

Federated Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2021

Welcome: April Meeting

Kelly Buchsbaum welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:19am via Zoom.

In attendance:

Kelly Buchsbaum (Federated President), Colleen Tansey (Federated 1st VP), Amy Gill (Federated 2nd VP), Valerie Auyeung (Federated Secretary/Treasurer), Kathy Marshall (Federated Member-at-Large), Dr. Tom Gorman (Superintendent), Mike Lembo (BOE President), Julianne Cho (GW), Christine Malloy (Travell), Jimmy Judge (Orchard), Francesca Parker (Somerville), Sarah Traband (Somerville), Ashley Minetti (Ridge), Kelly Ashford (Hawes), Elena Croy (RED), Paul McCarthy (REF), Mayumi Harada (BF), Mary Micala (RHS), Jamie England (LSHSA), Lauren Dunleavy (Willard), Carol Waldman (BFMS), Jess Vartughian (Travell), Jen Giammarella (Hawes)

March minutes approved.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Tom Gorman, Interim Superintendent

- April 19th: Students will return every day; high numbers include cases over break. Health dept did not think there were outbreaks occurring within the schools. Numbers should decrease by April 19th.
- Data from surveys indicate 1/3 wanted to return 5 days a week, 1/3 wanted to remain hybrid, 1/3 wanted all virtual
- Name of Late Start Time committee will change to Alternative Schedule committee; will consider options and unveil next year; priority is still to focus on having all students have a smooth return on 4/19 and also discussing phase 3
- Unsure of schedule for Sept; awaiting guidance from governor
- Unsure what the guidance for graduation and prom from governor will be
- Kathy M: Late start time was discussed in a meeting 5 years ago with Dr. Gorman and various stakeholders. Why are bussing changes not the focus for the change in schedule?
 - Dr. Gorman: Moving schedule of RHS to 30 min later is extremely complicated and will not be done in September
 - HS may need to go to 80 min periods--teachers will have to make many adjustments to teaching plans
 - Also need to focus on hiring HS and elementary school principals
 - Need to discuss with union and teachers
 - There are many implications and impacts groups other than sports

- Mary M: Parents may feel that this is not a priority---needs to be communicated to parents that there is a sense of priority towards mental health of students and sense of commitment to change
- Dr. Gorman: This was communicated at a few board meetings
 - Many changes at RHS take at least a few months to a year
 - BOE has 5 main goals: mental health is one of them
 - Developed a principals' task force (2 representatives from each level) with Stacie Poelstra to discuss schedules; will later invite parents; investigate how alternate schedules have worked in other schools; will also survey the community; task force will create committees within each school
 - Kelly B: How will parent committees be created? Dr. Gorman: Will need to discuss further; may need assistance from HSAs.
 - Kathy: Principals' committees are different than HSA committees---formation of committees are a district responsibility, not the HSA's.
 - Mary: HSAs have historically worked together with administration
 - Dr. Gorman: Agree with Kathy's comment that HSAs may be asked for assistance in forming committees but unlike an HSA subcommittee, the principal has the discretion to choose members if it is a principal's committee---this would not be the job of the HSA
 - Mary: Request to keep HSAs informed of decisions of alternate start schedule
 - Kathy: Disservice to volunteers when a few parents inform the BOE members that they are being excluded or not responsive to individual communities
 - Kelly B: Updated Federated website includes minutes from meetings
 - Kelly B: Suggested best practice would be for BOE members to ask or confirm info with Dr. Gorman or individual schools before bringing up issues in a public meeting, speaking in an official capacity, which can lead to misinformation being shared with the broader community
 - Kelly B: Please explain Pandemic Response Teams and how they were formed and are they following The Road Back document outline? Dr. Gorman stated that this is a Governor's initiative; not sure if this will be mandated for next year
 - Is another committee team necessary to collect feedback and complaints?
 - Mary M: There is a misconception about pandemic response teams--many do not know that it is Governor-mandated; purpose is for parent rep, special ed parent rep, tech to inform principals of how things were going; meant for

information gathering/sharing---not meant to determine how to open schools

- Ashley M: Consider discussing mission of HSA at next meeting with new boards

Board of Education Update:

