

PTSA Parent Meeting
Title 1-Parent Engagement
AGENDA
Monday, March 5, 2018
Lloyd Library
6:30 PM

1. Ms. Cazes welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming out.
2. **Presentation by** Juliann Snyder, Hillside Social Worker

To see the full presentation please click here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1izK3eynhbvarKeqD6idYPA0WNsz7U5DAinRvL85kEHU/edit#slide=id.g1116a409cf_0_0

- Ms. Snyder thanked Ms. Cazes, Mr. Dekams and Tony Sinanis who have been an inspiration to her, and thanked them along with Hillside teachers who have been big supporter of Second Steps (Hillside's social emotional learning program) and mentioned that she's humbled by support from families for social emotional learning.
 - Showed video on what a school counseling program provides – The video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=PZh-zDAwv38.
 - Ms. Snyder explained that this year she has focused on pushing in to classrooms (which is tier 1) and she recently spent a month on problem solving and conflict resolution. The state standards for social emotional learning can be found on Ms. Snyder's website here: <https://sites.google.com/a/learn.hohschools.org/mrs-snyder-school-counselor/>
 - Showed examples of lessons (reflected in slides) including a lesson on resolving conflicts and another on growth mindsets. One recent unit was about friendship and the students have brainstormed qualities of good friendships and maintaining friendships.
 - Teachers are teaching Second Steps lessons and Ms. Snyder reinforces the skills at recess, cafeteria, and in hallways. There are monthly touch base meetings and assemblies that are student led. Fourth grade students are modeling skills. This month students are working on problem solving so a class is doing a skit on problem solving. Students have done skits on core values as well as skits around being left out, including other, and how to react if someone cuts you in line.
 - Recess is a big area for Ms. Snyder who believes its an area where the school counselor needs to be seen. Ms. Snyder is running games and modeling inclusive behavior. Through these activities, kids are learning to problem solve, include others, learn to high five, and encourage others.
 - Ms. Cazes shared that Ms. Snyder is employed as a .2 school social worker (i.e., very part time) and then does a recess supervisor position and has had a significant impact on culture and community at Hillside.
3. **PTSA Announcements**
 - **PTSA Parent Speaker Series** – The Inclusion Working Group has set up a series of guest speakers to talk to parents on various topics. The next presentation is entitled "Navigating Current Events with Your Children" by Facing History and Ourselves – new date to be announced

- Ms. Cazes added that the IWG is working with teachers on the diverse book project to look for books for read aloud and to enhance classroom libraries to increase windows (where children can see the world) and mirrors (where children can see themselves). The goal is to have every child represented in these texts.
- Evening meetings are forthcoming for working parents who have expressed interest in being a part of the diverse book project.
- **H.E.A.R.T.** – volunteers are needed for future programs – volunteers only need to donate 20 minutes once a week for 4 weeks. Please let Tammy Black know if you have time to offer to keep this great program going.
 - 3rd Grade H.E.A.R.T program kicking off this month
- **Fundraising**
 - Box Tops (please collect and send to the Hillside Office)
 - Oliver’s Labels (visit www.oliverslabels.com/HOHPTSA to purchase labels for school or camp and 20% goes to your PTSA)
 - Amazon Smile (designate PTA New York Congress 18-205 Hastings-On-Hudson PTSA); DeCicco’s; and Foodtown
- **Used Book Fair**, April 25-28 at Hillside and May 1-2 for the Mini-UBF at FMS/HHS
 - We will be accepting donations for this year’s amazing PTSA Used Book Fair from March 12–April 19. Drop off is in the Hillside lobby. **PLEASE put your donations in boxes**, whenever possible. Space is tight this year and it helps our custodial staff keep things neat and organized. Interested in volunteering to sort the book donations or work setting up the fair and/or working it? (It’s really fun!) Click on the following: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LFCcWWa46GYAApBdE-1Ydb9N-pb5yZ3dPVVvrrp7TXg/edit#gid=0>, or email Jacque Weitzman (jbpweitz@hotmail.com).
 - Sorting starts Friday the 16th and is every Tuesday and Friday through April 20th, except we'll be working on Thursday, March 29th, before Spring Break, not Friday the 30th. We begin at 8:30am and work until everything that has been dropped off on the previous days has been priced, sorted and boxed, @3-4 hours.
- **PTSA Executive Board** – If you are interested in volunteering for a two-year term on the PTSA’s Executive Board, please email Anne Cunningham (president1@ptsahastings.org) and Ann Melvin (afmelvin@aol.com). The election takes place at our last General PTSA Meeting on May 21, at 6:30 pm, Hillside School. Serving on the Executive Board requires attendance at Executive Board meetings every 6 weeks. An Executive Board member that serves as a VP for one of the schools also must attend meetings with the Principal every 6 weeks and Parent Meetings for that school. Lastly, Exec. Board members are expected to help with PTSA sponsored events and fundraisers.

