



Hillcrest Academy Home & School Association (HAHSA)

Monday, September 15th, 2025

7:00 pm

In person @ Hillcrest Academy

HAHSA meeting

Attendees: Amy Sara, Andrea Chountoumadis, Bianca Bankley, Catherine Kapogiannatos, Christina Roumeliotis, Debbie Psillos, Elena Legatos, Evelyn Louridakis, Jessica Bornstein, Josie Milazzo, Katherine Morency-Jarvis, Kelly Krassakopoulos, Liza Dodd, Maria Almeida, Nicoletta Psihogios, Patrick Cristofaro, Saherish Hussain, Sindu Gunaratnam, Susana van der Veen, Tania Creswell

Guests: Mrs. Marchitello, Mme. Gosselin, Brandie Turpin, Karine De Andrade, Kosta Zampanis, Liana Mentone, Niki Kallinteris, Nixon Nagamuthu, , Petroula Giannios, Selina Nallainathan, Silvia Ortega, Stella Skouloudakis, Tanya Barr, Terry Dimitrakis

Absences:

Minutes

Agenda item: 1. <i>Call to Order</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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- Catherine Kapogiannatos called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Agenda item: 2. <i>Approval of Agenda</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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- Motion to **approve** the agenda by **Evelyn Louridakis** and seconded by **Christina Roumeliotis**.

Agenda item: 3. <i>Approval of Minutes – June 9th, 2025</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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- Motion to **approve** the minutes by **Katherine Morency-Jarvis** and seconded by **Nicoletta Psihogios**.

Agenda item: 4.1 <i>President's Report</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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- Team Building Activity – September 5, 2025
 - On June 11, 2025, HAHSA sent an e-vote for the school wide “Team Building” activity held on September 5, 2025, to all HAHSA members.
 - The event’s budget was \$5,500.
 - Total of 22 members voted: 21 said yes and 1 said no. It passed with a majority vote.
- Corn Roast
 - An e-vote was sent for the Corn Roast, set to take place on September 25th with the Terry Fox run.
 - Given the budget cut announcement, we were uncertain if the Corn Roast would have been feasible and therefore, we could not commit prematurely. Catherine apologized for the last-minute notice and e-vote.
 - The executives voted, and then the vote was passed onto all HAHSA members. A total of 19 members voted and all said yes.
 - The event’s budget is \$3,500.



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- Used Uniform Sale/Les Super Recycleurs
 - The Used Uniform Sale is September 27th from 10 AM to 2 PM.
 - This event is open to all parents to shop for used uniforms, sold in good condition. Any donation amount is accepted, and all proceeds are contributed to HAHSA.
 - Les Super Recycleurs is a community-based clothing/toys/etc. collection drive and fundraising program. They weigh the donated items and provide a monetary compensation in return.

Agenda item: <i>4.2 President's Report</i>	Presenter: Ms. Marchitello
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Discussion:

- Mrs. Marchitello began by saying that what HAHSA does for the school has been very understated. She highlighted that HAHSA does tremendous work for the school; she worked at many schools and HAHSA is one of the most involved communities that she's worked with.
- Mrs. Marchitello walked into Hillcrest Academy three years ago, with a vision to bring it to a community school. Every single request of hers has always been supported through HAHSA, and HAHSA has worked positively in collaboration with the Administration to achieve her vision.
- Last year, schools were given budget constraints/restrictions, and HAHSA executives met with Mrs. Marchitello and Mme. Gosselin twice over the summer to discuss the school's needs.
- All of Hillcrest's activities are so important for the school, and a lot of what the Administration is doing in conjunction with HAHSA is providing the students with the opportunity to feel a wonderful sense of belonging at school.
- Team Building Activity: Gave students the opportunity to meet students in their classroom, and students/teachers in their partner classroom.
- There will be a buddy system, where older students will partner up with younger students to do various activities throughout the school year. This is a result of one of our surveys (we send out surveys to parents and students).
- Our students in grades 4, 5 and 6 do two surveys: an hour school survey, which is a Canadian generated survey. It provides us with information that we can compare to schools across Canada. We also have a Hillcrest student survey that is build in-house. This allows us to get a better understanding of what the children are looking for and what they want.
- In June, the government said they would give the school the expected funding envelopes that allocate specific amounts for designated school activities, such as physical education, cultural outings, or field trips. **However, we need to pay them back \$72,000.**
- Mrs. Marchitello had at the time, given back the envelope for social solidarity; which is an envelope to help pay for food related activities for the students. Given we have a community that can afford it, it was easier to give the funds back for food as our population is not needy in terms of feeding their children. Then over the summer, we got news that we could not give that envelope back; it's an envelope that we want to stay within the school. Even with keeping that envelope, we would not have had enough money for the Corn Roast, and we had also not reserved the Corn Roast.
- We wanted to begin the school year with a community bash/party. However, we were told that we were not allowed to spend funds on these types of events nor for staff. They said they didn't want to see funds allocated towards food or entertainment for the school community. They have



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since then, back tracked. They are okay with the students, the staff however, remains restricted. The school has a \$35 per person cap, for staff for the entire school year that can be spent on food or celebration.