Mike Lembo, BOE

- Appreciate input, time, and hard work from HSAs and Federated
- Alternative school schedule: Many components involved; this is one part of mental health, not the only part
- Priority is to have all kids safely back in school at this time, but alternate school schedule discussion is being addressed simultaneously as well
- Mental health presentation for parents at BOE meeting on Mon 4/13; one specific for K-5 on Tues 4/14
- Preliminary budget submitted to county for approval; will be presented by BA to the board if approved by county; budget needs to be done by July 1st; will still remain within 2% cap; continuing to monitor amount of federal aid being received
- Principals' positions to be filled for RHS and Ridge
- Many RHS students are getting vaccinated with expanded criteria for vaccinations
- Mary: The BOE needs to communicate that the alternate school schedule is still a priority
- Kelly B: How many will be returning to school or have chosen to be virtual on April 19th? Dr. Gorman: Elementary schools 10%, MS 20%, HS 20-25% are virtual. Numbers continue to change slightly. Numbers returning to what they were in Sept. Needed to add desks in classrooms; plastic shields in place; marks placed on floor to indicate placement of desks; will prob still have these parameters in place for Sept
- Need to emphasize to community that we need to continue wear masks, wash hands, and socially distance when not in school in order to open schools safely

President's Update:

Kelly Buchsbaum, President

- HSA best practices: DEI---did principals send letters out to community to notify parents of committee and invite parents to join?
 - Jimmy J: Have about 5 parent members; schools need to clarify that it is not an HSA initiative but part of all principals' initiatives through District.
 - Kelly B: Initiative started by Stacie Poelstra for principals; HSAs helping with communication and fundraising
 - Will HSA help with funding or will district fund DEI?
 - Christine M: At Travell, it is an HSA priority, and HSA has funded some of the DEI events that were being

planned before DEI initiative started; have about 18-20 parent members

- HSAs contribute tremendous number of volunteer hours as well as funds to schools
- HSA Presidents - consider Zoom for future meetings next year, as well as recording the meetings

Vice President's Report:

Colleen Tansey, 1st Vice President

Amy Gill, 2nd Vice President

- Wizards 2022: Unsure of guidelines for gatherings for 2022; possible dates Jan 20, 21 or 27, 28
 - Should 2 nights be booked for next year? Will there be a demand for 2 nights?
 - Should backup dates be booked for April?
 - Deposit of \$100 to hold the dates
 - Mary M: Should book the 2 dates in Jan
 - Kathy M: Agree to book the 2 dates in Jan
- Crossing Guards events/gift: Individually bagged cookie and \$25 TD bank gift card---targeting May 4th delivery; will deliver to HSA presidents the morning of May 4th to distribute to crossing guards

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer

- No new updates

Member-at-Large Report:

Kathy Marshall, Member-at-Large

- No new insurance updates
- GroupSpot: Communicate GroupSpot requirements to new board members joining for next year; each school should consider having a GroupSpot chair or volunteer to keep app up-to-date

Nominating Committee report: Colleen Tansey, Jamie England, Julianne Cho

- Next year's slate presented:
 - President: Mary Micale
 - 1st VP: Amy Gill
 - 2nd VP: Todd Rothman
 - Treasurer/Secretary: Valerie Auyeung
 - Member-at-large: Amy Biersdorf

Kelly B: Reminder: May 6th Federated HSA meeting will include both incoming and outgoing HSA Presidents

Open discussion:

- Stop Asian Hate event on 4/10/2021
- Author Luncheon with RPL on 4/14/2021
- Mascot photo on 4/14/2021 at 4pm
- Ashley M: Installing free library at Ridge in honor of Dr. Shoenlank and her upcoming retirement. How do other schools keep the free library updated?
 - Lauren D will send info from Willard librarian
 - Ashley M to reach out to GW and RHS for alumni to make donations
 - Ashley M – Ridge is considering outdoor reception to celebrate retirement; Kathy suggested asking Dr. Gorman for guidance
 - Christine M: have link for families to submit photos for digital scrapbook for last year principal's retirement: www.newlywords.com
- Kelly A: What are other schools doing for their 5th grade celebrations?
 - Sarah T: Work in progress at Somerville; depends on what is allowed
 - Ashley M: Also work in progress at Ridge
 - Christine M: Travell collected ideas from parents and will meet with principal to discuss ideas; possible outdoor tent party
- Kelly A: Electronic sign vendor ideas
 - Colleen: Need to check with Dr. Sem and district if this is allowed; was not allowed during her term as Hawes HSA board due to town ordinances
- Kelly B: Official 2021-2022 Federated Board has been voted in per Valerie A: Unanimous Vote of approval on Federated Executive Board 2021-22 received from all HSA Presidents

Meeting adjourned at: 11:14 am

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 9:15 am—via Zoom or Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, 3rd floor

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer