

ARSHSA General Meeting - March 9, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees:

- **ARIS Staff:** Mr. Carey, Mrs. Andreski, Ms. Battoglia
- **Executive Board:** Mona Desai (President), Christina Gonzalez (Vice President), Sonia Patel (Treasurer), Tiffany Neal (Secretary)
- **ARSHSA Members:** Michele Amato, Ami Capizzano, Amy Androwski, Beatrice, Erin Kelly, Ellen Edmonds, Jessica Montes, Melanie Chiodo, Michele Graham, Monika Kusterer, Parul Patel, Ruchita Mehta, Patrick Szary, Christine McCallum

Mr. Carey updates:

- Great things are happening in the classrooms, they're moving along
- Teaching both virtually and in-person is challenging, but teachers are adapting
- What about students keeping teachers? We want to avoid teacher changes as much as possible, but if necessary we would get in touch with family in advance
- Timing of in-person start? Elementaries first, then ARIS a few weeks later
- What if you selected "in-person only if my student can keep the same teacher", but want in-person no matter what? Focus will be to keep students with their teachers. If there is a teacher change, we will reach out to discuss options, but that's unlikely.
- In good weather, gym can be held outside, may have flexibility with mask-wearing.
- What about band? It will be an issue with space, and with removing masks to play. They are looking for safe ways to have in-person band with enough distancing and ventilation.
- Parent concern: Kids sharing misinformation about when in-person will start
- How many kids will fit in classrooms? Some rooms have desks, some have tables, some have built-in furniture. Administrators are helping to rearrange classrooms to ensure 6 feet between students. Max capacity is 12-14 students per classroom with 6 feet distancing. If district moves to less than 6 feet distancing, we would contact parents again.
- Currently, approx. 60% of students are virtual and 40% hybrid. Preliminary survey results show 25% want virtual, 50% want in-person, and 25% have not yet completed survey.
- Will there be a vaccine mandate for school staff? I don't think so.
- Please encourage your students to keep their screens on during class.
- Most likely there will not be a carnival this year.

Teachers:

Mrs. Andreski (Grade 5 Math & Science)

- Thank you for the teacher grant! It's made a big difference in my classroom.
- I am very happy with my students, they are learning every day. I am so proud of the kids who are doing all the work they should. I want to recognize them more.
- School is doing what they need, everyone is wearing masks, I feel safe in the school.
- I also have a 5th grader myself, so I see both sides.
- It's difficult for the kids socially.

Ms. Battoglia (Grade 6 Literacy)

- It's a different year but we are making it work in every creative way possible.
- In literacy, it's very collaborative.
- The students always impress me with their discussions, they do great work.
- The students who are struggling sometimes feel more comfortable 1-on-1 during office hours.
- I have 3 kids in different levels and they are loving being at school in person.

ARSHSA Updates

- Teacher Grants
 - Mrs. Andreski was our most recent recipient
- Active Committee Updates
 - Dine In with Take Out
 - Big thank you to Erin Kelly for organizing all these events!
 - Next: **Tuesday March 16th from 4pm to 8pm @ Jersey Mike's/ Smoothie King**. You have to say you are there for Auten Road fundraiser (or add in the notes if you order on the app).
 - Working on events for future months
 - ARIS Yearbook
 - Please send in photos of your kids! Send 1 photo per occasion (stay tuned on deadline, but please send photos in ASAP)
 - Yearbook ordering ends next Friday, March 19

- Past Event Updates
 - 5th Grade T-Shirts Distribution (week of February 22nd): We distributed to both hybrid cohorts and held a virtual pickup. Kids were excited to get their shirts! If your child didn't get a shirt, you can pick one up in the main office.
 - STEM Summit (February 27th): Virtual event was a big success, had 176 students registered! Big thank you to Christina Gonzalez for helping coordinate, and to our many parent and student volunteers.
- Budget
 - Expenses:
 - \$384 for teacher grants
 - \$112 for teacher appreciation
 - \$1,800 for 5th grade t-shirts
 - \$2,871 for funding student clubs
 - Future expenses: 6th grade gift, teacher appreciation, water bottle station
 - Income:
 - \$1,055 from Dine In with Takeout
 - \$1,593 from Otis/Miss chocolate
 - \$1,059 from Invest in Your Child
 - \$1,470 from Logo Wear, doing another sale in the spring
 - \$2,304 from Membership
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 19th, 2021 - APPROVED