

Hopewell Valley Regional School District
STRIVE PTO Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024
7PM
Toll Gate Grammar School Cafeteria

The STRIVE PTO is a Parent Teacher Organization Supporting Students with Physical, Cognitive, Developmental & Medical Challenges.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 21, 2024	7P	Monthly Meeting	Toll Gate Elementary
March 29, 2024	7P	Dad's Night Out	Hamilton Lanes
April 18, 2024	7P	Monthly Meeting	Toll Gate Elementary
May 6-10, 2024	All Day	Teacher Appreciation Week	
May 6-10, 2024	All day	Nurse Appreciation Week	
May 11-17, 2024	All day	Transportation Appreciation Week	
May 16, 2024	7P	Monthly Meeting	Timberlane Middle School
June 8, 2024	11A	Father's Day Fishing	Rosedale Park
June 13, 2024	6P	Annual Awards Night	Central High School
June, 20, 2024	7P	Monthly Meeting	Central High School
TBA	End of the Year Picnic		TBA

A. CALL TO ORDER: PROMPTLY AT 7PM

B. ROLL CALL

- a. Carolyn Bender, Katie Furrey, Krista Gerleit, Ivy Weitzman, Beth Hoffman, Kate Hamm, Heather Mott, Maya Yatom, Kyoko Coco, Kelly Brown, Arianna Stevens, Erin O'Brien, Courtney Leonard, Michelle Brennan, Ilene Astemborski, Deb Burd,

C. Recognized Educators of the Year

- a. Strive thanks staff for their hard work and will give \$100 to each recipient for use in the classroom

D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES: [February, 2024](#)

- a. Carolyn moved to approve, Maya second, approved by all

E. MINI-GRANT REQUEST

a. 2023-17 Ms. Arianna Stevens, 4th Grade ICR Teacher \$300

- i. Funds are requested to pay for weekly Yoga sessions for the students in the 4th grade ICR (in-class resource) classroom at Stony Brook Elementary School. We would also invite Mrs. Seckinger's Autism Class to join us during these sessions, as another opportunity to integrate the two classrooms in order to foster friendships and relationships. These 10 weekly yoga sessions would be run by a licensed Yoga Instructor, Jennifer Galgano - a Hopewell Valley parent, and would last 30 minutes.
- ii. Maya moved to approve, second by Heather, approved by all

F. DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES REPORT: Paulette DiNardo, George Needham (Grade 6-12 Supervisor) and Beth Hoffman (PreK-5 Supervisor)

- a. Monthly Report

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- i. Disability awareness month activities, SEL Day throughout schools, half day PD for staff-LGBTQ presentation, sand tray therapy, AAC training, Foundations, AR season underway, planning for ESY w/bussing to Inclusion Sports, Club Dreams, and Camp Shriver.
 - ii. From Paulette via Carolyn-please try to keep the scheduled AR date, only 1 student signed up for Special Olympics Track w/Paulette and George-not enough for a team so will try next year. Admin. may ask Strive for help w/funding for Jordan Toma presentation (\$10k).
- b. March Presentation
 - i. Elementary school activities including St. Patrick's Day, SEL, Read Across America, Pi Day, Buddy Classes, Ramadan and Eid, Disability Awareness, Character Strong. TMS St. Baldrick's Day to raise money for childhood cancer, POOF, Coffee Cabana, CBI trips. CHS Best Buddies Club, Unified Night Out at spring musical, job exploration at Maker's Place and Inclusion Sports, visit to Hutchins Gallery

G. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Carolyn Bender

- a. **Staff Recognition Coordinator position.**
 - i. This position would acknowledge big events for staff members (birthdays, weddings, new baby, etc). If interested please email HVRSDStrivePTO@gmail.com
- b. Upcoming events include Dad's Bowling, craft at Art Sparks for Mother's Day, Father's Day fishing, Twelve Acre Farm on 5/11 3-5, Awards Night, End of Year Picnic, Transportation Appreciation 4/8, Staff Appreciation

H. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **TREASURER AND REPORT AND APPROVAL:** Lauren Cavanaugh
 - i. Profit and loss
 - ii. Budget v. actual
 - iii. Donations
- b. **VICE PRESIDENT:** Katie Furrey
 - i. Parent Liaisons openings- need representative from Stony Brook and Hopewell still needed
 - ii. Award Night Committee: Next Meeting is 3/25 at 8:45PM on Zoom
 - iii. SibShops will be scheduled on April 20th and again in the fall
 - iv. Toll Gate Update: Maya Yatom
 - 1. Trying to be more inclusive-counselor reached out to Strive-each week highlighted an 'invisible' disability-PSA along with a small presentation. Book fair included neurodiversity collection, Strive representatives read. Quiet room during skate night, some time w/o music. Putting together sensory bags that schools can borrow during events. Maya may put together a training on how to be a neurodiverse ally.
 - v. Timberlane
 - 1. Science Day coming up

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2. Heather organizing fundraiser for Strive PTO-Nothing bundt Cakes for Mother's Day, and Unica luncheon, Max Challenge raising money for Strive 5/11-Max Day of Giving, Bailey at Twine wants to do movie night in the fall as a fundraiser-Hocus Pocus

c. SECRETARY REPORT: Krista Gerleit

- i. Website and Newsletter report

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. SPECIAL EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING: Kate Hamm, Heather Mott, Kelly Kolbjorgensen and Tara McCullough

- i. Award Night Decoration Committee (Kelly Kolbjorgensen)
- ii. Teacher Appreciation (Kate Hamm)
- iii. Transportation Appreciation (Heather Mott & Carolyn Bender)
- iv. Nurses Appreciation (Kelly Kolbjorgensen, Heather Mott, Carolyn Bender)

b. PESES: Parents Embracing Special Education Students: Kelly Lento (One spot open)
(Pronounced PIECES)

- i. Monthly Ladies Walk - First Sunday in April (4/7), meet at Terra Momo and walk

c. WELCOME COMMITTEE: Maya Yatom, Carolyn Bender
(*Information compiled to assist new STRIVE-eligible families coming into the HVRSD district*)

- i. Welcome Package (STRIVE meeting schedule, schedule of events, STRIVE contacts)
- ii. Discussion of New parent event (April)

d. BY-LAW COMMITTEE: Carolyn Bender, Lauren Cavanaugh, Katie Furrey, Krista Gerleit
Mercer County Library, Hopewell Branch at 6PM
(*Regular review to ensure we are in compliance with by-laws and propose amendments where necessary.*)

i. Meeting Schedule

April 16, 2024
July 17, 2024
September 18, 2024
November 20, 2024
February 19, 2025

J. SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

(*Representatives give reports at our monthly business meetings from their respective school and share STRIVE events for addition to school based PTO calendars*)

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- a. **Central High School:** **Parent(s):** Heather Mott
 Staff: Meaghan McGowan, Michelle Brennan and Nicole Mangone

- b. **Timberlane Middle School:** **Parent(s):** Heather Mott
 Staff: Stephanie Capasso and Lizzy Cornell

- c. **Toll Gate Elementary:** **Parent(s):** Maya Yatom
 Staff: Erin O'Brien & Deb Burd

- d. **Hopewell Elementary:** **Parent(s): OPEN**
 Staff: Abbi Anker & Allyson Mooney

- e. **Stony Brook Elementary:** **Parent(s):**
 Staff: Ilene Astemborski & Arianna Stevens

- f. **Bear Tavern Elementary:** **Parent(s):** Jenna Myers-Kane
 Staff: Kelly Brown & Carla Duncan

- g. **Out of District Schools:** **Parent(s): OPEN**
 Staff: OPEN

- K. **OLD BUSINESS**

- L. **NEW BUSINESS**

- M. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- N. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- O. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**