

ARSHSA General Meeting #4 Minutes March 8, 2022

Attendees:

- **ARIS Staff:** Dr. Carey, Ms. Banas
- **Executive Board:** Mona Desai (President), Meg Shah (VP), Megha Shah (Treasurer), Erin Kelly (Secretary); Members at large: Stephanie Arhoutalis and Nitasha Jauhari
- **ARSHSA Members:** Julie Obado, Kim Luci, Kristen Bannister, Lauren Lapinski, Meghann Valeo, Michele Amato, Natasha DeLaCruz, K. DeAngelis

School Updates with Principal Dr. Carey

- Each day is feeling more “pre-pandemic” and March 7 was another layer of concern, but great to share smiles in the classrooms and halls
- The Friday before the mask requirement was lifted, Dr Carey shared an announcement was made to all students and the importance of respecting everyone’s choice to wear masks, staff and students.
- Will continue to social distance (3 feet or more) where possible in the school
- Discussed the water fountains and utilize the bottle filling stations and keep assigned seats in the lunchroom
- Upcoming activities:
 - **Shark Tank**, where students can embrace a theme, develop a tri-fold display and prototype, they will develop a pitch. There are judges and top winners are announced (after school hours)
 - **Drama production** in the works, Orange is the New Black (more from Ms. Banas below)
 - **Talent/Variety show** in early May.
 - End of year **carnival** June 15, rain date June 16.
 - **Forest Lodge**, running into some issues securing transportation. Final decision on if this event will take place will be coming shortly from Dr. Carey.
- Academic updates:
 - **NJ-SLA** testing in early May, May 2 through May 10 generally morning hours, with a rotation of class periods in the afternoon. More details coming out soon.
 - **5th grade orientation** in late April. They will also make a visit to Auten Road during the school day for an hour and a half for a tour of the building on various dates in May.
- Questions:
 - Any word on if April 18 will be a school day or not? Dr. Carey believes the district is leaning toward giving students April 18 off if we do not use any

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additional snow days... Another potential concern is the upcoming NJ primaries June 7, which could be another inflection point for the superintendent for how our schools want to handle this.

- o Iowa testing for sixth graders, which is an objective way to assess students' algebra readiness ahead of middle school, took place in early February. When will results/placements be shared? Each test is hand scored, so it may take a few more weeks before placement recommendations are available.

Updates from our ARIS Teacher(s)

Ms. Jessica Banas (Special Ed), 2022 Teacher of the Year

- o Students coming in on Monday seemed split with students wearing or not wearing masks. Today/Tuesday all was back to normal and everyone is being very respectful to each other and their choices.
- o Ms. Banas is one of five advisors of the ARIS Drama Club. The students have been practicing since June. Over 200 students were interested in being involved with the stage crew, which will start meeting next week to create, paint and move sets, work on lighting, makeup, costumes. Will hang posters in the school to encourage students to attend.
- o The team is very excited to bring a production of ***Orange is the New Black*** to school Friday, April 22. Doors open 6:30 p.m., show starts at 7 p.m.
- o Free for students, and may charge parents a small amount to raise money for props and equipment for shows in the future.
- o Runtime: Assume 45 minutes, intermission, then 30 minutes.
- o More to come as details get ironed out on how tickets will be distributed and sold to parents/adults.
- o Pie to the eye fundraiser last month raised a lot of money. The most \$ Auten raised in its 20 years.

ARSHSA Updates

Active Committee Updates

- o Book Fair (in person March 21 to March 24; online March 18 - 31)
 - Our first in school event!!! Scholastic Book Fair will take place during school hours in the library.
 - We want to avoid managing cash, especially during the school day. Families are encouraged to set up their child(ren) with Scholastic's e-wallet or send in a signed check made out to ARSHSA.
 - Volunteers: Still have a few slots open for set up on Friday, and a few sales slots the week of March 21. Will send Communications to families very soon about the fair.
 - More details about this fundraiser will come home via flyers coming home with your students this week.
- o STEM Summit (virtual on March 26)

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- Continuing with a virtual event. The topics for sessions are highly interactive and require items that families have at home or could be picked up at a local grocery store for a nominal cost.
- A workshop sign up was distributed today to students.
- Students will get their STEM schedule on March 18.
- Volunteers: still have a few slots open. All sessions have been outlined and instructions available for parents/guardians to follow.
- o Yearbook (prices increase April 1)
 - We have over 400 yearbooks already sold. We have a committee who is putting together the yearbook layout for us.
 - Parents can send pictures to yearbook@autenroadhsa.org - include student names, pod number, and homeroom teacher. Pictures could be taken anywhere, but must only include current ARIS students.
 - Price is \$25 and will increase to \$35 on April 1.
 - Purchases can be placed through Community Pass.
- o Gertrude Hawk (orders accepted online through April 3; delivery week of March 27 for orders placed prior to February 25)
 - More details on a specific date and time when delivery is in and families can pick up.
 - Orders are still available online through April 3.
- o Dine Outs
 - Lenny's Pasta and Pizza dine out brought in \$300 last month.
 - Coming up: The Landing Thursday, April 21.
- o Teacher Appreciation Week (week of May 2)
 - Michele Amato will lead this with two additional parent volunteers getting catering estimates from Just Subs and Catered Affair.
- o Wizards (May 21)
 - ARIS All-Stars will take on the Harlem Wizards.
 - Tickets go on sale April 1.
 - Students will have an assembly to get excited about the community event in April ahead of spring break.
- o Spring Logo Wear (TBD)
 - At present we are working on apparel options; more to come.
- o Carnival (June 15 - rain date June 16)
 - Last year we hosted a fun day over a couple of days, divided up by grade. Parent volunteers helped ensure our students had fun at a variety of stations and activities.
 - This year we will mix the traditional Carnival along with the activities that were organized for Fun Day last year.
 - More to come on how to sign up to become a volunteer!

ARSHSA School Gift: Water Station Coming Soon

- o We will use a local business, Griggs Plumbing, to install a new water station at Auten Road. ARSHSA is excited to provide this school gift. The

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fundraisers we summarized earlier in this meeting are helping to fund this gift to the school.

Budget

- o Just Subs brought in \$421; Lenny's brought in \$300
- o Gertrude Hawk so far has brought in \$9,500, and our Treasurer will reconcile against the expenses once the sale concludes in April.
- o Logowear brought in \$2,700 in sales.
- o Big fundraisers coming up in spring, and discussed earlier, include Yearbook and Wizards.

Executive Board Recruiting for 2022 - 2023

- o We have open positions for 2022! The Executive Board will be transitioning off this year and are available to share their experiences with you if you are interested.
- o If you are interested, please email executiveboard@autenroadhsa.org.
- o to publicize this to the parents and guardians of rising fifth-graders, the current board has reached out to the elementary school HSAs.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from [January 25, 2022](#)

- o Approved