**Byrd School HSA Meeting Minutes**

**September 28, 2017**

**Approve Minutes from 5/25/17:**

Motion to approve minutes: Supriya Kapur

Second: Lauren Munshower

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Checking –$22,088
* Savings - $10,825

**Board of Education – Sharon Scarpelli**

* Field Usage
  + An assessment will be done to determine which fields need to be replaced and/or replenished, the order of priority, and which need to be taken offline
* Traffic Study
  + Would like BOE to pay $10,000 toward the cost of the study
  + We need traffic to be viewed over the course of the year, including times of heavy snow and rain, to get an accurate assessment
* Laptop Initiative
  + Each student at the high school has a laptop for the school year
  + Approximately $250,000 annual expense
  + Resolving an issue with printing; currently students can’t print
* Community Showcase, Nov. 1
  + Town showcases volunteer and other organizations in the community to increase awareness and interest
* Alcohol and Drug Awareness session for parents, late Fall/early Winter
  + Need to address issue with underage drinking in the town
  + Will most likely happen in the school to allow adequate space
* Next BOE Meeting is Oct. 10, at 8pm
  + Public comments can only be made on agenda items in this type of meetings

**Dr. Weber’s Report**

* Great start to the school year
* Rubber Mat
  + The rubber mat in the back of the school is 15 years old and must be replaced; currently working with Buildings & Grounds to address
  + Mesh underneath is gone, so weeds are coming up through the mat
  + This is an expensive item; 15 years ago, it came through the BOE; would like to partner with BOE if not have them cover it in full
  + Michelle Torpey is meeting with Liz Carr, Byrd BOE rep, to discuss -- we have the smallest playground of the schools and need an advocate to receive assistance with expenses
* New Laminator
  + HSA will be purchasing a new laminator for the school
* Special weeks at school
  + Next week (beginning 10/2): Respect Week
  + Following week (beginning 10/10): Violence and Vandalism Week
* Theme for this year: Kindness Rocks
* Community Groups starting in October
  + Created groups from K-5 with children representing each grade; kids learn about one another and older children mentor younger ones
  + Kids meet throughout the year on Fridays with a teacher, culminating with a party in the yard
  + Kids stay with same groups other than those new to school or addition of incoming kindergarteners
* Principal Advisory Group of 5th graders
  + Selected by lottery at random and serve as a steering committee
  + Dr. Weber meets with group at lunchtime
  + Children share what they like and don’t like, and give suggestions for community groups

**Committee Reports**

* New Family Student Get-Together
  + Next year, will do it after the teacher assignments are out, one week later than presently
* Welcome Back Coffee was a success
* Teacher Appreciation Day – lunch from Rock Kitchen was a success
* First Day School Supplies
  + No problems with the box other than small issue in fourth grade class
  + Received approx. $900 from this fundraiser
  + Suggestion to have teachers check off what is in the box and confirm, since parents will not know
* School pictures went smoothly
* Family movie night/picnic on 9/15
  + Movie was Moana
  + Buy more light-up toys for next year
* Kids’ Stuff book (Brigid Nonas)
  + Return books by tomorrow or pay online by 9/30
* Open chair positions
  + Byrd Broadway
    - Three of the chairs are no longer at the school; only one remains
    - If we want a show, we need volunteers; no one is running it now
    - Can be any kind of show, talent show, etc.
    - We try to make it a fundraiser, given we give up the gym to Byrd Dance and have associated opportunity costs
    - Question arose whether we would we consider bringing in an outside company to do the show (Porchlight, Curtains Up, etc.)
      * Will cost more for us as parents
      * Rather than a fundraising effort we would likely break even
      * Need to decide as parents if we want to do this
    - Two days gym is open: Wednesday and Friday
    - Costs $5,000 to do just the production of the show, not including costumes
    - Class parents to bring this back to classes to see if anyone wants to do it; send it out through class parent pages
    - Suggestion came up that perhaps we could recoup costs not only through raising fees, but through charging more per ticket
    - Show is currently reserved on April 21 in Middle School

