

ARSHSA General Meeting

January 19, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees:

- **ARIS Staff:** Mr. Carey, Ms. Campbell, Ms. Hurley (Grade 6 Math)
- Ms. Maggio (Life Skills Coordinator)
- **Executive Board:** Mona Desai (President), Christina Gonzalez (Vice President), Sonia Patel (Treasurer), Tiffany Neal (Secretary), Yolanda Rosa (Member-at-Large)
- **ARSHSA Members:** Ami Capizzano, Mandi Steinhauser, Nancy Sica, Pat Szary, Tammy Phelan, Melanie Chiodo, Jodi Sachs, Jennifer Cridge, Christina Raab

Mr. Carey updates:

- We're moving along, that's a tribute to the teachers
- In many ways, curriculum-wise it's not that different from last year
- Students are doing great wearing masks
- Hoping to get back to a sense of normalcy
- Activity next week: "Ed Camp"!
 - Born out of meetings with school climate committee. We take students social and emotional well-being very seriously. Many students might be struggling to connect with friends during this time.
 - Developed an "Ed Camp" activity, where teachers who are interested in a topic will coordinate a session that students can join in
 - 25-30 teachers will lead sessions next Wednesday from 2:30-3:15
 - Not necessarily academic topics, but topics that will give students a chance to step back, relax, and get in a group with others that may have the same interest
 - For example, Mr. Carey is leading a session talking about baseball
 - Students will get the details later this week
 - Casual setup, students can come and go in different sessions
 - If students like it, we may do it once a month

Parent questions:

- Do students only get grades for art and music after two marking periods?
 - Yes, they will get the grade for each of those subjects after half of the year. They only have about one marking period worth of classes in the subject

over half the year. World language is all year long, so they do get a grade for each marking period.

- What will hybrid/virtual look like in the 3rd marking period?
 - 3rd marking period starts in about two weeks
 - We are seeing a net gain for students coming in, maybe 50-75 students will be joining hybrid
 - We're glad families are feeling more comfortable, but we know it's a tough time with COVID-19 right now
 - I hope families are making the decision that's best for them

Teachers:

- **Ms. Campbell (Grade 5F Literacy & Social Studies)**
 - Kids are happy to be in school
- **Ms. Hurley (Grade 6B Math)**
 - Kids are doing well, powering through
 - It's different, mornings are quiet instead of chaotic
 - Enjoying office hours in the afternoon
 - Parent question: How is the math transition to middle school?
 - We have a new curriculum this year called "Big Ideas Math", and middle school uses the same curriculum
 - Next year, math class is only 1 period, but this year at ARIS the double-period is shorter than usual so it won't be too different
- **Ms. Maggio (HTPS District Life Skills Coordinator)**
 - Our traditional program for K-6 has parents in the classroom, so it's not running this year. Hoping next year it will be back.
 - Spending this year making sure all those programs are updated for next year, converting to Google Slides with links to videos
 - We have a few special programs coming up:
 - 1/27: Viewing of the documentary "Upstander" about bullying and resiliency, same organization as "Angst"
 - 1/27: Start of the Family Unity Night program, through Empower Somerset. 7-week program.
 - We did the first virtual program over the summer and it went very well.
 - For parents and students 10-14 years old
 - Facilitated conversation, parents and kids have breakout sessions.
 - Topics include communication skills, stress management, boundary setting and rule setting. Building family strength and bonds, includes fun activities. Parents learn from each other. Gives you lots of strategies to try with your kids.

- 2/2: “Minding Your Mind”
 - Helping people understand mental health issues like anxiety and depression.
 - There will be a clinician talking about these issues, and a young adult who is in recovery from a mental health issue
 - Positive story about hope and recovery.
- Program for 6th graders: 6-week program called “We’re Not Buying It”, very interactive, talks about social media impact, peer pressure, coping skills, etc.
- Look for flyers over e-mail, with links to sign up

ARSHSA Updates

- Teacher Grants
 - Given out 4 grants so far
 - Happy to support teachers in their work with the kids
 - Teachers have been very creative this year in finding ways to keep students engaged
- Active Committee Updates
 - Had 2 successful “Dine In with Takeout” events so far, raised \$655
 - Thank you to Erin Kelly for coordinating, and thank you to the community who supported ARIS!
 - Upcoming “Dine In with Takeout” events: Lenny’s on 2/15 and Jersey Mike’s/Smoothie King on 3/16 from 4-8 PM
 - STEM Summit
 - Saturday, Feb. 27 from 10:00-12:30
 - Variety of workshop topics for kids to choose from
 - Looking for workshop facilitators - you don’t have to be an expert, instructions are provided.
 - More details coming soon over e-mail
 - 5th grade T-shirts
 - Tradition for incoming 5th graders
 - Finally were able to place the order
 - ARIS Yearbook
 - Missing 200 student portraits. We’ll do a makeup session for students in hybrid, drive-by portraits, or at-home option. As a last resort we can use last year’s photo.
 - Band photos: have students wear their band t-shirt and send band photos in

- Spirit days, start collecting first day of school photos, Halloween photos, etc. Send only one photo per event.
- Past Fundraising Updates
 - Otis/Miss Chocolate: made just under \$1600
 - Virtual Book Fair
 - Made \$295
 - Either we can get a percentage of the sales, or “Scholastic dollars” for teachers to purchase readers and magazines
 - Most years, we purchase \$6,000 of Scholastic readers. Currently \$1500 short, hoping to earn more in the spring.
 - Look for another book fair in the spring!
 - Logo Wear
 - Barbara Churco did a great job with logo wear and new designs
 - We did better than expected in sales, but haven’t gotten invoice yet to pay for the logo wear
 - We’ll have another sale in the spring
- November meeting minutes - approved
- Budget
 - Expenses include teacher grants, staff appreciation, Community Pass fees, accountant
 - Income includes Membership, Book Fair, Dine In with Takeout, Amazon Smile, Otis/Miss Chocolate, Logo Wear, Box Tops