



FAIRFIELD HSA

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023 • 7:00 PM

MEETING START TIME: 7:02pm

MOTION: Stephanie Noce SECOND: Dana Porcella

1. Welcome & Introductions: Co-Presidents Cynthia Caraballo & Camille Lozito

- **WELCOME** - welcome & thank you for coming!
- **Teacher Reps** - any comments/questions

Teachers thanked the HSA for putting the Amazon wish list for getting some supplied and "Their Favorite Things" on the website.

2. Recording Secretary's Report: Recording Secretary Tasha Pipitone

- **Meeting Minutes APPROVAL** - minutes from our last meeting September 27, 2023 were read and accepted. Copies of all minutes can be found on our website 10 days after meeting.
- **Sign In** - tonight & at all events (if no sheet, send email to ContactUs@FairfieldHSA.org)
- **Join the HSA** - \$15 per family - open enrollment to be considered in good standing until Nov 30th

3. Corresponding Secretary's Report: Corresponding Secretary Jen Melone

- REPORT on Sunshine account
- acknowledgements & Thank You's

MOTION: Marie Lewicki SECOND: Kristen DePatria

4. Treasurer's Report: Marlaina Burzinski

- REPORT on general & fundraiser accounts (copies available upon request)

MOTION: Sharine Hamilton SECOND: Kayla Buchmuller

5. On-Going Business/Old Business: Nicole Sudol, Co-Vice President Director of Technology

- **STAY CONNECTED:** Facebook (Fairfield HSA), Instagram (Fairfield_HSA), Website (FairfieldHSA.org), Join Email List. Please check your spam/junk folders and on gmail, check updates & promotion tabs; we also recommend to ADD our email address to your contacts or address book so they're not identified as spam; AND, **check your child(ren)'s folder & backpack!**
- **SUPPORT HSA:**
 - Box Tops \$32 as of 10/22/2023. Please continue to scan or upload your receipt on the app. Valid stores are Costco, CVS, Walgreens, Target, any grocery stores.
 - Spirit wear - Water Bottles \$12, Croc charms (1/\$5 or 2/\$8), some hoodies/tshirts/fleeces. HSA will reach out to parents who signed up for clothes at Back to School Night.

6. Fundraising Events: Porzia Oliva, Co-Vice President Director of Fundraising

- **Harlem Wizards** - was a huge success! It was a great night for all and an estimated profit of \$12,350. We need to thank all those who made it possible.

Fairfield Schools - Staff Donna Lizza, Michelle Manna, Celya Martone, Vanessa Mayer, Katie Prall, Milagros Rodriguez, Genna Rybacki, Brianna Salvemini, Kyle Silvestri, Angeline Wedemeier, Alexandra Zigouras.

Fairfield's finest including Chief Anthony Manna, Stacy Chiarolanza, Katrina Guevera, John McGrory, Frank Patierno, and Frank Tracey.

Anthony DePascale of the Fairfield Board of Education and Anthony Pompei Fairfield Recreation Director

Oliva Property Services and Year Round Landscaping

Delizia Pizza

Il Panino

Wawa

JJ's Hot Dogs

Catherine Golioto for singing the National Anthem and blowing us away with her amazing vocals

Manny Barbosa for keeping score

All the volunteers who collected items, who donated to make the concession stand possible, sold concessions, checked in and ushered patrons, and sold souvenirs.

Lastly - all those who attended.

Without all of you, that night would not have been as great as it was so THANK YOU!

- **Upcoming events we are planning this year** - East Coast Professional Wrestling, Book Bingo, Color Run

7. Recent & Current Events: Co-Presidents Cynthia Caraballo & Camille Lozito

- **School Kits - Originally** we were told HSA made \$324. In addition to the \$324 check we received, we also received a check for \$600. So in total, HSA earned \$924! Thank you again Shirine Hamilton and Leslie Castiglia for chairing, to all who participated and again we apologize for any inconveniences.
- **Fall Fundraiser** - Thank you Dori Stellato Kryszkiak and Laurie Carmagnola for chairing. Still waiting on final numbers but estimate \$10K which will be used toward Field Trips. Winners

Top Class - Teacher gets \$100 VIP Certificate

Stevenson - Mrs. Perrone

Churchill - Mrs. Colon

Top seller prize - \$200 VIP Certificate

Stevenson - Julianne Perrone

Churchill - Natalie Ungermah

Need help Wednesday, November 1 AND Thursday November 2 around 3:45pm for about 1-2 hours or whatever you can help to sort. If can help - please reach out to Dori or Laurie.

