

Morris Knolls HSA Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

7:00pm, via Zoom

Present on call:

Christie D'Asti, President

Danielle Massey Lang, Vice President

Monica Baioneta, Secretary

Approximately 22 additional participants on Zoom

Meeting Opened:

President D'Asti opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

HSA President's report:

- President D'Asti opened the meeting and introduced and welcomed Superintendent Nick Norcia.
- Superintendent introduced himself - worked as Director of Special education at Morris Hills District, worked at Fair Lawn for many years and came back. Superintendent reiterated importance of parents and community for the success of schools.
- Superintendent wants to make sure all programs are working well, preparing for next year's budget.
- He talked about next Tuesday and Wednesday's assembly - Chris Singleton - professional baseball player, whose mother was killed in a shooting at church. He will present his story at an assembly for all students at MK and MH with powerful message to all.
- In addition, he talked about mental health and school security - more layers of resources being added to both, monitoring mental health and intervention as needed.
- Security audit - three companies will be auditing our district to ensure safety to all. Please bring any questions or concerns.
- Next year calendar will be rolled out in the next two weeks - snow days, if not used, days will be built in calendar in advance so parents can prepare.
- Please ask any questions.
- No co-op football team next year - this is a rumor.
- Superintendent Norcia left meeting.

- President D'Asti reintroduced herself and HSA members.
- We still have open positions for a Treasurer and a second VP.
- If no volunteers, a survey will be sent out because we need the help with these positions
- If student is interested in winter sports, some of the teams require a try out. If student does not make it to team, still talk to coach and get involved.
- Principal mentioned about great opportunity through new sports that have been added, as well as through clubs.
- To find out about sports labs, competitions, best resource is school counselor
- If student is not interested in the current clubs, students can create their own club, and many other ways to get involved.
- HSA FB page is a great resource to bring new ideas, ask questions, advices, etc. Important to not self promote business in the page.

- Membership dues - President will notify all members before deadline with any missing dues.
- How to pay dues - Cheddar Up link: <https://www.mhrd.org/cms/lib/NJ01000236/Centricity/Domain/78/HSA%202022-2023%20membership.pdf>; please use as digital as possible; \$20 per family. Can also send check to school, but cheddar up is preferred.
- Open positions:
 - Open VP position - Organizes activities, back up for President, "Appreciation day" is the more challenging task - needs volunteers, but many students will do service hours. Families have been very generous with donations throughout the years.
 - Danielle Massey Lang is VP1/Hospitality Chair.
 - Secretary - Monica Baioneta
 - Treasurer - book keeper; will file taxes at the end of fiscal year.
 - Raffle Chair - Lisa Doyle not present today, but new State license has been obtained and we are applying for township license for next year's raffle.
- President presented and explained rules for HSA's Facebook page - MKHSA - only parents, guardians and staff are allowed in the page.
- President D'Asti talked about teacher grants, cookies and cocoa right before holidays, spirit wear store - there were some left overs that the HSA purchased at cost, and will be distributing to teachers and staff to thank for all that has been done.
- Principal McNaughton thanked for the Thanksgiving bags donations, families were very thankful, it was great to see their faces and how thankful they were.

Principal's Report - HSA

- School closed on Thursday and Friday - NJEA Convention
- Upcoming Fall Play - *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 7:00 PM - Thursday 11/16, 11/17, 11/18.
- Wednesday 11/22 - Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving Break
- SAT Administration 12/2; ACT Administration 12/9
- Scheduling process begins in January for next year.
- Marking period 2 begins tomorrow.
- Winter Sports sign up starts soon, reminder to sign up in Family ID.
- Remind our senior parents to become familiar with Naviance for information regarding college planning, the common app, deadline, etc. Reach out to your child's counselor for any issues.
- Junior College Planning Night presentation on Monday, November 20th.

Student Support

Beginning Monday November 13th.

- Writing lab: we are starting a writing lab after school from Monday - Thursday from 2:40 - 3:40 in room B31 to help students with essay writing, citing sources, creating thesis statements, etc.
- MK Math support from Monday - Thursday 2:40 - 3:40 in room A36.
- Tutoring 24/7 via [tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) - can be done live or if student feels uncomfortable, they can work the chat
- Students can also reach out to their teacher
- Open to questions

Q&A Session:

Q: Are football helmets being recycled?

All equipment has to be safety standards,
President D'Asti suggested to have a separate meeting to discuss all concerns regarding sports.

Parent comment: High school helmets should not be recycled primarily due to safety concerns. Helmets endure wear and tear over time, making them potentially unsafe for reuse, as their structural integrity could be compromised. Additionally, there might be difficulties in assessing the full history of the helmets, including past damages or impacts, which could pose risks to the safety of future users. Hence, to ensure the safety of athletes, it's generally recommended to replace helmets rather than recycle and reuse them.

Q: How can we get all this info discussed in the HSA meetings?

All meetings are recorded and the minutes are posted in MK's website. Parents can also call, email the Principal and HSA.

Q: Parent thanked for posted ABC

All scholarships need to go by April 1st.

No other questions. Meeting ended at 7:50pm.