



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

November 4, 2025, 7:00pm 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, Bridget Lilley (K teacher & teacher rep)

Install date for the sounds system, November 10-11.

Rebeca - Book Fair, overlaps with Festival of Lights, Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday, Nov 16-18. Historically it ran before and after school. Rachael, who is running it this year, wants to have it open during the day and open for kids to shop. Rebeca is worried about staffing it during the day. It used to be during the day, but there was theft and that is why it was cut. Historically we provided a book to the list of kids who receive free lunch - or they think that is what was done. Rebeca said there is not a line item in the budget to cover it. She believes there is an option for other purchasers to round up to donate a book, but that wouldn't cover enough. Alli said somehow we owed Scholastic and paid them. Rachael said there are 100 students on the list to receive a free book; Rebeca thinks there is more, like 120.

S.O.S. - Currently at \$46,048, 42% of goal, pretty good. Kristin said the number she has is higher. A few people were asked to wait to pledge so we can use it to advertise matching pushes. Another family pledged to match dollar for dollar up to \$4,000.

Wrapping Paper - We're at \$800. We can extend if we want to.

Sasha - Managing Mr. C's kudo board and planning a holiday event.

Radhika - The last coffee on the playground was really successful. Big turnout, people really interested in the mental health speaker there. Alli said we'll definitely keep the format of having more HSA members present and having Mr. C or someone speak.

Hayley - Tours for new and prospective families starting next week, always welcoming parents to volunteer.

Abbi - Mr. Hayden asked if he can use some of the costumes that are in the basement. His wife is the HSA president of their daughter's school in NE, and they would like to use them. Alli and Leigh said it's an equality issue, that if we allow him to use them in this instance then we have to allow others to use them anytime. There is the possibility of loss or damage, then how do we determine cost or enforce coverage. The ultimate decision is to not allow borrowing.

Jed Wolfington is asking HSA to support a trading card event. Need to get more information on what the need is. Are we staffing, providing table set-up, security, etc...

Kristin - Fall Fair revenue is \$17,000. 2020 taxes were filed late, so we owe \$9,000 in penalties and interest. Kristin has filed an abatement. We need to find a new accounting firm.

Non-budgetary items earned \$1600 in interest income. Technology & repairs, laptops, classroom.

Leigh said Alli needs to call to get Kristin added to the credit card company. This has been an on going debacle with the credit card company.

Washington Ballet - we are preparing to sign a contract with them to perform in the spring.

Dr. Branch continues to ask that we use Dr. Morgan. Mary Ekstein is also pushing for it. We're not clear on why this is necessary. People were taught how to operate the new sound system, and we can handle taping wires on the floor. Dr. Branch said he does not feel comfortable directing the event if Mr. Morgan is not there. There was a vote on whether to provide the funds (\$500 after HSA negotiating with Dr. Branch) to cover Mr. Morgan's payment. The board voted to cover the funds this year as it is close to the event, and Dr. Branch is familiar with Mr. Morgan. We must plan differently ahead of time next year.