



**HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL
PTSA/SEPTA Parent Meeting**
Title 1 - Parent Engagement

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024
8:30 a.m.
HHS Auditorium**

MINUTES

[Final Exam/Regents Schedule \(link\)](#)

Mr. Adipietro stated that the school has been monitoring the in school exam schedule and trying to keep it “healthy” for students and to keep stress levels in check. Most students finish all required work on the Friday before school ends.

Ms. Hardesty is available if a student has scheduling conflicts, or if two exams are scheduled on the same day.

2024-2025 Hiring Update

Chemistry Teacher:

The District is close to hiring a chemistry teacher and is currently in negotiations with a candidate along with another district. The School has a back-up candidate if needed.

Update: The district has hired Kevin Ruffler.

Spanish Teacher:

The District has hired a Spanish teacher after 2 years of searching. The district is now fully staffed in the world language department! Mr. Adipietro said they had two Spanish openings because Ms. Paz is leaving as she has finished her Psychology degree. The number of 5th grade sections will be 5 not 6 for 2024, and Ms. Smith will teach 5th and 6th grade Spanish at FMS.

School Social Worker

The district is in the final stages of this hire. In addition, we are also looking for a special education teacher based on new projections and an internal transfer from HHS to FMS..

Assistant Principal HHS

Mr. Adipietro and Andy Clayman have been working together to screen applicants for the assistant principal position. Mr. Adipietro stated they had received 142 applications and are currently screening 18 candidates and hope to have 5-6 to meet with a committee. The final step will be to meet with the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

Director of School Counseling

A search is being run by Scott Wynne, Andy Clayman and Amy Cazes. They have received 20-25 resumes of which 8 are highly qualified candidates that they will screen and interview.

Football coach

An ad was posted yesterday, and usually these roles are filled quickly.

School Nurse

The District is still in need of a nurse, but that is through the district office so Mr. Adipietro was unable to provide an update.

Academic Coaching and After School Activities (ie. sports)

Academic coaching is considered the priority, and coaches and students should be respectful of the 3:15 end time. Students should not have to be on a field or bus until after the 3:15 academic coaching period is over. The exception is for sectional playoff games that start earlier, particularly in the fall when it gets dark early.

Please contact administration if your student is required by a coach, activity, or club to report before 3:15. The Administration is discreet, and wants to assist to instill the priority of academic coaching before after school activities.

Wednesdays are usually department and faculty meetings, and other than this standing meeting, teachers should be in their classrooms and available during the academic coaching period.

Mr. Adipietro wanted to remind parents and students that Regents review sessions are done voluntarily by teachers.

Student Summer Reading Availability

Expect summer reading in upper level/college level courses and English. The reading list will likely come out the first week in June. Summer reading should be reading, not packets of work to do.

When the list is ready, Mr. Adipietro will send an email and the information will be posted on the school's website.

Science Research has a different summer reading process that involves multiple assignments to keep students engaged and make sure it's the right class for students.

AI/ChatGPT

The platform is open and students have access while they are in the building.

The schools are trying to educate students rather than hinder them. Mr. Adipietro said it can be a good starting tool when trying to formulate the beginning of an essay. Greg Smith, the head of the Social Studies department, explained that AI is scary, but teachers recognize that it is here to stay. Rather than treating it as a cheating device, teachers are rethinking how it can be used responsibly as a tool. The Social Studies department is doing research, attending conferences, and starting small with exploring the inroads. It's challenging since it is rapidly developing and the teachers are doing their best to keep in step so they can help students use the tool effectively.

PTSA Announcements

- [New Slate of Officers](#) - Unanimous vote in favor
- **June 10 General Meeting** -

(Virtual) Parents are encouraged to attend to vote in our new Slate for the Executive Committee.

SEPTA Announcements

- [SEPTA MEETING \(link to meeting\)](#)

Monday, June 3 @ 8:30 am - Please join us for a brief meeting where we will elect the 2024-25 SEPTA officers. We need your vote, SEPTA members!

Jenn Destin as HHS VP and Melissa Goldberg as liaison
SEPTA is working on 8th to 9th grade transitions and creating guides for families. Look out for it!

- **Nominated Officers are:**

- **Co-President:** Amanda Kupillas
- **Co-President:** Dean Orgera
- **Secretary:** Libby Copeland
- **Treasurer:** Lisa Lord
- **Hastings High School VP:** Jennifer Destin
- **Farragut Middle School VP:** Cassandra Sweet
- **Hillside Elementary School VP:** Nicole Bloomfield

Other Announcements

- Graduation is Thursday, June 20, 6 PM sharp - Ali Marpet is keynote speaker
- Mr. Adipietro will be available as a mentor for Andy Clayman next year and reminded everyone that Hasting is his "home" and he'll be around for events.
- Audrey deWys - advocating for seniors to provide their own photos for the yearbook. NJ passed a law allowing students K-12 to provide their own photos. Audrey would like to advocate to have the contract changed to allow seniors to provide their own photos, which is common throughout the country. Mr. Adipietro will speak to our representative.
- Back to School Night - Hillside the first week of school, high school second week, and middle school the third

Thank you all for attending and making our final meeting a great success!

Wishing you a happy summer - see you next year!