

**Lafayette Elementary School**  
**HSA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm.**

Marc Van De Walle recorded minutes.

**Participants:**

Ann Sun, Co President  
Alexandra Lewin-Zwerdling, Community Programs Chair  
Brienne Whelan Cohen , Co President  
Anastasia Khoo, Communications Chair  
Daisy Diallo, Second Vice President  
Paul Brodsky, Co Treasurer  
Danielle Carter, Diversity & Inclusion Co Chair  
Michelle Cooper, Co Treasurer  
Christina Daulton, Diversity & Inclusion Co Chair  
Rachael Overcash, Fundraising Chair  
Marc Van De Walle, Secretary  
Dan Miller, Finance and Budget Co Chair  
Gabe Di Clerico, First Vice President  
Jessica Voris, Outreach Co Chair  
Keisha Harris, Teacher Representative  
Farah Shah, Outreach Co Chair  
Carrie Broquard, Principal

**Proceedings:**

**1. Welcome + General HSA Business and Updates - Bree and Ann**

a. Brienne brings to the floor for consideration, whether the HSA should shift policy for limited in-person events organized by classes and room parents to complement the school reopening. 2/1/21.

At this point, Dr. B is opposed to all in-person meetings because of the risk of jeopardizing or disrupting the back-to-school procedure after thorough preparations by her staff. Board members also suggested that inclusion factors still favor against in person events. Also, consideration of current viral activity and cold weather. The suggestion is to postpone and ask HSA to follow up after distance learning is well under way and external conditions improve. The meeting agrees to postpone and agrees to stick to virtual events until further notice.

b. Regarding the COVID relief fund for families with food insecurity, experiencing homelessness, up to now 8-10 families have received assistance for a total of \$6843 spent, with still \$3100 left in the bank. The meeting agrees to access the HSA reserve when needed or funds are dwindling.

- c. For the upcoming HSA elections this year, the Nominating Committee shall convene no later than April 15th, with 21 days to review candidates before the vote. We need 4 weeks' notice before the election date, which will be held virtual.
- d. During the upcoming general meeting on Feb 8th, the HSA will call for candidates and propose a draft budget. In the meantime, current members are asked to recruit possible eligible candidates and/or to acknowledge their continuation.

## **2. Principals update - Carrie Broquard**

On the reopening on Feb. 1st, Dr. B. expects 651 kids coming back to Lafayette, a total of 74% of the student population, just under the estimated 80% from the survey. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a week before reopening, the teachers are setting up classrooms while preparing videos for the kids to explain the procedure during drop-off and pick-up. They will be looking into extra in-person school supplies but not on the first day. Regarding a question about the internet bandwidth at Lafayette, Dr. B. states that the current setup should be sufficient. As we experiment, maybe extra supplies from HSA could be needed. Keep you posted. The Covid-19 numbers look steady, thus resulting in less risk of breaking of the scheduled reopening on Feb. 1st.

## **3. Finance update Gabe-Paul-Michelle, Dan and Jennifer**

a. Gabe and Dan explain with detailed charts the historical revenues vs costs, taking into account the Tech cost of the beginning of the year. The graph shows a positive revenue/cost ratio until December 2020 though is heading towards a 17K deficit if no additional fundraising is considered. The meeting acknowledges that this loss of funding was to be expected because of lack of social contact and canceling of fundraisers, but is hopeful that reopening will give an extra boost. In any case, there is no reason to be alarmed since with a reserve of about \$337K at the beginning of the year, -\$70 K (Tech. ask), there remains \$267 K. Looking at a possible baseline need, based on the average over the last 5 years, \$125K from the reserve would be needed to bridge a 6 months period, thus \$250K for a 12 months period. In any case, still enough cushion but a further discussion for the longer-term reserve policy is planned.

## **4. Fundraising Update - Rachael and Chris Lisi**

Chris Lisi starts with the idea that the virtual auction last year was a success because of the timing just after the start of Covid-19. The community was very open to the idea of transformation to a virtual auction. She fears that this will not be the case this year due to screen fatigue and struggling businesses. So we need a different, more dispersed model. Chris explored some ideas, comparing also with some other schools.

She feels that during these trying times, every event should first of all be about community building and secondly about raising some money. Some ideas are put to the table for discussion:

*Family fun nights consisting of Family trivia night, working with DC trivia to host kid-friendly night. Besides the virtual event, an in-person part is included.*

*March 19th, National laugh day, The Great Zucchini, performs for Pre-K and K-families.*

*April 2nd, Front porch family from Freed to take photos of families.*

*April 16th, Wine tasting cellar raffle with wine tasting or asking McGruder's about doing this.*

*Mother's day flower arranging working with Alice's Table*

*May 21th National pizza party day Little Beast - Potomac pizza*

*June 4th Virtual Scavenger hunt with Goose Chase*

*June 18th Donut 7 Beer pairing or extra's Eat & Learn how to speak Italian*

Also considering *Politics and prose* inviting local DC authors, Cooking classes, Bike rides. It would all amount to easy to do, with minimum effort ideas to be presented in the scheme 4 months ahead to the community. Members are invited to give feedback and add ideas.

## **5. Committee Updates**

- Fundraising - Rachael

As discussed in previous meeting, the fundraising remains slow with 2 sponsors donating \$3000,- to the school.

- Outreach - Farah and Jess

Jess explains the wellness for teachers initiative, in collaboration with a vendor that produces wellness-videos. Follow-up expected. We will have some shifts in room parents based on class shifts with reopening, but it will only affect grades K-2.

- Communications - Anastasia

While the hosting for the website is consistent, Anastasia recommends an upgrade of \$900 for some acute patching. Meeting agrees and approves.

- Diversity & inclusion committee created a lot of momentum before the pandemic.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the scheduled in-person clubs, meetings, and organized presentations are still off-limits. Since organizing virtual events is much harder and the committee doesn't have the bandwidth to fulfill this task during this time, this opportunity is opened up to the community.

End meeting 21.15

Next General meeting 02/8 - Next HSA meeting 02/22