



December 3, 2018 Minutes
High Mountain School All Purpose Room

Call to Order: 7:10pm

Flag Salute

PTO President Welcome: Heather LaCognata: Welcome! Happy Holidays!

Administration:

Ms. Mazzola – High Mountain School

- School security Drills & Fire Drills – All were completed successfully with the assistance of the North Haledon Police Department.
- Mrs. Conover and the RIPPLES Club students initiated the Leaves of Gratitude project at HMS. RIPPLES Club members wrote positive thoughts on leaves, which were then hung on every student's locker. Club Members volunteered their time both to create the leaves and post them. Students were excited and happy to find positive notes on their lockers when they came into school. Thank you Mrs. Conover, for working on this with the students. We look forward to the next RIPPLES initiative in December.
- On November 26, Mrs. Taormina hosted the Gifted and Talented Grade 7 Logic Bowl with 80 students from 10 Passaic County School Districts. The students were teamed with students from other schools, and participated in a total of 18 logic station events. Three of our North Haledon Students were part of the first, second and third place teams. Congratulations to Alexandra Spalt on the 1st place team, Gianna Angelucci on the 2nd place team, and Kayla Liga on the 3rd place team. And a big thank you to Mrs. Taormina for coordinating the event!
- It was a pleasure seeing so many parents come to HMS for conferences on the 28th and 29th and hearing the tremendously positive feedback you had about our school, our students and our programming. Please know we continue to foster an open door policy and welcome the communication and collaboration with you all year long.
- Upcoming dates:
 - TREP\$ Marketplace will be held on Friday, December 6 from 6:30-8:30 in the HMS Gym - we invite all to come out for some holiday shopping and to support our young entrepreneurs.
 - Manchester High School will perform for HMS on Monday, December 10th.
 - Deck the Halls will take place at HMS on December 21st.
 - As a reminder, December 21st is a single session day and Progress Reports will go live on Real Time at 12:45. Please note there will be no bagel sale on this single session day due to the class holiday parties scheduled.
 - School will be closed for Winter Recess starting December 24th, and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd.
- We wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Mrs. Tait – Memorial School

- Thank you to Mrs. Percelli, Mrs. House and all the volunteers for making this year's Holiday Shop successful! Students are visiting in their class this week.
- We celebrated a student created spirit day - dress like an exotic animal. Congratulations to Anna Bua for a creative submission. All the students enjoyed and much of Memorial was taken over by unicorns!
- 1st Graders performed at their Thanksgiving Show. All the students did a wonderful job and enjoyed performing for their families. Thank you to the 1st grade teachers for all their hard work to

make this special for our 1st graders. Thanks to Mrs. Lally and Mr. Pokryska for their work for the show. Special thanks to all the parent volunteers for making the event successful. The students looked adorable in their costumes and the feast was great.

- Memorial School is making history with a Safety Patrol. The patrol consists of 4th grade students who are also S.M.I.L.E students (students making it a little easier). Safety Patrol members will be on duty each morning, patrolling the halls to ensure that our students are making safe and appropriate choices! They will also be helping during assemblies. They have already been trained on what to do during their scheduled duty time. They will take part in meetings throughout the year to discuss how the “traffic” and the safety of our school has been during their experience. Our goal is to increase and improve our positive school climate!
- The character trait of the month is fairness. Students will learn that a fair person is someone who treats all people with honesty and respect. They celebrate each other's uniqueness and value everyone. Fairness isn't everyone getting the same thing. Fairness is everyone getting what they need to be successful.
- We will be doing various activities this month; Dare to be kind (snowflakes given to students and teachers) Upstander lessons to K-3 (being kind to all is fair), 4th grade smile students will be presenting upstander lessons to their classroom (with the help of me), and daily positives (created by the smile student this month!)
- Grade 1 students will be having a Kindness Elf visit their classrooms. The elf will be encouraging our students to participate in acts of kindness throughout the week - some examples are making cards for local community helpers, appreciate your teacher, sit with someone new in lunch, appreciate secretaries and special teachers, surprise your parent by picking up all of your toys. They will also do a donation drive for an animal shelter (food / treats, paper towels and bleach - are most needed) starting on Monday of next week and ending Friday.
- Thursday, December 13th our Spirit Day is Pajama Day.
- Tuesday, December 18th is our Winter Show. Show begins at 9:15 and doors open at 9:00.
- School security Drills & Fire Drills - All were completed successfully with the assistance of the North Haledon Police Department.
- Thank you to the PTO for all you do.

