



**Ben W. Murch Home and School Association
HSA Meeting Minutes**

January 6, 2026, 7:00pm Murch Library

Participants: Allison Fitzsimmons (Co-Prez), Leigh Fenner (Co-Prez), Sarah Krauss (Asst Treasurer, Auction Chair), Rebeca Fiet (VP Development), Tianni Craig (Secretary), Bridget Lilley (K teacher & teacher rep), Hayley Love (VP or Family Support); Radhika Mohan (VP Community Events), Kristin Gifford (Treasurer)

Mr. C updates - Thank you to Sasha for the welcome back breakfast

Testing window coming up so student data will be coming in to help us plan teaching.

637 is the enrollment projection for next year. No clue what is going to happen with budgets.

Mayor has to make up \$900m for the next few years, so it has to come from somewhere. Since the mayor is not running for reelection there will be a new chancellor and many new changes.

School newspaper is starting up again January 16th. Will be for 5th grade only this year.

Playground netting is falling apart. One solution could be no netting, not sure it's necessary.

One aide position cannot be filled. It's been offered to four people, and none of them have taken/passed the required test.

Kindergarten, five classes has been condensed to four. Mrs. Bennet will be out. A sub was hired and then backed out the day before starting. Class sizes are still under 20 students. It seems like the four classes are working great. Hayley asked if the position for the rotating sub is still out, and Mr. C said it will be posted again.

Hayley asked if the science fair is happening. Abbi said she thinks it is February 18th.

Rebeca - SOS currently at \$104,000 (per Kristin). Kristin should confirm with Kimi that things are getting coded correctly and verify that number.

Scholastic revenue is \$12,600. What we receive is \$2611.27 plus \$916.52 in scholastic dollars added to last years dollars. We basically made \$4k out of it. Rachael handled everything and did a great job.

Auction update - Sarah and Leigh have made good progress getting sponsors. Rebeca and Leigh met with the new caterer - same cost, better options. Radhika asked if more sponsors are needed, and Sarah said yes. Radhika suggested Mathnasium. Sponsorships are usually \$500-\$5000.

Sasha - Breakfast Monday was a hit, the teachers were very thankful. Abbi asked Mrs. Lilly to please take pictures of future teacher appreciation events.

Radhika - Tree mulching is Saturday. If it's raining we can cancel this event.

Radhika asked if we are going to do a Coffee on the Playground this month. Alli said we can. The Avalon movie is set up for January 24th at 10am. Movie is Elio.

We need more volunteers. We need to come up with recruitment ideas, how to get more people involved. Tianni asked if the room parent communication is working efficiently. The response was that Lizzie Polk, the room parent lead, is getting things out to the classroom room parents, but then sometimes it is not getting out or not out in time at the classroom level.

The volunteer coordinator position definitely needs to be filled for Fall Fair next year.

Hayley - Tour went great on Monday. 12 families came.

Pantry delivery came, and it's stuffed. The next big delivery is February 16th.

Hayley said a lot of snacks come into the pantry. Mrs. Miller prefers to give substantive food in the home bags. Some snacks get distributed to classrooms as needed. Hayley notices there are a lot of kids who want snacks after school. Is there a place that we can put snacks that kids can get them, specifically kids who might not be going home to ample food. Mr. C said the welcome center is staffed until 4:30 and Rebeca Dufresne is great with the kids, could probably monitor it.

Abbi - STEM Fair scheduled for February 19th.

Leigh and Abbi met about upgrading the website. A full overhaul is not needed as was thought. The person who created the website is happy to help with any updates.

Feel free to send Lizzie Polk any emails about volunteer opportunities or other communication items.

It's time to do a room-parent check-in, so it will be communicated that info needs to go out in a timely manner.

Kristin - We're not spending all of the holiday donations. About \$1700 needs to be distributed out. Suggestions to roll it over to spring staff gifts. Alli said it would be good to have a list of who

should be getting gifts bc it's a little unclear when it comes to subs, contractors, etc. Mr. C said he will have Rebeca do a list.

Alli, President updates - Musical is coming up. 40 kids will be in the show. A small group of 5th graders will run a tech crew. Educational Theater Company (ETC) is coming in and seems to have things squared away, but a parent does need to help out. Practice will be Mondays and Thursdays, after school until 5:30, a few Saturdays, and a technical performance. Abbi will advertise an interest sign-up. Mrs. Lilley said one of the teachers does acting and might be interested in helping. There should be a small stipend we can provide to her. Hayley said we can have someone ask the company what will be required of the parent volunteer so we can be very clear what we are asking of parent volunteers. Alli thinks we should sell \$5 tickets. Obviously anyone in need can get free tickets. Radhika suggested having Lizzie target the 4th & 5th grade room parents to get those parent volunteers. Sasha asked if we are tapping the grandparent list for volunteers.

Tianni mentioned that Black History Month is coming up. It was asked if there is a committee to do cultural events. This is the only month that HSA contributes money to. Can we pass this event planning off to someone else? Mr. C said yes. He said to Alli & Leigh let's sit down and discuss how to communicate the budget and expectations to whoever will plan & execute the BHM events.

Mrs. Lilly said we need cereal boxes (new with cereal in them) for the kindergarten movement lesson. They set cereal boxes up like dominos and then donate the boxes.