



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

December 2, 2025, 7:00pm Virtual

Participants: Allison Fitzsimmons (Co-Prez), Leigh Fenner (Co-Prez), Sarah Krauss (Asst Treasurer, Auction Chair), Rebeca Fiet (VP Development), Tianni Craig (Secretary), Kristin Gifford (Treasurer), Bridget Lilley (K teacher & teacher rep), Betsy Hagan (Teacher Rep), Rachel Kohli (1st grade mom & leading book fair), Hayley Love (VP or Family Support)

Jed Wolfington is on the meeting to talk more about an idea he posed to the HSA last month to host a trading card show at Murch and asked the HSA for help. The HSA asked for more info and what the specific ask is. He says traditional card shows are very busy and frequented by really serious card traders, thus leaving younger card lovers kind of shut out of the experience. He would tailor this event to kids 16 and under so they could participate and enjoy the experience more. Alli asked how the HSA could help. Alli said HSA mostly does charity and fund-raising events, also that we already have a full roster of events and most board members are tapped out of taking on anything else. Is it in the school after hours; do tables need to be set up; security in place; etc? Alli asked if anyone on the board was able to help with this event. Mr. C said he might be interested and asked Jed to contact him outside of this meeting.

Rachel Kohli - Alli said we need to get the hot spot set up. Rebeca has been meeting with Rachel and helping get set up. The finances of the book fair are unique. Scholastic makes it a bit complicated, but she's getting it. One way to get paid out is cash, another option is cash and scholastic dollars, third option is all Scholastic dollars. We need to know that before the money so we can strategize how to spend the various buckets of money. Alli said last year Alison Bergfeld ran the book fair and it was decided to do the split. The Scholastic dollars went toward kids in need getting free books. Share the Fair allows buyers to round up toward free books for those in need as well. Alli asked what we would offer - a book, a \$10 voucher, a price cap, etc. Scholastic only gives back cash profit back at half cost but gives profit back in Scholastic dollars in full. Scholastic dollars and Share the Fair leftover roll over to next year if

unused this year. Kristin asked if HSA has historically purchased books for classroom libraries and if it would make sense to spend Scholastic dollars on that. Mr. C said HSA has not funded classroom libraries for 10 years. Sarah mentioned that there is usually a teacher wish list every year that parents purchase books for, too. Mrs. Hagan said if it was offered to teachers that they could get books it would definitely be welcome. Rebeca said we likely don't make enough to give all the classrooms books. Mrs. Hagan suggested maybe offer it to new teachers who are just building their libraries. Tianni asked Sasha if it is something she can add to the new teacher welcome packet she provides; she said she can. Sasha also added that it's very easy to have a teacher wish-list at the register if people want to buy a book for their classroom. Rachel added that we still need volunteers to help at the book fair.

Mr. C updates - 2026 enrollment projection is 623, last year was 671. So there will likely be a reduction in our budget dollars due to the lower enrollment projection. As we start the process with LSAT he's hoping they will be proactive about getting funding info out.

We hired three of the aides we need.

We've had students show significant gains in reading and math. 75% meeting stretch goals in reading and 72% in math. So it seems the strategic planning that was done in the earlier years of creating an extra class thus smaller classrooms has helped. Less kids are needing assistance in later grades now.

Thank you for the special treat that was served to staff yesterday. It's always very appreciated. As we enter the holiday season, most of us are looking forward to time off. But let's remember school is a haven for some students and the time off might be more stressful than welcome.

Rebeca - SOS is currently at \$68,365, but Kirstin has it at \$71k. It's unclear where the difference is, if it's in checks that haven't been counted yet, recurring gifts, etc.

Courtney and Sue asked if we can have cards sent home with kids to color. They will be given to nursing aides at Forest Hills Nursing Home. Mrs. Hagan said some of the classes already do cards for Sunrise Home, so this should be pretty easy to accomplish.

Sasha - Did a breakfast for Thanksgiving, went well, much appreciated. Mrs. Lilley reached out to sponsor a happy hour holiday party for the teachers, which we are sponsoring. Mr. C asked if we could do a teacher/staff breakfast to ease coming back Friday, January 2, 2026 after the holiday.

Officer Pearson Day - Leigh has gotten a tiara and sash and plans to offer lunch and ask people to send in cards.

Radhika - We're bringing Coffee on the Playground to the book fair! December 16th. Alli will bring treats.

Reached out to Pat to do the tree mulching, waiting on a date. Last year we made about \$1200. We definitely need more volunteers to help this year!
Murch movie at Avalon Theater end of January 24th. We need to pick a movie. They cannot show Disney movies. Wild Robot was suggested.

Hayley - New family tours continue. Next Monday is the next tour.
Next big pantry delivery is scheduled for . Asked if there is something more we should be offering families in need over the holiday season.

Abbi - Holiday collections for teachers and staff. Room parents will collect for most teachers. HSA collects for staff.
The website has been down and slow. The site creator said it's old and needs an overhaul. Abbi would like to put it off til summer.

Kristin - Moved \$50k from checking account to money market for better interest rate.
There is \$1500 showing in the collections sheets over the last four years. She's going to analyze why some collected funds are showing as not spent.

Alli - Sound installation is complete! Thank you to Mr. C and Mr. Hayden for making that happen.
Musical and Spelling Bee will be in January.
Need to plan for black history month for February. We said we would give up to \$1500 last year. Need to see if that is the same.
Thank you to Leigh for spearheading the Child's Play and wrapping paper fundraisers. Child's Play was appalled we weren't serving wine & cheese. Maybe next year we can coordinate with Little Beast or other place to have treats.
Kristin finally got added to the credit card accounts and can finally view them. Now we're working on getting Sarah a card. Brigitte's card should be transferred to Sarah.