

## **Hawes Home and School Association Meeting Notes January 6, 2016**

Colleen Tansey called the meeting to order at 9:20

**Attendees:** Dr. Semendinger, Miho Grant, Amy Waters, Laura Waisnor, Reem Iqbal, Laura McGrath, Hayley Gluck, Valerie Auyeung, Colleen Tansey, Olga Smilon, Ellen Raupp, Diane Michaelson, Summer Foerch, Cara Recher, Chris Kaufman, Rachel Ravino

Colleen Tansey began by welcoming Sheila Brogan to discuss Super Science Saturday.

### **Super Science Saturday**

Ms. Brogan stated that this year will be the 28<sup>th</sup> year of Super Science Saturday. The event this year will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-1:30pm. She stated that the Hawes 5<sup>th</sup> grade as well as many other Hawes students traditionally participate. There will be several new features this year. The featured show will be a man who impersonates Thomas Edison. The actor is very interactive during the show, then he will be in a classroom after the show.

Amy Freeze, WABC meteorologist, will also be returning. Sheila Brogan's son will also make a video that will be shown. The video features his recent trip to the Fjords and he discusses his research on climate change. We will also have the egg drop, rocket launch, and paper airplane demonstrations. There will be presentations by PSE&G, geologists and a petting zoo who will all try to make their presentations different from last year. Approximately 1000-1200 people are expected to attend.

There are resources available online for students at [www.supersciencesaturday.org](http://www.supersciencesaturday.org). Additionally, Mrs. Brogan stated that there will also be workshops held for the kids at a cost of \$25.00 for three sessions to be held on 2/4, 2/11, and 2/25. During the first workshop, the kids can research and choose a project. During the second session, they can actually work on creating their project and finally present it to the other students during the third session. They are also working with Ridgewood Public Library and they will have a display of Science books and project ideas in the children's department in the weeks leading up to Super Science Saturday.

### **Co- President Report**

Colleen Tansey began by announcing that the classroom board games will be delivered this week. She explained that with the cancellation of the P.O.L.A.R. Bear club, she and Laura McGrath decided to purchase new board games for each classroom (grades 1-5). The co-Presidents took advantage of the holiday sales and were able to purchase age-appropriate games at reasonable prices. Each classroom

will receive 5 games. They just bought bins and loaded the games with batteries. They expect to deliver on Friday.

Colleen Tansey announced that the recent collection for the family of the Somerville student suffering from cancer was a huge success. They collected 1110.00 dollars and the family was very appreciative. Colleen delivered the check to Dr. Oates in Somerville and a thank you was sent out to the Hawes community in e-notices.

Colleen also noted that a care package was put together for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Hawes student who recently underwent surgery. She and her family were also very appreciative of the gift from the HSA.

Laura McGrath explained that the HSA also recently donated a 100.00 gift card to Oasis in Paterson. With the closing of A&P Supermarkets, we were left with one gift card in the grocery card program. Laura McGrath located a Food Basics supermarket in Paterson that would still accept this card, so Laura sent it to the nearby women's organization so that they could purchase supplies.

Laura McGrath noted that the Ridgewood Public Library will kickoff its annual Reading Marathon in February. Ms. Kasyan will distribute the sheets to all of the students during the class library visits. Students should then read, record and return the forms which are due on 3/2. This is one of the largest fundraisers for the Public Library. Laura explained that there is still a discussion regarding incentives such as Ben and Jerry coupons and a possible incentive for the teachers as well.

Laura McGrath noted that the garage sale will be held on Saturday 4/2. If you're cleaning out items, please hold on to them to donate to the sale. Additionally, Mariya Lyubman has offered to store any items that you're unable to hold until the event.

### **News from Federated HSA**

Laura McGrath stated that teacher contracts are still in negotiation. On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, they are meeting with a state mediator. Each party will have 45 days to discuss the results of this meeting.

She additionally noted that a survey went out to all Ridgewood families regarding Full Day Kindergarten. Dr. Semendinger noted that there are two nights where there will be computer access at BF for those who may not have internet access.

Laura McGrath stated that the PARCC results were sent out in December.

Laura also noted that the Harlem Wizards will be held on 1/29. It's the largest fundraiser of the year for the Federated HSA. Dr. Semendinger, Mr. Harney and Mr. Otterstedt will all be playing. Chris Kaufman will be wearing the Hawes duck mascot costume. The event will be held at Ridgewood High School and doors open

up at 6:15pm. Ticket sales are online this year and there is a .99 surcharge per ticket. There is also a limit of 6 tickets per family.

