

# GW HSO

## October 2024 Meeting Minutes

---



Date/time: Wednesday October 9, 2024 Virtual

Meeting Called to order by Jessica Forkins at 6:02pm

### Attendance:

Jessica Forkins, Danielle Sovak, Jillian O'Shaughnessy, Elania Ferenczi, Micheal Hagopian, Dana Marciani, Candida Aimi, Kristy Agliardi, Tracy Cohen, Barareh Estejab, Caitlin K, Katy Mei, Valerie Ortiz, Elli Paleoudis, Jennifer Petrie, Nora Raspanti, Alison Rigby, Kelly Saverino, Ana Scanel, Anonette Segro, Lisa Siervo, Natalie Trembly, Mary Timberg, Kathryn Vallis

- Principal's Report – Mr. Hagopian
  - Greeted and thanked all for joining
  - Great First month of school
  - Current activity- Week of Respect great job participating. We talk about it in morning meetings and the lessons carry over in the classroom
  - Working on students getting into a routine and reminding them how we do things in school.
  - First successful spirit day-thanked HSO for getting shirts. It was an incredible, fun day.
  - Follow on Instagram to communicate what happened and see photos of activities that day.
  - Safety perspective: Important:
    - a. When coming to ensure you are showing up with an appointment. When you are picking up early please use the Pick Up Patrol app and specify who is picking up. Will help ensure safety and maximize instructional time.
    - b. Bus safety is something to work on. A lot of students are taking off seatbelts and standing. We need help to reinforce proper bus safety so that everyone is safe. Bus monitors are on the bus making sure all seated and seatbelts on tight but students are leaving school one way

and arriving another. Please reinforce to your kids - seat belts on, keep hands to yourself, and mind the language that they are using.

- o Finished Fall i-ready diagnostics- it is a diagnostics tool to see where students are in benchmarks for language arts and math. Everyone completed it and now analyzing data- excited to have data to see where we can help students grow and fill any gaps that may be missing.
  - o Newsletters: I hope you like the layout and what is shared to get a look at what is happening in school- save the date for Halloween Parade. Keeping it how it has been in the past with a 9:15am start time. Kids arrive with costumes on and something easy that they can transition out of and store until the end of the day. More will be shared next week in the newsletter.
- President's Report  
Jessica Forkins
  - WALK-A-THON – October 19 Rain or Shine event
    - o In case of a rain date, we secured an alternate location with the help of our superintendent - Joyce Kilmer. This space is much larger and will be more comfortable for all. We have 3 large areas in the school to use for all our great activities to be carried over there. Decision will be last minute based on what the weather will be. We will keep everyone updated through email and social media.
    - o Thank you to all who have communicated with us along the way to help us clarify anything- please keep talking to us and reach out to us- we are so appreciative!
    - o **Need More Volunteers for activities!** Sign-up genius link is on our website. There are about 40 slots left- don't want to extend volunteer time slots so they can enjoy the events as well- so more help is needed! [WAT Volunteer Sign Up Genius](#)
    - o Thanked- Ana, Rachel, Katy, Jessica as these particular parents signed up for a lots of different slots and all others that signed up- very appreciative of that!
    - o Did post on Mahwah Moms and Dads to see if kids (girls/boys scouts) need volunteer hours - can use them to volunteer at games, corn maze, pumpkin painting, etc.
    - o Thank you to the parents who already volunteered!

Danielle Sovak

- o Class Baskets: We followed up with class parents to see how they are doing with donations, what class baskets look like with pics of the past. **Please donate to your class baskets!**

