



## HGS Parent Forum Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** November 6, 2014/ 6:17pm  
**Place:** HGS multi-purpose room  
**Chair:** Megan Swann, PF vice-president  
**Number of Members Present:** 25 members, 5 officers: John Ezbiansky, Megan Swann, Anne Cummins, Nanette Colachino, Kerri O'Boyle

### Business:

- Discovery Dollars (Stacy Nivert)
- PF Directory (A. Cummins)
- Fundraising, Box Tops, Montage Memberships, Bingo, Family Fun Events (M. Swann, Lori Lane, Darren Bamkin, Jenny Whittaker, N. Colachino)
- Yearbook (A, Cummins)
- Treasury Report (N. Colachino)
- School Store (M. Swann)
- Enrichment Programs (M. Swann)
- Candy Cane Lane (M. Swann)
- Guest Speakers: Primary teachers, Chrissi Polizzi and Ross Patane
- HGS Apparel Sale (J. Ezbiansky)
- Updates on previous issues from Maria Rozaieski

**Meeting Start:** 6:17pm  
**End Time:** 7:45pm

**Topics:**

1. **Stacy Nivert** discussed Discovery Dollars program. It raises funds through shopping and the school gets a percentage to support projects outside of the operating budget ie. basketball court, new toilet in music cottage, sink in teachers' lounge. Goal is to raise \$10,000 annually. We have raised \$1000 to date. To make it easier and more accessible, cards may be purchased online via smartphone. Stacy is available to assist anyone with online sign-ups. Grocery cards are kept in stock at the school.
2. **Anne Cummins** asked for a volunteer for the PF directory. Information is ready and available but someone is needed for organization.
3. **Megan Swann** announced that Kathy Platt is no longer with the school and the PF is looking for a new Fundraising Coordinator.
4. **Lori Lane** discussed Box Tops. 11/2/14 submission raised \$480. Please continue to submit and CLIP box tops. The individual classrooms amounts are being tallied for a possible pre-holiday party to the class collecting the most.
5. **Darren Bamkin** noted there are two weeks left for the Montage Membership fundraiser. For every ski pass purchased, the school gets \$50 and for each waterpark pass, \$10.
6. **Nanette Colachino** gave the treasurer's report:
  - Last statement: Oct. 2014 \$5968.71
  - BINGO raised: +\$7447.74
  - Laser Tag: +\$222.00
  - Online Magazine Sales: +\$190.40
  - Current balance: \$10,776.85
7. **Jenny Whittaker** and **Darren Bamkin** spoke about Montage Ski Club. There is a Wednesday or Sunday option. Link to information:  
<http://howardgardnerschool.com/news/montage-ski-club-2014/>
8. **Megan Swann** announced the first meeting for the Enrichment Committee would be immediately after the PF meeting to discuss ways to enhance the school's curriculum.
9. **Megan Swann** announced in lieu of Candy Cane Lane, the PF is hoping to have a winter holiday celebration to shift focus from commercialism to giving from the heart. Tentative plans include pictures with Santa, holiday crafts and gift making.
10. **Chrissi Polizzi** and **Ross Patane** from Primary 1 and 2 respectively, gave an overview on current works in their classrooms. Highlighted task card work, math with montessori manipulatives, Montessori maps, Scholastic News, Venn

Diagrams and literary elements. Both classrooms are working on same content with exception of task card work which is individual.

11. **John Ezbiansky** announced HGS apparel sale.

<http://howardgardnerschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/HGS-APPAREL-SALE.pdf>

12. **Maria Rozaieski** addressed previous issues.

- a. Tech issues are almost resolved
- b. Class times have been rearranged to allow adequate time for handwashing. Two paper towel dispensers have been installed to help the smaller kids reach without assistance.
- c. The school conducted a successful fire drill and lockdown drill.
- d. An evacuation drill will soon be completed and an email will be sent home alerted parents of same.

13. Comments from parents:

- a. Ideas for future PF presentations...common core math. **Maria** said common core dictates curriculum but doesn't halter progress. More research needs to be done before we acquire common core math books. Parents would like more information on what is being worked on and how to do it. Google classroom can possibly be used for this purpose.
- b. Mandarin grant has been reduced. HGS only has instructor for 3 days/week and students will only have Mandarin for ½ the school year. Parents asked if another grant is out there and if it would possible to have language once weekly for the entire school year instead of twice weekly for ½ the school year to have better retention.
- c. Parents voiced concerns regarding movies being shown during indoor recess and asked if educational videos or possibly foreign language videos could be shown instead.
- d. The Senior class is having a pie sale with proceeds to benefit graduation and spring field trips.

<http://howardgardnerschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/141110-Senior-Class-Pie-Sale.pdf>

Any questions or comments can be made to the PF at [parentforumhgs@gmail.com](mailto:parentforumhgs@gmail.com) and can be anonymous.