



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

March 3, 2026, 7pm Murch Library

Participants: Allison Fitzsimmons (Co-Prez), Leigh Fenner (Co-Prez), Sarah Krauss (Asst Treasurer, Auction Chair), Abigail Shawn (VP Communications), Rebeca Fiet (VP Development), Tianni Craig (Secretary), Kristin Gifford (Treasurer), Hayley Love (VP Family Support), Chris Cebzynski (Principal), Betsy Hagan (Teacher Rep), Radhika Mohan (VP Community Engagement)

Mr. C update - Budget: We lost \$433k from last year based on enrollment. Added a part-time reading & math specialist. Lost 3 ELLs. Non-personnel budget: funded professional development a good bit, about \$40k devoted to staff. We want teachers going out and gathering info, education and bridging it back. Upped custodial supplies so we can do more prep work over the summer (and ask less of HSA), office supplies. Still have two coaches. Changed custodial set-up, more personnel who can open & close the building, which helps.

Alli said Mason-Manning fam did a great job hosting wine cellar party. Sarah said we gave them flowers as thanks. Sarah said Total Wine curated a great wine selection for the wine cellar prize. Rebecca said we should advertise the caterer: five-spice pork, hummus platter, three kinds of tacos, honey harissa chicken skewers, caprese skewers. Spread the word, get people excited! Please make sure to ask people for items to donate to the auction! All booze brought to the auction by the caterer will be left with us. It was suggested that we use it to have a staff happy hour after school one day. It requires a permit, which is \$300, and Lee is happy to get it if Mr. C approves it.

Coffee on the Playground - Christina Esche is going to come talk about Curriculum Night. Kids are welcome at Curriculum Night. There will not be food. There is no RSVP. Next year it will be in the budget so there can be food.

Sasha - Teacher Appreciation week: Sasha sent out a request for volunteers, no one volunteered yet. Inquired about Room Parent Appreciation Event - Abbi said she will co-lead it with Sasha, looking at the week of April 20th, after spring break. We have about 90 room parents this year.

Getting feedback on the teacher lounge. Sasha has cleaned and stocked it at the beginning of the year and mid-year. Sasha is hearing that not many people use the teacher lounge. Mrs. Hagan said teachers and staff are in and out all day and appreciate it being stocked and cleaned. Sasha thinks there should be another person to help with this role next year. Sasha said it was really nice to have the guidebook that Hayley provided her when she came in last year. She asked that we verbally commit to a softer handoff to our predecessors, maybe commit to coming to meetings, provide more continuity. We should bring this up at the Room Parent appreciation meeting. Mrs. Hagan said the teachers were very thankful for the Jetty's lunch we provided.

Abbi - Lizzie posts the newsletter on Thursdays; let's try to get things in in advance to help streamline her workload. Sasha will notify her of the room parent appreciation event.

Assistant Principal's week - Should we have people send in cards? Sasha said AP Hawkins likes Cava, maybe a giftcard. Let's ask teachers to do class cards. Website reimbursement is fixed!

Kristin - Financials were sent out and posted to Bandcamp. Kristin will be getting budgets out to the VPs. Reminder to get W9s! Services require a W9, products do not. Kristin would like to suggest that meetings be moved to the second Tuesday of the month. It will be much easier to get financials current by the second week.

Hayley - Tours continue. Deal students coming to help restock food pantry. Deal students coming tomorrow to help Hayley organize the lost & found so parents can look and pick it up.

Leigh - Women's History Month. Mrs. Walton asked if we can have moms come in and talk about their careers in different classrooms on the last day of the month and provide coffee, maybe breakfast. Dr. Branch's Black History Month was amazing. He has a few invoices out that he hasn't submitted yet. All the kids decorated classroom doors, and we are supposed to be providing a pizza party for the winner - hasn't happened yet. He also ordered books that haven't been paid for yet. We can use budget left over from Black History Month for Mrs. Walton's request. Leigh and Alli need teachers to send receipts for kids who need the HSA to pay for their field trip and to teachers who need to be reimbursed for field trips. Mrs. Hagan said to print out the process, and she'll make sure teachers get it.

Musical - 31 kids signed up. Alli is the parent volunteer. She has asked for one or two other parents to help. It was considered to open it up to 3rd graders to fill the last few spots (up to 40), but decided against it and to keep it more manageable.

Dr. Branch has asked for xylophones, we will approve it.