Auditorium

* + - Asking for due date for volunteers of next Friday, 10/6
  + BOE Representative
    - BOE meets twice a month on Tuesdays, from 8pm to approximately 10pm, in the media center
    - Rotate representatives so each person does not need to be at each meeting
    - Meetings are taped, so even if someone doesn’t make it to the meeting, can also watch the tapes and do a write-up from that
  + SEPAC Representative
    - Michelle Torpey would like to teach/transition to another parent
  + Lunchtime Activity Coordinator
    - Erica Danziger has been running the program for the past few years; this is very organized and simple to take over
    - Position is for an overall coordinator; not someone who needs to come in to lunch each time
  + Nichole Hayward is nominating representative for open committee positions
* Spiritwear – Eliza Yohana and Jen Collins
  + For sale online; ends 9/30 at midnight
  + This is the only chance to buy for the entire year
  + First Friday of the month is Spirit Day
  + Must be an HSA member online first, and then go back in to buy
* Byrd Dance - Sharon Scarpelli
  + Had a great recital in May
  + Byrd Dance has been made a strong contribution to the HSA (does not get any funding from HSA)
    - Last year, made about $7,000 for HSA; money is collected and then a check is written to the HSA
    - In total, over $45,000 has been released to the HSA over three years
    - Account earns interest and there has been increased transparency into accounts
    - Checkbook currently has about $6,300; the group always maintains a cushion to cover expenses
  + Currently there are 102 families and 146 dancers in the program; majority are Byrd students, but do have kids from other schools
  + Kate Thompson and Emily Lehr will be Chairs next year to transition while current chair people are still here
  + Even if there is low enrollment, a class is still offered, although it may not be profitable
  + Still room in Tap and Jazz classes, K-4
    - Registration is not through website; must be either check or cash
  + Question arose whether we could we pilot different classes if enrollment is low in a class, since space is at a premium at Byrd
    - Offering cheer dance for 3rd-5th girls
    - Expanded lyrical ballet to 4th and 5th
    - Many dance teachers encourage ballet as it is the basis of all dance
    - Expanding offerings to boys who are interested in Jazz and Tap
* Curious Reader fundraiser, today, 9/28 from 4-6:30pm
  + All the teachers read; the first readers are Dr. Weber together with the new Superintendent
  + Marc’s cheesecake will donate 10% of sales for those who come by to us
  + At all other times throughout the year, note that when we buy there, our school gets money to spend there
* Town Council Meeting about traffic study at Byrd, October 3rd at 7:30pm (Borough Hall)
  + All are encouraged to attend
  + Liz Carr is the Byrd BOE representative
  + It has taken a lot of persistence to arrange this meeting; we would like to ensure they hear our input
  + The cost of the engineer is ~ $15,000
  + They already started the study but have only seen nice weather days, which are not indicative of the issues that arise on snowy and rainy days
  + Neighbors have involved the DPW, as they are unhappy with parking
    - We have about 50 people here on any given day
    - Not acceptable for teachers and staff to park by train station and walk to school, as this is a safety hazard
  + Comment made by participant that this issue arose when they took away police presence in September 2016

**New Business**

* ½ day bagel day (2 bagel days)
  + Wheat, plain, sesame bagel
  + Laura Haley will be organizing it
  + Merve’s is offering to do one of the ½ days for us (the January half day)
    - Grilled cheese day, with drink (honest drinks)
    - To sell for $6
    - Will offer gluten free bread; for extra $0.50 can put meat on it
    - If no interest, then will add another bagel day
* Pizza day starts on Oct 4th
  + Order from John Boy
  + Will have two orders, once in Fall and again in Winter, so people can change their minds mid-year
* Ice cream day starts Oct. 5th
  + Organic ice cream is an issue; retailers cannot guarantee no contamination with peanuts or nuts
  + Nurse must be aware of all ingredients due to allergies
  + Supriya Kapur:
    - The ice cream has 20-28 ingredients and 3-4 dyes; need healthier (organic) options
    - Central offers from Whole Foods and Kilroys; other schools do this
    - Proposes to increase the price and offer organic ice cream
    - Wants to send out a survey to parents to gauge interest
  + Supriya Kapur will take charge of offering an option for parents to bring in $2 for organic ice cream, and will ensure organic ice cream is made available at school on a weekly basis.

**Other Business/Notes**

* First Spirit Day is on Oct. 6
* Tic-Toc activity in the Arboretum; training is on Oct 5th
* Harlem Wizards, Dec. 10 – looking for new volunteers that may potentially take over as chair people next year
* First pizza day is 10/4
* First ice cream day is 10/5

Motion to Adjourn: Eliza Yohana

Second: Moira Nolfo