- **Nominating Committee** – A parent volunteered to serve as the Hillside representative to the nominating committee.
- **New Website** – Check out <http://ptsahastings.org>.
- **Hillside Culture + Arts Committee update**
 - Last week the Lion Dance for Lunar New Year was organized by the committee and funded by the PTSA; also conceived of Story Pirates, March 6, which was funded by HEF; MLK program on display at Family Dance Night, and more to come!

4. SEPTA Announcements

- **Save the Date:** Tuesday, March 20 at 7pm (location TBD) - Parent Annual Review Workshop. Shara Sheinberg of GO Education Services (and former Special Education teacher/administrator) will speak on how to prepare and follow up for Annual Review meetings, followed by group break out work session to help each other advocate and navigate the Annual Review process.

5. Update on Security Precautions at Hillside

- Locks were taken care of first
- After each drill, Ms. Cazes along with the District's Safety Consultant, evaluate how things were executed and then revise safety policies; last year learned that the way that classes lined up for fire drills wasn't the safest so the plan was revised
- We have drills all the time; 4 lock down drills mandated each year; in addition do monthly drills; district using safety app; each experience helps us continue to get better; we will continue to drill minimum once a month; tell kids that practice all kinds of drills (don't tell kids that we are drilling for active shooters); all drills are under heading that we practice different drills for different safety situations
- Hillside not participating in walk out at the elementary level; if you want your child to participate, you may come sign them out
- New security measures – Checking IDs (maybe not if security guard recognizes you); security guard Doug has suggested asking who you are and why you're here at the intercom outside before he allows you to enter the school
- Additional safety measures have financial implications (i.e., ID scan that prints out ID) district looking in to other measures with financial implications (also glass that faces out has been raised at district level – coverings that make glass bullet proof); spoken to Facilities about alarming doors other than front so people can't leave through them; lists of people attending pizza Friday
- Your ideas welcome; please reach out to Mr. DeKams or Ms. Cazes; talk of forming Hillside safety committee; nothing more important than children's health and safety so that they can access learning. Administration appreciates parent's feedback.
- Parent asked if anything is being done to help the kids who are feeling anxious about all that is going on; generally don't have that conversation at school but if you let us know or we recognize we have 2 school psychologists and Ms. Snyder to support the students; Ms. Cazes sent a link for parents resources in her safety update email that went out Monday, March 5 – if student struggling reach out to Ms. Cazes, Mr. DeKams, school psychologists, or Ms. Snyder.

- Parent asked about tapping into text alerts for actual incidents (like the lockout on Tuesday) - Ms. Cazes in agreement with this suggestion.
- Will also work on alerts if busses are late.
- Parent asked if there is an opportunity for the kids to do drill during dismissal. Ms. Cazes will consider this suggestion. Ms. Cazes also responded that at Parkland the shooter pulled the fire drill; Hillside has changed protocol to be that don't leave during lockdown unless see fire or smell smoke during lockdown.
- Parent asked if school drills while kids are outside and Ms. Cazes responded that they do during recess, lunch, transition, and specials
- The PTSA Co- President asked what parents can do to help Hillside get from district what we need for safety. Ms. Cazes has asked for many precautions since day 1. If safety measures that you feel are important, your voice matters. If isn't costly, we can put in on our own.
- The PTSA's Co-President encouraged parents to attend the BOE meeting and speak up.
- A parent asked about pool pick-up and requiring people to show some level of ID; Ms. Cazes is considering a number system.

6. **Outdoor Recess Policies**

- If temp is real feel 27 degrees of higher, kids go out – many districts do not go outside if it is below 32 degrees.
- Most of the time the kids are outside.
- There are many variables at play in regard to outdoor recess. Some kids cheer when indoor recess is announced; some children have health concerns like asthma making outdoor recess an issue; at Hillside there is no choice offered to students due to staffing unlike at FMS/HHS where students can chose to go to the library.
- Whether recess is outdoors due to coyote situation for the next 2 weeks will be up to the Police Department, and the school district.
- Parent asked if students can use back playground since it's fenced in, but coyotes can go under the chain link fence, so it is not a secure space for children to play
- Parents asked whether kids can go to the gym as an alternative during indoor recess but supervision is an issue and sometimes there are classes going on. In classrooms, Go Noodle and Kidz Bop for utilized for dancing to get kids moving.

Minutes from prior meetings are posted on the Hillside webpage

Next PTSA meeting: May 1, 6:30 PM