Colleen Tansey announced that the next Community Outreach Program will be held on Tues 1/19 at BF at 7pm. The presenter will be Dr. Adam Price. On February 23rd, there will be a program on Raising Resilient Daughters. Then on March 28, Dr. Levine will work with both students and teachers during an in-service day on student balance. There is a buzz about this program and attendance is encouraged by all district parents, including at the elementary level.

Dr. Semendinger stated that the topic of this March program will focus on the pressures put on students. The pressures are become extreme in some situations. He passed information on to the teachers about this presentation and he would encourage us all to “star” this event on our calendars.

### **Committee Updates**

Miho Grant began by noting that there will be a Space themed assembly tomorrow.

**Bingo Night** Amy Waters noted that there were not many updates. Everything is well underway. The volunteer sheet has been posted in e-notices and on Facebook. Amy will submit a reminder to Laura McGrath and Colleen Tansey to be included in What’s Quacking.

Colleen Tansey and Laura McGrath will talk to Mrs. Monnerat about the e-notice process to see what works best for her. In the future, anyone submitting items to be included in the e-notices, should e-mail Dr. Semendinger and cc Maria Monnerat on the e-mail. This way Dr. Semendinger can approve the flyer and Maria will put it into the e-notices accordingly.

Amy Waters expressed concern about the volunteer sign up process. Laura McGrath assured her that volunteers typically sign up closer to the event.

Olga Smilon asked Laura McGrath about an idea that they had recently seen at another Bingo event. This event included 6 trifold display boards on easels with numbers written on it. As numbers were called, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students can cover the number with a post-it. This process would make it easier to keep track of numbers called. Dr. Semendinger confirmed that Mr. Cronk has easels and that Amy Waters should contact him directly.

**Mix and Mingle** Chris Kaufman stated that the Mix and Mingle event was a success and that many people have approached him about having a second event in the Spring. Chris reviewed the calendar and the only date that he thinks would work is 4/22. Everyone in attendance seemed to agree that the Mix and Mingle was a great event, but several concerns were addressed. Laura McGrath noted that the proposed 4/22 date would only be a few weeks before Ladies Night Out. Colleen

Tansey noted that there are many events on the calendar in the Spring that might be in competition with the event. Hayley Gluck also noted that the date conflicts with Passover. Colleen Tansey mentioned that we could possibly revisit the event in June when many of the previously scheduled events are over. Laura McGrath thanked Chris for doing such a great job and for his willingness to plan another event. Colleen Tansey noted that everyone will be looking forward to the event next Fall.

**Drama Club** Miho Grant provided the report on behalf of Stacey Kliesch. Everyone agreed that the performance was a success. Stacey had a few recommendations for changes for next year. First, she would recommend having parents write one check instead of one to Backyard Players and one to HSA. Stacey felt that there was confusion and she had to track people down. Colleen Tansey noted this suggestion for next year. Miho stated that Stacey also recommended that there be more parent supervision during rehearsals. It was a bit disorganized with the Backyard Players working with certain students and the students not involved at the time were left unsupervised. Finally Miho noted that Stacey would recommend that the Parent Volunteer Sheet be distributed earlier because it was hard to fill the slots. Colleen Tansey stated that she felt it was sent early but will take that suggestion into consideration.

Reem Iqbal stated that she was one of the parent volunteers who organized the cast party. She felt that the budget was low at \$5.00 per student. They exceeded the budget and most of the party supplies were donated by the parent volunteers. Backyard Players provided the t-shirts. Reem would recommend increasing the budget next year. Valerie Auyeung suggested that possibly they just serve snacks next year instead of pizza. This would decrease the amount needed. Hayley Gluck said that we should earmark the money in advance. Hayley also asked if anyone spend a large amount of money that is looking to be reimbursed. Reem Iqbal said there were 4-6 parent volunteers. Hayley noted that many of the parents not involved in the cast party also made donations to the concessions. Colleen Tansey stated that perhaps next year we should make it known upfront that parents volunteering to run the cast party might be expected to make small donations to the party. Reem Iqbal stated that the new black chairs donated by Dads Night and the former HSA board made a difference in the decoration. Thank you!

