

Lafayette Elementary School
HSA Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 24, 2021

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm. Minutes recorded by Eleanor Correa.

Watch:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/TjvsDIT7kIXFf1tBT4agIBtvbWz1FSHSdHAymWKFJmZS_ icnDJPFuPRAHHNVP4cQ.XkvRKcxJPA6e2fcm

Passcode: G0e%oyRX

Participants:

Brianne Whelan Cohen, Co-President
Ann Sun, Co-President
Gabe DiClerico, First Vice President
Daisy Diallo, Second Vice President
Paul Brodsky, Co-Treasurer
Michelle Cooper, Co-Treasurer
Eleanor Correa, Secretary
Alexandra Lewin-Zwerdling, Community Programs Chair
Rachael Overcash, Fundraising Chair
Jennifer Steele, Finance and Budget Co-Chair
Dan Miller, Finance and Budget Co-Chair
Jessica Voris, Outreach Co-Chair
Pam Santos, D&I Co-Chair
Brittany Bolston, D&I Co-Chair
Carrie Broquard, Principal
Keisha Harris, Teacher

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions - Bree and Ann**
 - a) **Vote to approve D&I Co-Chairs** (Pam Santos, Brittany Bolston, and Maria Morukian) – Bree calls for a vote. Unanimous vote in favor of approving new co-chairs of D&I, effective immediately. Thank you for volunteering!
 - b) **Marquis de Lafayette Award nominees** - please email Bree and Ann any nominees - parents and staff – will present at HSA General Meeting, June 14. Bree would really like to award Cynthia Carpenter who has handled the A-Z directory for years. Her child is graduating, and Cynthia will be leaving Lafayette. We have a couple of people training to replace Cynthia.
 - i) Discussion of whether to keep a paper copy of A-Z directory. People in favor of keeping. Michelle reminds us that the paper copy is a revenue generator (advertisements).
 - ii) Dr. B reminds us to consider a replacement of Shutterfly sites – this was discussed last year but was dropped due to Covid. Looking for a good alternative way to communicate with parents. Maybe everyone could ask someone outside of DCPS about what their school uses – get a collection of ideas to consider.
 - c) **Transition to New Board** – usually there is a transition meeting where past (this year) HSA members come to give parting words of wisdom to the new board members. Also

please add any information to the shared drive to provide resources for incoming members. Usually meeting is in July, but we discuss doing before the end of the school year.

2) Principal's Update – Carrie Broquard

- a) Enrollment going well so far, working through packets now.
- b) We received \$917K in stimulus money, which was huge, which supported a bunch of new positions.
- c) Just talked with 5th grade parents about promotion – going well.
 - i) Looking for a videographer, please send suggestions.
- d) Summer acceleration invitations have gone out.
- e) Virtual Field Day – t-shirt designs are in.

3) Virtual 5K Fundraising Update – Alex

- a) Funds Raised over \$8500.
- b) Vendor – Just Move was very easy to work with. They will take 8-9% of the total.
- c) We can do this again next year in addition to other event – maybe around Thanksgiving.
- d) Grizzly Gear Sales - \$610
- e) 3rd Grade raised the most money and will receive a prize.

4) Budget and Finance Team Update - Gabe, Dan, Jennifer

a) Programming Updates

- i) **HoopEd Update – Eleanor** spoke with them, and they will accommodate whatever schedule we need for the fall. They cannot guarantee Coach Bell, but know we prefer him. Dr B said she was also in touch with HoopEd (Jonathan), but that we did not get information about pricing.
 - (1) Dr. B shares we have the “Green Light” on CLS next year but have not figured out after-school enrichment. This is normally handled by FLEX but HoopEd expressed an interest in taking over this. Bree pointed out Flex gives a scholarship to one kid per activity every session and manages the Drama Club lottery. They also managed the fingerprinting/background check and TB tests. Dr B says we have been very happy with Flex. Seems easiest to stick with them.
 - (2) Dr. B cannot sign a contract with Flex, so HSA board secures the relationship/contract with enrichment contractor (Flex). Might make sense to designate who on the new board will be responsible for this. We have not talked with Flex in a year. Dr. B will start moving on this soon – please tell her who she will work with on the HSA. Alex volunteers to engage on this, but would want someone else involved with contract experience (maybe incoming VP2)
- ii) **FoodPrints Update – Bree** spoke with them and learned that the full cost for the program is \$32K. Historically, the HSA has contributed \$10-15K and the rest of the costs were covered by a grant from OSSE, but OSSE will no longer be supporting this. We could potentially get additional money from DCPS but won't know that for a while. This could cause a big budget gap – this is a major cost for a program that serves a small number of students a few times a year.
 - (1) Discussion of using reserves to cover the gap – Dr. B reminds us that we discussed using reserved last year to install permanent sunshades on the playground. In her opinion, this is a better use of \$32K since those will be used by more children, more often, for much longer.