- o Going to meet after school Friday 10/18 to set baskets up. Will send out another communication-reach out if you need help.
  - o For class parents make a sheet with what is in your baskets so families can see exactly what is in it and the total value of the basket.
  - o One of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes is getting creative-bunch of GC with art programs, dance classes and hired a caricature with some of their funds that will be available the day of the event for a fee and that money will go towards the HSO- creative way to not only maintain value of the basket but have an extra activity for the event!
  - o Pledgestar platform for kids to ask their families to sponsor them for walk- not per lap- just flat donation. To date we have \$4,504- we have surpassed our goal! Congratulations to everyone who has participated and families that have set up a page (52 student who have set up pages out of those 34 have donations)!
  - o **We encourage all to set up Pledgestar pages**- every little bit helps the HSO- there is more room to grow and there is still time to raise more! This is not an extra added expense for you-ask family, friends, co-workers to donate towards your child- this is to help us not to ask you for more money throughout the year for field trips, school events, etc. [Pledgestar GW Page](#)
- Treasurer's Report – Jillian O'Shaughnessy
    - o We got a lot of corporate sponsors that you will see their signs at the event and we have advertised them on Instagram and Facebook.
    - o Still missing sponsor for face painting and need 150 more sugar pumpkins if you have connections.
    - o Secor farms donated 100 sugar pumpkins- thank you Secor farms and Danielle for soliciting them!
    - o September Income & Expense:
      - Income:
        - 1.Walk-a-thon donations - corporate sponsors (Glen Toyota, LOL Yards, Oasis Pool Construction, Rock-n-Garden, Mahwah Wine & Liquor) plus pledgestar donations.
        2. School Supplies earned \$436
      - Expenses:
        1. Gratitude Spirit Day Shirts \$1700 for all students and staff,
        2. Beginning of the year signs \$175
        3. Teacher Appreciation breakfast on the day before school and Custodian Appreciation GC/candy mug \$520

4. Deposit for corn maze, petting zoo, and purchasing lap bracelets

o October Upcoming Income & Expenses:

Income:

1. Spirit Wear Sales: Thank you Elania for running our Spirit Wear sale! We earned \$500!
2. Walk-a-thon goal is \$25k biggest income of the year! Expenses for WAT budgeted at \$3500 and Income from WAT is \$11k so far. We expect that the majority of the money will be earned day-of with caricature, food sales and additional raffle/ activity band sales.

**Please pre-order your discounted activity bracelet & raffle packages!** We have extended the deadline to Friday - encourage friends and family to buy in advance! [WAT Package Link for pre-orders](#)

o To avoid confusion on what you are paying for regarding walk-a-thon:

- a. **Pledgestar**- ask family and friends for donations for the WALK portion of the day
- b. **Class baskets** - each family donates toward class basket with Class Parent
- c. **Pre-order your family Packages** - gold, silver & bronze that have preset wristband and raffles amounts or individual wristbands and raffle tickets for discounted prices
- d. **Day of purchasing food/drinks**- cotton candy, hot dogs, pizza, snacks, water, Gatorade
- e. **Day of purchasing caricature**
- f. **Day of purchasing additional raffles & activity bands**

Lots of options to pay - cash, venmo, zelle, paypal, credit card payments, check! [HSO Payment Options](#)

o Looking ahead – November: Cookie Dough Fundraiser (we get 40% of sales – this could be huge!) & Book Fair (not a big money maker for us but nice for kids!)

● CFA Liaison -Danielle Sovak

- o Toiletry Drive is the greatest need right now-paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, conditioners- all of these types of items
- o Can drop off donations to the front of school in a bin
- o Drive is going on until 10/17

- o Thank you to all that have donated so far!
- Staff Appreciation –Katy Mei
  - o HSO wants to give back more to the teacher and staff at GW for each month
  - o Example- October 31st Halloween treats, November 11th National Sundaes, December 13th National Hot Cocoa Day, December Teacher Lunch will be ordered with some decorations.
  - o All ideas welcome!
- Open to group for Questions/ Reactions

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

- 10/14 School Closed (Staff Development)
- **10/19 GW WALK-A-THON**
- 10/25 Spirit Day
- 10/31 Halloween Parade
- 11/1 No School Diwali
- 11/4-6 Parent/Teacher Conference
- 11/7-8 NJEA Convention
- 11/12-14 Book Fair
- 11/13 6pm HSO Meeting In person
- 11/27 Single Session
- 11/28-29 Thanksgiving Recess School Closed

Meeting Adjourned at 6:38pm