Class parents are required to come November 2 between 5pm-7pm to distribute to your class. We will not be able to keep any orders overnight.

Note to pick up any orders (especially David's Cookies) Thursday, Nov 2.

- **Churchill Walk a thon-** Due to weather rescheduled from October 6 to October 11. Thank you to Tatiana Sikorskyj and Angela Altaai for chairing. Raised just over \$6200 for Churchill Wish List.

Each winner gets a \$25 Amazon gift Certificate and the winners are

3rd Maryanne Yap (Riley)

4th Carolyn Hamilton (Annese)

5th Jesse O'Rourke (Marchetta)

6th Matthew Kyracou (Malinowski)

- **Staff Favorites and Amazon Wish List** - Just a friendly reminder that you can purchase needed items for our staff (including art, nurse, HEP/STEAM, music, guidance) via their Amazon wish list on the fairfieldhsa.org website.

- **Snack Cart Liaison** - Held our first snack cart on October 20. Was greatly appreciated by the staff. Thank you to our liaisons.

Stevenson - Marissa LaMorte and Jaime Matheison

Churchill - Lorraine Sotomayor, Lindsay Lagan, and Melissa Foord.

8. New Business & Committees: Co-Presidents Cynthia Caraballo & Camille Lozito

- **Halloween** - See Attachment 1
- **Wreath Fundraiser**- Next week a flyer will be going home to purchase a fresh wreath. Orders will be due Nov 17 and pick up Dec 1. Location TBD. Keep an eye out and we appreciate your support. Thank you to Maria Agostini for chairing.
- **3rd Grade Feast**- The HSA will be supporting the 3rd grade feast on November 22. 3rd grade class parents are expected to assist for a few hours during the day. More details will follow from the 3rd grade teacher coordinator.
- **Spring Fundraiser** - Please see us after or email us with any ideas. We are looking for what people are interested in doing and we need to decide in the next month.
- **6th Gr Committee** - Finalizing the 6th gr committee. Mentioned last month we need to do a few fundraisers for 6th gr given what we provide and rising costs. Note the 6th gr committee is also involved in the 6th Grade Social at West Essex. If anyone else is interested - please see/email us.
- **6th Gr Dance** - See attachment 2
- **Sponsorship** - Thank you to Frank LaMorte / Lattimer Realty for becoming an HSA Sponsor. We appreciate it. If anyone knows of a business or is interested in contacting the companies who have supported us in the past, please come see us or we have a form on our website.
- **Stevenson Mascot Update**- Voted last month. Mascot costume ordered. Should be here in a few weeks.
- **Freezer Update** - Voted last month. Still in process of seeing if the school can assist with moving Stevenson's fridge to Churchill or not. Should place an order in the next 2-3 weeks.
- **Ballot Proposals** - As many are aware, the only way the school's budget was accepted by the state for the 2023-2024 school year was by taking away valuable resources and programs to the students and staff.
 - On November 7, there will be 3 options on the ballot. You can vote yes to all, one, two, none. If you do not vote YES to at least two out of the three proposals MORE resources and programs will be cut. If you vote YES, we will get back what we lost and we help in future years.
 - Anthony DePasquale and Ray Satanaspoke about the importance of voting yes and bringing back the basics supplies (paper and pencils) and that this is the first step to making a positive change.
 - If you have any questions, see us after or email us or the Fairfield BOE.

Next meeting, November 14, 2023 at 7PM, Churchill Media Center

MEETING ADJOURNED TIME: 7:41pm

MOTION: Dana Porcella SECOND: Mr. Santana

Attachment 1 Halloween Info - Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Class parents will purchase water from collected dues and bring it. Recommend the smaller 8 oz bottles

HSA provides ice cream - pick up in the cafeteria/kitchen area. Boxes will be labeled by teachers. PreK PM check freezer.

