

## **ARSHSA General Meeting Minutes**

*December 7, 2021*

### **Attendees:**

- **ARIS Staff:** Mr. Carey, Ms. Marybeth Hughes, Mr. Tom Augello
- **Executive Board:** Mona Desai (President), Megha Shah (Treasurer), Erin Kelly (Secretary); Members at large: Stephanie Arhoutalis and Nitasha Jauhari
- **ARSHSA Members:** Meghann Valeo, Melanie Chiodo, Shilpa Narula, Lauren Lapinski, Natasha DeLaCruz, Kim Luci, Danielle Churchill, Rohini Nandurkar, Kristen Banniser, Michele Amato, Rohini Nandurkar, Alison Buist, Amisha Malhotra, Jaladhi, Jess, Nancy, Rachel Lyons

### **School Updates with Principal Mr. Carey:**

- ARIS has the most COVID cases in the district. None of the cases are being transmitted within the building, so we are maintaining safe protocol in the school, ensuring kids are distanced and masked. There has been no need for any students to quarantine based on classroom configurations. The central office is constantly monitoring the situation. COVID monitoring and cases were discussed and covered by the Superintendent at [the Board of Education meeting yesterday 12/6/2021 that families can view.](#)
- Some concerns were raised by a parent about children wearing (or not wearing) their masks on the bus. Mr. Carey shared that the bus is likely the least monitored space. It's good to get feedback from parents and stay in touch with the transportation department, especially with any students who are uncooperative.
- Our students feel safe and that their needs are being met educationally as the kids are reporting positive experiences at Auten Road.
- Is there a recommendation to submit students' covid vaccine records to the school nurse? Knowing vaccination status can be helpful in contact tracing. Quarantining is often due to bussing or cafeteria exposure. Vaccination will dismiss the need for quarantining if a child was within a certain distance, while still advising to monitor for symptoms. Children quarantining is presently at 10 days after potential exposure or 7 days with a negative test. But soon the NJ Dept of Health will be increasing this back to two weeks based on state data.
- Question about the current state guidelines for exposure: within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more is considered a close contact. Continue to monitor children for symptoms and keep them home if sick, and get tested if needed or symptoms dictate. District website has all details parents need to be aware of.
- A question came up about virtual learning for Mr. Carey. Any decisions about virtual learning would not be made school by school, rather would be made

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superintendent in partnership with the Board of Education. They are the best sources of information or concern.

### Updates from our ARIS Teacher(s)

- Ms. Marybeth Hughes (Grade 6, Science Teacher)
  - Kids are happy to be in school as are the educators. As a science teacher, they are working in groups and working on full investigations.
  - There's a new curriculum this year that has a natural storyline that will follow them through 8th grade. This structure is a step up from what they are used to, and the first time for these teachers to implement this curriculum. They develop initial models, identify related phenomena and apply those investigations to other ideas.
- Mr. Tom Augello (Grade 5, Math/Science Teacher)
  - Sometimes it's hard to keep desks apart, hallway distancing is working well. Most of his students were not in the building before, as well as sixth graders who could lead but many of them too haven't been in the building very long. He's seeing good scores and resiliency. Along with the learning process, he hopes he's making the school experience fun for them.
  - Took a benchmark in October, numbers lagged a little, but kids are putting in the work to catch up.
  - Professional learning community meets regularly and come together to share in meetings and in the Google Classroom. After working in an urban area, this is a great district to teach and learn in.

### ARSHSA Updates

- **Active Committee Updates**
  - Fall Logo Wear - this fundraiser live until next Friday, December 17. In the spring we will hold another logo wear fundraiser.
  - Boon Supply - This is the first year we hosted this fundraiser raised ~ \$230 and the marketplace will be open through Dec 31
  - Wizards - Takes place Jan 22 at the High School gymnasium This traveling team is part of the Harlem Globetrotters who host community events. Ticket sales will be announced this week. We will be looking for a lot of parent volunteers with help with this event.
    - Email [executiveboard@autenroadhsa](mailto:executiveboard@autenroadhsa) if you want to be a volunteer or if you have any business we should reach out to for sponsorships
  - STEM Summit - February 12, 2022 working up the details on this event
  - Yearbook - We have a photography club at ARIS who are signing out cameras, clicking away pictures and we are excited to fold them into the yearbook this year! Ordering details are being ironed out and will be announced
  - Dine Outs
    - January 28 with Just Subs

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- February 24 with Lenny's Pasta and Pizza
- April 21 at The Landing

### ➤ **Past Event Updates**

- 5th Grade T-Shirts have been passed out, the kids love them!
- Fall Book Fair - We managed to raise \$1,620 in profit thanks to having the sales in the cafeteria and online sales. Thanks for hosting us, ARIS and Mr. Carey!
- OTIS / Miss Chocolate - We raised more than \$3,000. By having orders shipped to school, we reduced shipping costs for families. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped distribute the desserts and goodies!

### ➤ **Budget**

- ARSHSA funded the coding club this year, 5th grade tee shirts.
- We have five grants we funded, one or two more coming in from staff. Happy to support their requests.
- We will watch fall logo wear and anticipate some more funds coming in thanks to that fundraiser.

### ➤ **Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 5, 2021**

- Passed