



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

April 7, 2026, 7pm Murch Library

Participants: Allison Fitzsimmons (Co-Prez), Leigh Fenner (Co-Prez), Sarah Krauss (Asst Treasurer, Auction Chair), Rebeca Fiet (VP Development), Tianni Craig (Secretary), Hayley Love (VP Family Support), (Teacher Rep), Radhika Mohan (VP Community Engagement), Bridgett Lilley (Teacher Rep), Matt Evans (Auction Chair), Emily Wack (Coffee on the Playground)

Sarah/Matt - Auction wrap-up: Hit our goal, still a few items circulating for auction, will close out soon. Live auction had much less participation this year. Sarah said this is an annual trend, not a one-off. Likely due to and/or exacerbated by current government/political situation. Some also agree the offerings were not quite as good this year as last. Spring break might also affect bc a lot of people are thinking about that. DCPS is attempting to align spring break with surrounding county schools bc teachers here live there and have kids there. Sasha said a big well done to Matt & Sarah for this year's success. SOS ran late into Auction time period, which might have also kept people away more bc they just gave money to SOS. The food was SO good!

Alli has committed to Auction Chair for next year!

Rebecca - Wants to have one more Murch merch sale this year. The group brainstormed quick, and decided to do a pop-up at the final Coffee on the Playground in May. Hayley suggested it might be worth selling Murch at the pre-k school tour. Matt is running for Rebecca's position.

Radhika - International Night - May 1st. Aryan Deguya is organizing again. First & 4th graders will have a Washington Ballet class in school that will culminate with a show at International Night. Same format as last year, people sign up and bring food.

Alli - Murch Plus starting again. There was very low teacher interest this year. Everyone thinks the quality has gone down. We might consider some changes for next year. It's a big part of our

budget, so it should be something that's really wanted by the Murch patrons. Let's brainstorm ideas for what might be more popular.

Sasha - Planning the room parent thank you event, RSVPs are low. Sasha asked if there was alcohol left over from the Auction for the party. Do we have money in the budget for the party? Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up, catering is handled. Cava Monday, Chipotle Wednesday, Jetty's Friday. Sasha will put out sign-up sheets for volunteers.

Sasha has heard some bad PR about HSA when asking people if they're interested in volunteering for board positions next year. We currently don't have anyone for Fall Fair. Maybe we cut back on events so there is less need for volunteer man-hours and less need for budget for the events. Alli will get a list of all the room parents from Lizzie so we can all take a look and see if there are people we know and might be able to talk about stepping up. Hayley said at private schools the school runs a lot of the things we do as an HSA. Should we consider spending some of the budget we raise to outsource some of this stuff instead of needing so much money and volunteer power.

This week is Assistant Principal Appreciation week. Please write a note to Mr. Hawkins!

Alli asked everyone to email if they have any changes to their position's budget for next year.

Hayley asked if it would be better to put money in the food pantry budget or do a food drive. Leigh said both and suggested there are probably plenty of parents who will purchase things off of a wishlist for food, supplies, etc to give to something tangible instead of just give to SOS for example.