

HSA General Meeting

March 2, 2017

The meeting began at 7:15 and was adjourned at 8:45.

Shannon welcomed everyone and asked everyone to sign in.

The minutes from the November and January HSA meetings were approved. Marelise Voss moved to approve. Sarah Remes seconded. All in favor.

Communications Ask for Funding for the Lafayette Website

HSA Communications committee members, Jen Lanoff and Sophie Hanrahan, provided a presentation about the need to update the website. They explained that they sent out a proposal for bid, looked at 9 proposals, interviewed 5 possible vendors, and selected Brand Poets. The cost of updating the website is around \$10,000. There are HSA funds to cover the cost without impacting any HSA programs, if the membership approves. The current and prior HSA communications committee members, Jen, Sophie and Stacy Beck, were recognized for all of their hard work.

Spring Auction Update

Sarah Remes, Auction Co-Chair, provided an auction update. Donations are coming in, there are great teacher treats, vacation houses, and sports packages. She also stated that they can always use more donations, and asked if anyone had any connections, or can offer things like personal training, etc. to please come and talk to her. She encouraged everyone to please buy tickets and noted that there will be a need for volunteers Friday and Saturday afternoon for set up, a few the night of the auction, and some Sunday afternoon to help take down decorations. She also asked that if anyone has or knows someone who has a classic car, to please talk to Astrid Ruggieri.

Washington Teacher's Union Update

Lafayette teacher, Jared Catapano, gave an update on efforts of the Washington Teacher's Union to finalize a contract for DCPS teachers. He noted that DCPS teachers have been working out of contract for the past 4 ½ years or so, with no pay increase. He handed out some information sheets and asked for support from the HSA and Lafayette community to contact the mayor about the current situation and encourage them to finalize a contract that includes pay increases and retroactive pay for teachers.

Dr. B Budget Discussion and Ask for HSA Line of Credit to Cover Necessary School Costs

There were some questions about out of boundary and Dr. B confirmed that there are no slots really for out of boundary for pre-k.

Dr. B referenced a budget powerpoint presentation in her discussion.

Dr. B explained that there is a budget shortfall for the school year because enrollment projections were off. Specifically, DCPS budgeted for 65 less kids than the number of students that actually enrolled at Lafayette. To address this, Dr. B decided not to cut personnel and cut non-personnel spending instead. She asked the HSA for a \$30,000 line of credit to cover non-personnel spending expenses, such as custodial supplies (e.g. floorwax, paper towels, soap), should the school need it. She explained that the

budget shortfall was further compounded by the unique needs presented by the new building, such as paper towel dispensers in every classroom.

Dr. B explained that Lafayette gets about \$9,000 per student from DCPS and that it has been this way for at least 4 years – probably more. There are additional funds for special needs, ELL, subsidized lunch, etc., but Lafayette is not in these groups.

There was discussion about how there is a huge gap between the funding that Lafayette gets and what other schools get and that this is not fair. There were concerns expressed about whether there would be the same problem next year. Dr. B explained that there are more accurate enrollment projections for next year and that Lafayette will be in a better financial position.

Some expressed that this was an egregious mistake by DC government, that there was a fundamental miscalculation of projected enrollment and then nothing was done to fix it. There was acknowledgement that this puts Lafayette in a bad position. A point was made that the Lafayette community was now paying twice for this – once through property taxes and now again through HSA funds. There was a discussion of the need to exhaust every measure possible to address this, including raising it with Brandon Todd and others in DC government to let them know about this problem.

Dr. B said that Brandon Todd is aware and that there always is a place for advocacy, but she was not sure whether anything could be done now because of the budget cycle.

Some noted that it would be helpful to have known about this earlier. Dr. B acknowledged that this could have been communicated more broadly earlier and explained that she had shared this with LSAT and the HSA Board. She emphasized that she made the decision not to cut personnel spending in order to keep class sizes small and retain staff. She reiterated that the request for HSA funding is a one-time ask to cover non-personnel costs for this school year.

Shannon explained that there are HSA funds available to cover this, if the membership agrees to extend the line of credit.

Overview of the HSA Budget

Janine Finck-Boyle, first Vice-President of the HAS, provided a financial overview of the HSA budget vs. actual spending.

She explained that the HSA revenue comes from events, membership, sponsorships, and partnerships. She acknowledged that if we meet the projected Spring Fair and Auction numbers, we will bring in \$100,000. She also noted that the brick program generated about \$22,000 to \$23,000, and that there was an increase in sponsorships.

She explained that the HSA also has a savings account of about \$200,000 resulting from HSA budget end of the year surpluses over several years.

At the close of the meeting, members were asked to please fill out a ballot and vote on (1) \$10,000 for the website, (2) \$30,000 line of credit for school supplies, and (3) members of the nominating committee.

Sophie explained that a constant contact will be sent out to people with the results of the vote.