – help to bridge from elementary to middle school and support Everyday Math program
* Next meeting is this Wednesday, open to all to come
* Questions about traffic study and school safety
  + There are always items in budget for upgrades to security
* Michelle Torpey met with Mr. Watson to discuss support for students’ social/emotional health at all schools; BOE and Mr. Watson are supportive
* Question about hiring additional guidance counselors for elementary students; this did not make top financial priorities for the budget this year
* BOE members cannot comment on things pertaining to their role on social media

**Discussion of Arboretum offerings – Elaine Howe**

* Ms. Howe is a Hamilton Mom and led programs there on environmentalism
* Arboretum Environmental Education Center
  + Had over 1000 visitors in 2017
  + Offers field study/field trips and support for independent study
  + Looking to have Glen Rock scientists volunteer to support students
    - For example, a student was interested in nutrient pollution and had a scientist help guide his project
  + Consider becoming a member or volunteer, and please visit!

**Dr. Weber’s Report**

* PARCC is next week, Byrd will be testing grades 3-5, starts at 9am
* Children who do not take PARCC will be supervised but there is no curriculum; PARCC is the curriculum during this time
* Spelling Bee is happening at Central school
* Thursday is the Science Fair, high school students coming to help
* On Friday community groups will be held; theme is Kindness Rocks, and children will be painting rocks with positive message to go in the yard
* March 28: Ms. Wagner is hosting assembly about classical music and opera
* March 29: “Wild About Animals” assembly, with focus on rare animals
* Report cards will be posted March 29th at 3pm; end of marking period is Friday.

**Committee Reports**

* Lunchtime activities
* Byrd Broadway – Going well with Rhino productions (Sharon Tishco)
  + Tickets will open to 5th grade and teachers first
  + 6 tickets per family
  + Show is Saturday, April 21st, at 1pm, approximately 1 ½ long
  + Need help with costumes; some of it can be done at home (Libby Deely)
  + Help will also be needed for scenery (Brigid Nonas)
* Mother/Son Dance/Benefit
  + Over ~$2K was raised for the Anthony Canonico fund
* Book Fair
  + Raised ~$5,200 coming into the library
  + Therapy dogs were amazing, kids were very good with the dogs
  + Vivian’s Grace fundraiser - ~80 books donated
  + Online book fair closes on 3/22
* Read-a-Thon from 3/1-3/30
  + Send checks in kids’ folders ($5 minimum donation)
  + Estimate time spent reading; this can even be sent in at end of month
* Science Fair on 3/22
  + Theme: Increasing efficiency

**New Business**

* Great Book Giveaway
  + Bin will be in front, started on 3/19 and will run through 3/29
  + Accepting children’s, not adult books; new and gently used books
  + This is for a literacy program for kids
* Bingo Night on 3/23
  + Can sign up online or pay at the door
  + This is not a drop-off event
* Wish List is in process
  + Sample items include: multicultural events, ballroom dancing, manners lunch, recess coach, more access to what the teachers want
* Elections and Voting
  + Have to be paid HSA member to vote; one vote per household
  + Using Election Runner software
  + Teachers who are eligible to vote will vote by sealed envelope; an outside party will count closed ballots
  + Opens following this meeting and closes promptly at 11am tomorrow
  + HSA members seeking Board positions are as follow:
    - Secretary – Sara MacDonald (unopposed)
    - Treasurer – Amy Mortko and Vlad Warshawsky
    - VP, Fundraising – Jennifer Chiang and Yana Warshawsky
    - VP, Activities – Susan McNair and Karol Rubio
    - VP, Administration and Community – Christine Osborne and Alixandra Schaefer
    - President(s) – Supriya Kapur, Sharon Tishco, and Jennifer Lota
  + Michelle Torpey requested (three times) if there are other people who would like to be nominated for an HSA Board position; no one replied with interest, thus closing the nominations process

Motion to adjourn: Sharon Tishco

Second: Eliza Yohana