**Holiday Boutique-** Miho Grant reported that the boutique brought in 7,850 with a \$1550.00 profit. The Evening sale was profitable. Val Auyeung asked if all of the items had been returned to the vendor and Miho confirmed that they had indeed all been returned. Miho reported that the changes that took place this year all seemed to work well. There was a new system of using yellow bags for shopping, then transferring the merchandise into white bags after payment. Additionally, the teachers all gave the students talks about “honestly” before coming into the shop. Miho Grant report that Susan Ruane felt that everything went well and that she would be available for chairing the committee again next year. Dr. Semendinger confirmed that the former Skylab room would be available for use again next year (unless it is needed for a Kindergarten classroom. Dr. Semendinger explained that

in the event that the committee decides to move forward with full day Kindergarten the ESL and Speech services would move into the Skylab room and the vacated classroom would become the third Kindergarten classroom. Dr. Semendinger also mentioned that the chairs that had been stored in this room had successfully been sold on [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com) for \$1.50 each.

**Gardening Club**- Miho Grant reported that Susan Ruane plans to change the decoration on the sign. Also, the poison ivy is gone.

**Super Bowl** – Miho Grant reported that planning is well underway and that 177 people have submitted RSVP's.

**International Fair**- Miho Grant reported that the passport contest is in progress. Laura McGrath asked how many had been received and Miho Grant responded that Mr. Cronk is working on the designs in his art class. As of now, there are 26 countries that will be represented. Jake Kleiman is scheduled to sing the National Anthem.

**Kids Night** – Reem Iqbal reported that she'll send out an e-mail about auditions in February about four weeks before the March 11<sup>th</sup> event.

**Parkwood Deli**- Colleen Tansey reported that 9 families participated in this fundraiser. Laura Waisnor mentioned that she spoke with the owner of Pizza Fusion who mentioned that he would be willing to offer a "Hawes Night" where he would donate 10% of all sales back to Hawes (for those who mention the Hawes promo). This would also be applicable to deliveries as well.

### **Co-Corresponding Secretary Report**

Summer Foerch reported that they gave hand sanitizers to each of the teachers before the Winter break. They're currently working on Valentine's Day gifts. They have a gift card for Mrs. Martin (Ms. Polise) to congratulate her on her wedding and they will send a gift to Mrs. Hampersumian upon the arrival of her baby.

### **Co-Treasurer Report**

Valerie Auyeung reported that the Regent Cleaners fundraiser is doing well with a few more participants this year. She also stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class had already met their fundraising goal for the year. Olga Smilon confirmed this goal, but she stated that they will still be doing candy grams and "well-wishes" as they have become 5<sup>th</sup> grade traditions.

Laura McGrath asked if Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt had been confirmed for Bingo Night. Olga Smilon stated that they are scheduled to come but that she will reach out to Mr. Patel to assess the possibility of redirecting the profits towards the HSA instead of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade as previously agreed upon. Hayley Gluck asked what Orange Leaf was offering and Olga Smilon responded that Mr. Patel is offering all proceeds.

## **Principal's Report**

Dr. Semendinger began by introducing Rachel Ravino. She is a student at Lafayette College who is an undergraduate extern shadowing him for a few days.

Dr. Semendinger mentioned Super Science Saturday and that he's proud that Hawes usually has wonderful participation. He also asked that all parents please send the kids into school with warm coats, hats and gloves each day. As much as possible, they do want to take the children out for fresh air during recess.

He also mentioned that during the upcoming week there will be a "Mini Space Week". Tomorrow there will be an assembly featuring the Challenger Center. Also, they'll be looking at the Voyager time capsule. He also stated that over the next few weeks, parents should receive post cards in the mail from their children. Dr. Semendinger received NASA postcards and the teachers are working with the students to write their new Years Resolutions. The teachers will work on this project as time allows in their individual classrooms.

The PARCC results are out. Dr. Semendinger explained that he always takes test results with a grain of salt. Overall, Ridgewood Public Schools do amazingly well! All 6 elementary schools were very high performing and it's very hard to compare schools. That being said he feels that Hawes did a great job!!!

Dr. Semendinger encouraged all in attendance to please join Hawes on Social Media if you haven't done so yet. Mr. Trubac and Mr. Otterstedt helped Dr. Semendinger get set up with a Facebook and Twitter account. Reem Iqbal asked how many people were following the school and he responded "over 100". Dr. Semendinger will try to update daily.

Everyone was reminded to wear a football jersey to the Friday night Super Bowl if they'd like to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.