

PTSA Parent Meeting 11/23 Minutes

1. Lunch for inclement weather There are plenty of indoor spaces: Cochrane gym, Farragut gym. Lots of places underutilized. There was some anxiety about the first day indoors, but now it's going well. For 9th and 10th graders, they are able to go to lots of campus areas outside (Burke, Reynolds, etc), as long as they stay on campus.
2. New calendar With the end of Flex Wednesday, decisions needed to be made about how to allocate the extra in-person day. The main priority was to get the Green group in because they had fewer in-school instructional days in the beginning. Other ideas were considered, but were not feasible. It's hard to balance because of the unknowns about upcoming closures.
 - a. If we are designated at Yellow zone, then the school stays open, and is mandated to test 20% of the student body and staff. To stay open, the school positivity rate has to be below the local positivity rate. If designated an Orange zone, then testing of 25% of the students and staff are required. These testing procedures are quite expensive and logistically challenging (See this info sheet from the PTSA to advocate for assistance with this process: [Advocacy Options](#))
 - b. <https://ptsahastings.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f1da81ae3e85a338011a9318b&id=528da8b170&e=c74dcef918>
 - c. If we are designated a Red zone then the school is closed. If we go to yellow or orange, it may be difficult for us to stay open.
 - d. Decisions could be made on a school-by-school (not District-wide) basis.
 - e. Calendars can be found in 2 locations on HHS website. Daily calendar on the Right. At the bottom under quick links is an updated schedule, one-sheeter.
[Calendar - One Page](#)
3. Leave Updates: Ross Abrams due back Dec 14th. His replacement is leaving Dec 3rd (because he got full time work), so the interim will be covered by substitutes and other staff. Ms. Royal is out until Feb mid terms (covered by teachers in house and leave replacement).
4. Substitutes: HHS administration is inviting parents who want to help cover teacher absences to go through the process to be approved by the BOE as substitutes. Parents would be volunteering to be in the room while a quarantined teacher is at home (teacher is generally leading the class). This would be a big help to staffing, but is of course a process because anyone in the school has to be fingerprinted and has to be a board approved substitute.
 - a. The process involves getting a background check/fingerprinted (the school uses BOCES in Harrison), and this costs \$100 to be paid by the applicant. In addition, one sends a resume to Ms. Hardesty.
 - b. There is an application available on the HR website which gets sent to Ms. Hardesty. There is a virtual interview with Ms. Hardesty. If the individual is a certified teacher, they can be hired for an extended time. If not certified, can hire for <40 days. Ms. Hardesty calls references. The recommendation is sent to BOE, and once approved the individual can work immediately.
 - c. Fingerprints cost \$100 at BOCES in Westchester/ Harrison with 24-hour turnaround.
 - d. If an individual wants to help at one of the other schools, send materials to the relevant Asst Principal. Those who want to be available district-wide would contact Lynn Walker.
5. Live Streaming issues: There is currently an initiative to upgrade the microphones. Teachers are communicating with kids who are at home. There are currently 120 students who are all-remote.

6. Extracurricular activities: Student Union has a website, and they sent an invite to every student. The Buzzer, and the yearbook are always looking for students to join. Other groups are also working on ideas. All suggestions are welcome!
7. Winter sports are delayed until January.
8. Winter: Trying to keep the windows open as long as possible. The school has new boilers thanks to the bond, so heat is more efficient.
9. Climate Survey Administration: Redistribute with added questions about social justice and race. There will be confusions due to COVID, but we still are interested in any progress re connection to school. Aiming to send out on Dec 9th during the day with the kids.

- PTSA Announcements

- There is a new **PTSA Newsletter** sent weekly on Mondays. It is full of information including important upcoming dates at all three schools and PTSA initiatives. You can subscribe [Here](#).
- Collection of recipes for the PTSA's **1st Annual Cookbook** is underway. Please contribute a recipe that your family enjoys. The final collection will be published and sold to our community members to raise funds for our schools and share in our community spirit. Please submit a recipe [Here](#) by 12/18.
- There will be an **Online Spirit Wear Holiday Sale** for One Week Only 11/29-12/7. Info. to follow.

- SEPTA Announcements

- Rhiannon Platt and Mohini Shapero Arditi are the HHS SEPTA reps. They aim to be resources and sources of information and empathy.
- SEPTA will be holding parent zooms series throughout the year.