



September 2024 Meeting Minutes

September 12th 6pm
In-Person & Via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Jessica Forkins at 6:05pm

Introduction- Jessica Forkins

- Welcome Back!
- Thanked and expressed appreciation to principal, Mr. Hagopian
- HSO board members introduced themselves

Principal's Report – Mr. Hagopian

- Thanked HSO for sponsoring Back to School Staff Breakfast
- New staff intros:
 - Diana Capani - K-3 Counselor - Students may be invited for small group lunch bunches throughout the year
 - Irina Cunningham- Reading Interventionist
 - Nicole DiVivo- Special Education Teacher
 - John Macri- School Psychologist & CST Member, also see him in the morning at car line
 - Trisha Mitchell- Paraprofessional
 - Emma Oppido- Special Education Teacher
 - Simeon Pearlstein- Paraprofessional
 - Emily Shapiro- Math Interventionist
 - Skylar Teats- Art Teacher -**Artsonia** Round 2!
 - Will be back this year and teacher will upload student artwork onto the site

- Fundraiser where you can purchase student art work that is uploaded as a way to have meaningful memory and give back to the school
 - QR code will be provided back to school night
- Building Updates
 - HVAC Update-all new AC- window units will stay in until next year to make sure all is working correctly
 - Retaining Wall Part 2 completed
 - Tiles redone in certain part of building
 - MEVO Grant –MEVO will be coming to look at courtyard to see where a possible garden can grow
 - 3rd graders will participate in this- will attend field trip to MEVO garden to listen to presentation and learn how to work a garden
 - Goal is to have garden at school they maintain and grow food to have as part of school lunch- garden to table
 - Silver Award Project (2 High School students -Parnal & Dia) painted “The Negotiation Station & The Buddy Bench” located by Basketball Court
 - They will present to students and show them how to play on Buddy Bench and how The Negotiation Station works to help talk about feelings
- Spirit Days
 - First Spirit Day will be on September 27: Spirit shirts should be worn
 - Spirit Day T-Shirt sponsored by HSO for all students and all staff members in the building will be provided prior
- School-wide Morning Meetings
 - School year theme: Gratitude
 - Monday is Motivational Monday with Mr. Hagopian
 - Tap in Tuesday with SEL teacher-coaches
 - What Would You Do? Wednesday and Speaking about Gratitude with Mr. Hagopian (told story how students are already using what they learned with one another)
 - Thoughtful Thursday with Mrs. Capani (Self Awareness)
 - Fitness Friday with Mr. Calhoun
- Back to School Night is September 19 at 6pm
 - Doors open at 5:50
 - 6pm will be a presentation by Mr. Hagopian
 - 6:30-7 Parents will visit their child's classroom

- 7-7:20 - walk around- all teachers will be available for parents to stop in their classrooms
- Week of Respect - Oct 7-11 Theme days- will be announced in the next weekly email
 - Weekly emails go out every Wednesday
 - Community Events are from Mahwah district that is separate from weekly emails
 - District may change weekly emails to weekly newsletter-link will come in the future

President's Report –Jessica Forkins & Danielle Sovak

- What have we been up to?
 - Meet the Principal- sponsored Kona Ice Truck
 - Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast- good feedback from teachers
 - Food came from Giovanna's and was sponsored by the HSO, Coffee and donuts from Dunkin Donuts was from Jillian
 - School Supplies Delivered
 - Class Parents & Committee Chairs Finalized- she thanked everyone who volunteered, explained names where drew from hats since we so much support,
 - all these events need all of your help and support to make it run smoothly - we appreciate you!
 - Apparel Sale Live! Up and launched we have shared it through emails, social media.
 - Due date to get in you order is next week
 - We have things for kids and adults, Mahwah Mom Crew
 - Portion of sales goes to HSO which directly goes back to the students
 - Instagram site established: mahwahgw_hso
- What are we working on?
 - **WALK-A-THON – Harvest Festival: Attitude of Gratitude!**
 - October 19 @ 10:00 AM
 - Kids will walk and afterwards we will have a big event for the kids with games and activities for them to have fun!
 - Volunteers, donors & sponsors needed- If you own a business or have a connection that would be willing to donate or be a sponsor please reach out

- Class baskets - more than just a basket, each class has a theme and class parents will go over that at back to school night
- Need volunteers for that day, it doesn't have to be the entire day - Sign up for half hour and walk around with family rest of the day [Volunteer Sign Up](#)
- Walkathon packet will be coming out that has packages available to purchase, pledge page will be launched and permission slip
- Goal is to raise \$25,000
- More information will be coming over the next month
- This is our largest and most important fundraiser!!
- New GW HSO website: mahwahgwhso.ptoffice.io
- Host Class Parent meeting (following this HSO meeting) & Committee Chair meetings (before back to school night)
- Committee Chairs Finalized but certain Volunteer positions still open-like- Walkathon which is the most important and happening first!
- Ways to communicate - FB, Instagram, email, website
- If you are not receiving emails from the HSO please reach out so that we can add you to our mailing list: georgewashingtonhso@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report – Jillian O'Shaughnessy

- Shared budget for all to see how money is being spent
- Massive thank you to previous HSO boards throughout the years for making sure there was a reserve for us to work with this year
- This year's budget is \$30k
- Last year we spent \$24K
- Increase in budget is due to:
 - Adding \$2k for Theme Night Dance
 - \$7,000 for field trips (last year \$6,000 was spent)
 - \$1,500 for Thunderbird Scholarship (last year \$1,000 was spent but \$500 came in this year or it would have been \$1000)
 - Meet the Principal \$600
 - \$500 Grounds Beautification (last year nothing was spent)
 - \$3,000 for Assemblies (last year \$2500 was spent)
 - New Website \$500
- What We have Spent through August: meet the principal, new website and prior year Thunderbird scholarship
- What We are Spending in September: staff appreciation breakfast, getting ready for walkathon: corn maze, cotton candy, hot dog deposit.

- We had an extremely generous donation for our Walk-A-Thon Petting Zoo which is fully sponsored by Oasis Pool Construction, LOL Yards and Silver Creek Landscaping!
- Other Fundraisers to help get to \$30K will include: Cookie dough, School Apparel, Artsonia, Minted- all links on our website - you don't have to spend extra money but if you are buying something that these companies sells, use links, & Candy Gram-end of the year with Curbside Confections
- Budget was approved by both presidents in front of all attendees
- Spirit Day Shirts (sponsored by HSO)
 - Described procedure on how the winner was picked including voting process from board members and teachers
- Shirt will be in the Mahwah Blue color
- Winner announced- 1st grader Chloe O.
- Shirts should be available before Spirit Day at the end of the month
- Website- spent summer shopping around different website companies for what would be the best fit
 - Did a demo of the new website, went over every page and explained the menu/toolbar, helpful links, etc.
 - Website will be updated so all information is easily accessible

Meeting Adjourned at 6:54pm