

Federated Home and School Association Meeting Minutes December 9, 2021

Welcome: December Meeting

Mary Micale welcomed everyone to the meeting at 9:29am.

In attendance:

Mary Micale (Federated President), Amy Gill (Federated 1st VP), Todd Rothman (Federated 2nd VP), Valerie Auyeung (Federated Secretary/Treasurer), Amy Beiersdorf (Federated Member-at-Large), Dr. Tom Gorman (Superintendent), Mike Lembo (BOE), Paul McCarthy (REF)
Jimmy Judge (Orchard), Patty Leung (Orchard)
Nancy Joachim-Ventura (Travell), Jess Vartugian (Travell)
Angela Lee (Hawes), Jennifer Pisani (Hawes)
Anna Crane (Willard)
Christine Lear (Somerville)
Jean Whitehead (Ridge)
Carol Waldman (BFMS)
Tasneem Patrawala (GW)
Kelly Buchsbaum (RHS)
Jamie England (LSHSA)
Daniel Forman (RED)
Margarita Carmody (LSHSA)

Special guest: Michael Aaron Flicker (Super Science Saturday)
November minutes approved.

Superintendent's Update:

Dr. Tom Gorman, Superintendent; Stacie Poelstra

- Alternate start time: survey will not be sent out this week due to more time needed to send out more info to community
 - Committee composed of 50 members with parents, community members, administrators
 - Presentation given last week to community to explain reason for changed start time
 - CA made into law that HS students cannot start school before 8:30
 - Changed start times will affect everyone: field use, bussing, all schools
 - Cannot just take off a few minutes of class time---more complex than that
- Stacie: Schedules need to be in place by Feb due to course selections made by students starting in Feb; short amount of time to change the schedule
 - K12 Insight hired to create survey; firm also did survey for schools in Minnesota who moved to late start times
 - Will create a survey to ask a wider range of stakeholders

- Bus runs affected if moving—busses will be 15 min apart; will need more busses
- Need to survey community to see if 8:15-8:30 start times would even work; many schools have 90 min blocks
- Stacie: K12 Insight will ask more questions regarding issues that would impede late start times
- There are endless options of schedules—cannot put them all out to the community
- Flex time in elementary schools: Could be used for supplemental instruction or re-teach time
- Middle school homeroom in the middle of the day is not working
- HS did not want to lose period 9
- Many school districts took 3-4 years to make this change
- Mary: At BOE meeting, when redoing survey, how much will survey input be used (weight of survey in final decision); how will survey be changed
 - Gorman: Trying to decide at this point how survey will be changed
 - Need to agree on overall structure before looking at individual components (ex 90 min blocks vs 80 min blocks, shorter lunch, combining middle and high school students on the same bus, etc.)
 - Initial survey was meant to be 1 data point, not a vote
- Mike: Important for HSAs at schools to get input from individual schools
- Mary: Is later start time for 6-12 still a non-negotiable?
 - Stacie: Yes but shorter instructional time would be trickier to change and would be harder to make negotiable
 - Can cut instructional time but would not provide students the depth of knowledge
 - Elementary schedules have less instructional time than other districts so Flex time may benefit
 - Still need to survey teachers from entire staff
- Todd: Input from community FB group was that members were grateful for the meeting provided by the district but need more info on start times; input from another group was that this is needed at this time during the pandemic; education for community needed before another survey goes out
 - Need more info to go out first to win people over and provide more info on pros/cons
- Gorman: Smart Balance has met at the HS for years—blackout periods, no homework during religious holidays, sleep-ins implemented
 - About 4 years ago, AAP endorsed that 8:30 start time should be implemented for adolescents
 - Several information sessions have been given to the community
 - District goal is to potentially implement new schedule
 - Amy: Would it help if HSAs disseminate info? Gorman: start with smaller HSAs; would be helpful to have list of questions to put in FAQ
 - Jean: Will survey go to elementary parents? Gorman: Yes but not elementary students

Board of Education Update:

Mike Lembo, BOE

- See above

Special Guest: Michael Aaron Flicker (Super Science Saturday)