- **Requests:**
 - Haunted House (school wide) and the Magic Pumpkins (Pre-K and Kindergarten).
 - Remembrance Day Assembly: Bagpipers.
- **Fundraising:**
 - Foldable chairs to either rent or purchase.
 - Costs \$1,200 per event to rent foldable chairs.
 - We need 300-500 chairs.
 - Parents will otherwise have to pay \$2 each to cover the costs to rent a chair for the student performances/concerts.
 - Typically, donations are collected for the music concert. Therefore, the funds collected would be attributed to chair rentals as opposed to contributing to our music program.
 - Catherine did comment that based on the research collected for purchasing folding chairs, the prices range from \$11,000 to \$30,000. Two flat beds would also need to be purchased to store the chairs.

Agenda item: 4.3 <i>Treasurer's Report</i>	Presenter: Patrick Cristofaro
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- Patrick introduced himself – he is also a member of the Governing Board.
- HAHSA raises money and then spends it on our children and the school.
- From last year to this year, we are carrying forward approximately \$20,000.
- Our biggest revenue generators are (in descending order):
 - After school sales
 - Pizza Day
 - GST/PST
 - Athletics Merchandise
 - Photographer
 - Use Uniform Sale
 - School Supplies
 - Mabels Labels
- HAHSA is a registered charity – whenever we make a purchase, a part of the sales tax gets returned to us at the end of the year (about half gets returned). For donations, we issue tax receipts.
- Our biggest expenses (in descending order):
 - Activities
 - Field Trip
 - Fun Day



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- Winter Event
 - Grad
 - Staff Appreciation
 - Overhead (Amelia Fees, Insurance, etc.)
- We pay \$150 to be a part of QFHSA.
- We earmarked \$11,000 for sports equipment, and with the budget cuts we were not certain if it would carry over. The funds are still there and can be used towards something.
- Events that have already passed and motioned in: Curriculum Night, Corn Roast, Welcome Event.
- To be approved: Haunted House, Magic Pumpkins, Remembrance Day, BHM Speaker, Science Guy, End of Year BBQ.
- We provide donations to the Grad Committee and the Leadership/Student Council.
- We need to fundraise a bit harder than prior years, as the school needs it more this year than previously.

Discussion:

- Mrs. Marchitello answered a question regarding funding field trips. She said parents are charged for field trips. There is an allocation put aside for field trips. The field trips are school wide and for some families it is easy to do, for others it is not. HAHSA is there to help the school as a whole – therefore with community building and school wide field trips, the idea is to defray the costs so that they are as minimal as possible and affordable to every single family.
- According to QFHSA, we need 10% of the student population represented by parents to successfully run a HAHSA. Our student population is approximately 450 students, hence with a HAHSA committee of 45 parents, we will succeed at achieving our goals.
- Employers allow their employees time off to volunteer, which can be used to help volunteer at school events/with HAHSA.
- Corporations will offer matched donations for their employees, which is another avenue to utilize for encouraging parent donations.

Agenda item: <i>5.1 Special Reports – POSITIONS - Nominations</i>

Presenter: Elena Legatos

Discussion:

- There are about 12 roles required for participation in HAHSA's positions this year.
- We will give time for all to walk around and see the posters that we made and write their names on which position they would like to have.

Agenda item: <i>6.0 New Business</i>
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Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

Discussion:

- Haunted House (school wide) and the Magic Pumpkins (Pre-K and Kindergarten).

Motion to **approve** the Haunted House budget of (\$1,300) by **Maria Almeida** and seconded by **Evelyn Louridakis**. Passed **unanimously**.



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- Remembrance Day Assembly: Bagpipers.

Motion to **approve** the Remembrance Day Event (\$300) by **Tania Creswell** and seconded by **Nicoletta Psihogios**. Passed **unanimously**.

- Bring quotes for the purchase of folding chairs to the October 6th HAHSA meeting, and we will vote it in then.
- The Magic Pumpkins will be voted in at the October 6th HAHSA meeting.

Agenda item: <i>7.0 Questions</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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Agenda item: <i>8.0 Next Meeting</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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Discussion:

- Next meeting is October 6th at 7 PM in the staff room at Hillcrest Academy.

Agenda item: <i>9.0 Adjournment</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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Discussion:

- **Catherine Kapogiannatos** motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM, approved by **Sindu Gunaratnam** seconded by **Christina Roumeliotis**. Passed **unanimously**.