(2) If we do not have FoodPrints, we do have several parents interested in the upkeep of the school garden. We could use the garden without FoodPrints.

b) Discussion of survey results -Michelle

i) We got 104 responses from the community. We learned that respondents' first priority is Instructional Support - school specials and library. Second was School Extracurriculars – which includes FoodPrints and edible garden. Third was Lafayette Families in Need. (Many more details in the recording which shows Michelle's PowerPoint presentation)

c) **Finalize budget for voting – Gabe** says there will be no adjustments to our budget as result of the stimulus – it doesn't impact our spending. His reaction to the survey is that it could inform where we might make trade offs if fundraising doesn't come through next year and we find ourselves moving to a contingency budget. If we can get fundraising back to a reasonable level, then we should be able to cover our budget as is. The survey then will not cause us to make immediate changes to the budget. It is therefore ready for the community to vote on.

i) We did not ask the community for approval to spend beyond our budget in the survey. We are operating under the assumption we will be able to fundraise to cover basic expenses – the budget is \$212K which is 30% less than a regular year.

ii) Equity Pledge Discussion – the equity pledge is our commitment to give 10% of what the Bear Fund raises to support other schools in need within the DCPS system. This was voted on separate from the budget last year. It was designed to exist in perpetuity and will not need community approval year after year. 150 Votes were cast, 138 in favor. The primary justification for the pledge is that the DC Council proposed an equity bill for all DCPS school. We pushed hard for it based on feedback from our community. PTOs are contributing to an opportunity gap and there are DCPS schools with now PTOs at all.

(1) May make sense to recommunicate annually about the Equity Pledge. Perhaps a FAQ page on the HAS website.

iii) How many Budgets will the community have the chance to vote on? We put together 3 scenarios and will present only one to the community. Bree suggests we should present it/communicate about it as our spending plan. We want the authority to get into contracts. Vote for authorization for everything we want to spend money on, and we can go back to the community if we cannot do some things. Also, it incentivizes fundraising. Dan agrees – we must make assumptions about what our fundraising would be. If we need to pivot, we go back to the community.

(1) This will be included in the Elections voting form.

5) Committee Updates –

a) Community Programs – Alex

i) Lafayette Gives Back – the current leader of this has new people ready to take over.

ii) Camp Fair – we have a leader for this. Board members suggest this should be held before winter break (maybe November) rather than in January because camp registrations open in January.

b) Diversity & Inclusion - Pam, Brittany, and Maria

i) Held their first meeting 5/22; we are confident we bring a lot of experience and commitment to D&I initiatives. We generated some ideas to expand and enrich the Lafayette experience.

(1) Big Action Item: Meet ASAP with HSA co-presidents and Dr. B to get a better sense of our scope. What is HSA's goal for this committee?

(a) Ideas to do a survey of parent community to hear what our community needs.

- (b) Organize a few focus groups.
 - (c) Learn from Dr. B where she sees gaps in what is already being done- don't want to duplicate efforts.
- (2) Dr. B mentioned the Racial Equity Committee at the school – would be important to talk with them to learn how the school is approaching things. Also, would be good to talk with our past D&I chairs to learn where they stopped and what they already put together because we have already done some community engagement around this topic. Can learn from them.

6) Election Process – Eleanor

- a) Voting begins on June 8. Last year it was one vote per family or household (divorced families got 2 votes) - do we want to keep it the same or should it be one vote per parent/ guardian?
- b) HSA votes in favor of 1 vote per parent/guardian

7) Next Meetings

- a) June 14th HSA General Meeting – voting will not close until the end of the meeting. The link to voting will be put into the chat function of the zoom meeting. Also, MDL Awards are given out then.
- b) Need to schedule another HSA meeting to deal with transition. New HSA board will be busy during the summer. The calendar for the school year goes over in early August. Ann prefers this meeting is done in June not July.
- c) Thought to keep online voting and zoom meeting option continue even after Covid restrictions go away. Increases participation.

- 8) **Thank you to Bree** – this is her last meeting as the HSA Co-President – amazing service to the school in two challenging years!