- Graduate of RHS and creator of Super Science Saturday
- Started in 1988 by BF teacher
- Overseeing this program since Michael was a junior in college in 1994
- Over 1500 people participate including adults from various corporations and organizations (NASA, Google, etc)
- Asking for input for what schools are doing for science fairs
 - Jean (Ridge): pre-pandemic norms
 - Christine (Somerville): Pre-pandemic norms with scheduled time slots
 - Jimmy (Orchard): Waiting to see; just moved talent show to virtual
 - Nancy (Travell): Students presenting in classes (required for 5th graders) over a period of a week leading to science fair
 - Anna (Willard): Pre-pandemic norms
 - Carol (BF): Doing in-person events at this time
 - Tasneem (GW): In-person events being done at this time.
 - Kelly (RHS): In-person event would be preferred.
- Input from Committee: would model safety; would in-person event with masks and social distancing be accepted by the community?
- Scheduled for March 5, 2022

President's Update:

Mary Micale, President

- Kelly: Social media questions—should they be answered; Mary: social media should not be used for education not based on facts; should use social media to steer people towards information by providing a direct source
 - Todd: Leaders may need to use social media more since many parents get their information from there
 - Amy: Suggest having HSAs compiling list of 5 questions from each school and sending to Dr. Gorman
 - Jean: Can Federated or district send graphics to be included with the blurb to send out via GroupSpot? Should be consistent for all schools
 - Todd: Should have consistent messaging from the district to all schools
 - Valerie: Suggest having Alternate Start time presentations given by individual elementary and middle school principals to catch the rest of the community/schools up with what has been discussed by the high school for years

- Municipal Alliance meeting update: Anti-vaping grant of \$1900 to be used to continue program from middle school
 - Total \$2500; \$600 requested to cover remainder of program for middle students and adult parent info session; last session presented to community was in May 2020; would like to do in Feb/March
 - Amy G: Can elementary schools be included ie 5th graders? May change the cost of program. Mary: Will propose to Kevin Feeley. Support of providing \$600 and see if more funding needed to include 5th graders; also need to know specific amount
 - Jess: Were they open to exploring sponsorships within the community? Mary: Due to small amount, unlikely to explore other sources.
 - Tasneem: Would vaping sensors be installed at the middle schools? Mary: This would be a question for the BOE.
 - Mary: Kevin Feeley mentioned that the MS kids are delayed socially because of the pandemic (learning to eat lunch together instead of vaping or alcohol/drugs)
- Citizens safety committee meeting update: In Jan, will send out sign up to help committee create maps around schools for safe places to park

Vice President's Report:

Amy Gill, 1st Vice President

Todd Rothman, 2nd Vice President

- Wizards game 2022 updates:
 - Releasing only 1 date first, Fri, 1/28/2022; if needed, then will sell for 1/27/2022
 - Ticket price will be increased to \$25 for first time in many years
 - Decreased capacity to 700 (decreased from 825)
 - If high demand for 1st date, then will open up 2nd date
 - Release tickets Jan 4th then can decide if 2nd date should be offered
 - Streaming not a feasible option
 - Pre-shows with performers performing during 1st hour; parents of performers can purchase tickets to the game
 - Timeline:
 - Ridgewood's Got Talent Anthem contest: call for submissions starting tomorrow (deadline 1/31/2022)— will select top 5, and winners will be selected at Federated
 - Info will be sent out by Amy with blurb and logo to post along with Google form application; to be sent to Gmail account created for Wizards
 - 1/17/2022: Player rosters due
 - Discuss with principal: 3 players from elementary; 2 from each MS/HS/BOE
 - If demand, will open up tickets for 2nd date on 1/5/2022
 - Limit to 6 tickets per family
 - Will sell some type of goodie bag at the end of the game

- Patty: Should we reach out directly to organizations for acts in pre show? Amy: Send recommendations to Amy and Todd.
- Recommendations for Pizza/restaurants: Renato's, Santoni's, Chestnut, Brooklyn, Puzo's, LaBella
 - Email any sponsors of directory by end of next week for no-cook nights and other restaurants
- Volunteers needed for check-in, Wizards sales, crowd control
- Volunteers do not need tickets
- Posters can be picked up by HSA Presidents to hang at schools; Wizards lanyards for teacher players as well to picked up with posters

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer

- Wizards deposit of \$1700 paid

Member-at-Large Report:

Amy Beiersdorf, Member-at-Large

- Nothing to report

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 am

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 6, 2021 at 9:15 am at Education Center, 49 Cottage Place, 3rd floor

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Auyeung, Secretary/Treasurer