

**FRELINGHUYSEN HSA
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2010
(rescheduled from 2/23)**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Present: Ethel Minchello, Kris Fallon, Carol Pruett, Lynn Trackenberg, Sue Coven, Milton Miyashiro, Irene Cramer, Susan Fuller, Kathleen Mullen, Tom Weber, Tina Terraciano, Lisa Hirschmann, Emerson Simon, Jenn Honig, Nora Stark, Susan O'Dougherty, Patty Haralampoudis, Kerry Manning, Pablo Cabezas

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the January 2010 minutes was made by Irene Cramer and seconded by Carol Pruett.

Principal's Update:

- Parent Conferences: trying to schedule a new date, but it may not be possible. Please contact the team leader if you would like to schedule an appointment.
- 5th Grade orientation/parent meeting has been held and scheduling meetings are under way at elementary schools.
- Guidance department is working on planning for 7th/8th grades for next year.
- 4 snow days were built into schedule and used. Working with MHS to get firm date for 8th grade graduation.
- 8th Grade Math: B-level classes will be eliminated (will have A-level and Honors/Algebra) to align with research supporting heterogeneous grouping.
- 7th Grade World Language: Honors level will be eliminated next year.
- Discussion of importance of cursive writing.

President's Update:

- From President's Council: Morris School District has received 2 grants. 1) MSD is one of 3 districts to share \$1M from the Foundation for Child Development for Pre-K to Grade 3 (studies show that future academic success can be predicted by grade 3). If you are interested in getting involved with this committee, please contact Kris Fallon for further information. 2) The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has made a grant providing historic manuscripts to be used in the classroom (K-6: History in a Box; 7-12: slavery documents), information on writing grants and teacher education.

Dr. Ficarra Presentation/Q&A :

Dr. Ficarra spoke about how the MSD budget could be affected by cuts in state aid and the loss of the district's \$3+ million surplus. The percentage that state aid will be cut will not be announced until 3/17, following which Dr. Ficarra will present the budget to the board and then to the community via HSA/PTO meetings at the schools. Main points included:

- our surplus was not from over-budgeting
- maintenance has been paid from capital reserves
- MSD has among the lowest debt-service cost in the state (1% of budget)
- budget has been in development since August
- not prepared to list specific cuts now, but we are not at risk for ½ day Kindergarten or cuts to art/music programs. Looking at "belt-tightening" outside of the classroom and seeking grants to pay for staff development.
- NJ After 3 at FMS was run/funded by Neighborhood House, not the school district.
- The budget must pass to prevent it from going to the town councils to be revised.

Treasurer's Report:

- On target with Magazine Sale revenue.
- Snack Bar has done better than anticipated.
- 8th Grade DC trip is large part of budgeted expenses coming up (covers costs for chaperons).
- Gertrude Hawk has raised approximately \$2400 so far – down from last year.
- Boxtops for Education: raised \$780. One homeroom from each house will get a breakfast.

Committees Update:

- Magazine Sale resulted in 296 trees being planted.

Next HSA meeting: Tuesday, March 23rd at 1:00 pm at FMS. Dr. Ficarra will be presenting the budget.

FMS and the HSA will be encouraging voters to vote in the School Budget election on April 20th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 pm.