Minutes of November 5, 2018 Meeting: Please review for approval.

Approved: Lynn McMurray

Second: Elisabeth House

PTO Treasurer's Report: Angela Bua: The November 1 operating starting balance was \$23,317.96. The end balance from November 30, 2018 was \$20,178.86. The games of chance account had an end balance of \$95,960.10. The total amount available without savings was \$116,138.96 and with savings was \$126,621.95.

8th Grade Treasurer's Report: Randi Venema: 11/1 – 11/30: Operating Opening Balance \$11,686.94. Deposits \$14,636.94. Disbursements \$4,712.50. Ending Balance \$9,924.44

Correspondence Report: Tonilyn Peragallo: Nothing to report.

Web Coordinator: Heather Davidson: Directories will be out soon. Delay is due to vendor having paper acclimating problems.

NHEF Report: Heather Davidson: Casino Night was held on November 30. Everyone had a great time. Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 15th. Ticket forms are due this Friday, December 7. Raffle tickets will be given to those that bring gloves, scarves, etc. to donate. Look for your ticket confirmation in your email.

Board of Education: Heather LaCognata: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wrap Ups

- **Fall Fundraiser Wrap Up:** Jessica Tomasi: Early dismissal snow day pick-up day was fun. Everything went home. Back ordered items should be in by now. Total profit was a little more than last year.

Mrs. Tait wanted to acknowledge the PTO for handling pick up on a snow day and thank everyone for a doing a great job.

Current

- **Membership:** Currently, our membership is at 276.
- **School Coordinators:** Giselle Micchio: Holiday Parties are coming up. Class Captains please get your party info to school nurses and attendee list to school secretaries.
- **TREPS:** Jessica Tomasi: Marketplace will take place in the gym @ HMS this Friday, December 7th. Students report 6:30. They've been working hard, please come check it out.
- **8th Grade Activities:** Jessica Tomasi: Poinsettia sale – pick up Thursday, 12/6, 3:30 at the American Legion. Parent meeting will be held at 7:00.
- **Sunshine:** Janessa DeJesus: 1 at Memorial School
- **Holiday Shop:** Elisabeth House & Jennifer Percelli: Will be held this week. Last call and clean up will be Thursday. If anyone wants to come help, please contact Jen Percelli.
- **Dining Out:** Carly Saal: Nothing to report. Thank you to those that came out to Belmont Grill.
- **Tricky Tray:** Jessica Tomasi: Will take place on 4/2. Shopping has started. Solicitation letters are available at front table. Currently accepting donations and empty baskets. Theme is “A Night on Broadway”. Kick-off meeting will be scheduled after the new year.
- **Spirit Wear:** Tammy Longo: Shirts are being separated and will go out in next day or two. Normal annual spirit wear form will go home by end of month.
- **Family Fun Day:** Wendy Bruffy: Planning Dumbo at Hawthorne Movie Theater for 10:00am on a Saturday in March. Price is expected to be \$15, which would include movie & snacks.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ski Club:** Nicole Perna: Sign ups complete. About 40 participants. Dropping off forms this week.
- **Letters to Santa:** Heather LaCognata: Please get letters in to municipal building, which is open until 4:30. Should get letters back few days before Christmas. Mayor's Holiday Party will be held at HMS from 5:30-8:30. If you would like Santa to pass your house in fire truck, please contact Municipal Building.

NEW BUSINESS

- **HMS Book Fair:** Elisabeth House and Julie Granatell: Will be held January 22-25. Does not run like Memorial. Students shop themselves. No volunteers needed.
- **Sweetheart Dance:** Jessica Matos: Will be held February 8. Flyer being prepared. Mrs. Tait will be meeting with Jessica Matos.
- **Sports Club:** Jessica Tomasi: Will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:05-4:05 from December to June. Interested students grades 5-8 should attend Mr. Abdelmalak's meeting tomorrow after school.

VOTE

COMMENTS, QUESTIONS & ANSWER PERIOD

NEXT PTO MEETING

Thank you for attending this PTO meeting.

Monday, January 7, 2019 at HMS in the All Purpose Room

Meeting adjourned: 7:36pm

Respectfully submitted,

Giselle Micchio

Recording Secretary