*** Stevenson Parades**

PreK (AM) & Kindergarten 9:30 AM

1st & 2nd grade 10:30 AM

PreK (PM) 2:30 PM

*Both class parents are to walk with their class. You are encouraged to dress in costume for the parade with your class. In the past some class parents by grade level coordinate costumes with a theme, ex. M&Ms, Crayons, etc. **This is optional.** Be prepared to assist children who may need help with costumes. Please check-in at the main office 15 mins before your parade starts; don't forget to bring your water, craft/games, etc.*

*** Churchill Parade**

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade: 1:30 PM - you are not required to join your class parade. Place your water, craft/game, etc. on/around the table by the shed (mark with your homeroom teacher's name). Please join your class after the parade to gain entry to the building to assist with the class party; don't forget to bring your water, craft/games, etc....

Class Parties/Activities:

Class Parents - if you have not received information from your grade level teacher coordinator about Halloween details or direction*, please reach out to the class parent from and find out the guidelines for that grade.

Both class parents for each grade are to attend and assist. Please refer to the email/text from the class parent of your grade level coordinator for directions about activities, crafts, games, treat, etc. use class dues collected when purchasing for your class.*

**As a reminder, The HSA does NOT decide or direct individual class or grade level activities/crafts for Halloween, and/or any other future in-school class parties.*

Pre-K thru 5th Grade - All parties will start shortly after parades.

*** 6th Grade Dance** - both class parents are to check-in at the office @ 1:15 PM; you will chaperone the dance in the gym.

All parents are welcome to come watch during your child's parade. Please get there 15 minutes early or so as parking will be limited on the street and in the back of the school. Please observe all parking regulations.

Attachment 2 6th gr Dance Info

In the 6th grade, students go to two dances. One is at the West Essex Middle School with the other sending districts (N. Caldwell, Roseland and Essex Fells) The Fairfield HSA supports this every year.

At the same time, the 6th graders of Churchill School go to a graduation party with just our school.

Historically this was a parent run event. There has been feedback and concerns raised about the way it has always been run. Including how can parents equally be involved. What about making sure all kids can be involved including families that cannot afford it. It was suggested an organization take this over.

The school was approached and would take it over however if it is a school run event then code of conduct comes into play, staff has to be present, kids won't have access to their phones.

With the factors above, it would be better if the HSA takes it over.

We do not have the above (code of conduct, no cell phone rules, etc.)

This seamlessly goes inline with all the other activities we do AND the fact the HSA's of the other sending district handle their 6th grade dances as well.

With our tax exempt status fundraising is a lot easier and we have the capability to reach all 6th gr families.

The HSA will ensure equal opportunities for all families who want to be involved AND ensure all kids have the option to go which is not guaranteed in future. Especially with the rising number of families part of the free/reduced programs.

Therefore starting 2026, the 6th gr dance will be an HSA run event. Please do not book anything or plan anything. This is already being taken care of.

We are not doing it sooner because plans are already in motion. We have been assured by those involved that all children and volunteers will be incorporated and told those that we would be happy to assist and the door is open if the HSA can get involved sooner.

During these conversations some other topics came up and we want to make sure we address all concerns and make sure all members have the correct information.

Note the HSA does not need to minute if we want to do an event nor do we need to vote on it.

If the board wants to spend more than \$300 on something that is not part of the budget or that will not be recouped in some fundraising capacity, that is when we need to vote.

As we do not have a Public Comment part of the meeting, Q&A and concerns are not noted in any meeting minutes.

Note the Fairfield HSA cannot donate to a parent run event.

The HSA does not restrict participation on ANY of our events. We do have guidelines on selecting class parents which are needed for school run events.

HSA event - WAT - anyone can chair or volunteer to help. Same with Holiday Fair, Book Fair, Harlem, etc.

We understand as working parents showing up to some events is challenging but no one is restricted.

We try to be very transparent and do our best to communicate.

If anyone has any questions - please feel free to come up at the end and we will be delighted to listen/answer any comments/questions.