



Monday, February 9th, 2026
7:00 pm
In person @ Hillcrest Academy

HAHSA meeting

Attendees: Bianca Bankley, Catherine Kapogiannatos, Christina Roumeliotis, Debbie Psillos, Elena Legatos, Katherine Morency-Jarvis, Liana Mentone, Liza Dodd, Maria Almeida, Niki Kallinteris, Patrick Cristofaro, Roula Stathakis, Saherish Hussain, Susana Van der Veen

Guests: Mme. Amanda, Ms. Cuccarolo, Mme. Gosselin, Rosa Tsekeris,

Absences: Amy Sara, Andrea Chountoumadis, Brandie Turpin, Elaine Dubé, Evelyn Louridakis, Jessica Bornstein, Jessica Jarrett, Josie Milazzo, Karine De Andrade, Kassandra Theodorakopoulos, Katerina Georgalos, Kelly Krassakopoulos, Kosta Zambanis, Maria Venieris, Michael-Jordan Kriaris, Nicoletta Psihogios, Petroula Giannios, Shannon Capstick, Sindu Gunaratnam, Stella Skouloudakis, Tania Creswell, Tanya Barr

Minutes

Agenda item: 1. Call to Order

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

Catherine Kapogiannatos called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Agenda item: 2. Approval of Agenda

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

Motion to **approve** the agenda by **Katherine Morency-Jarvis** and seconded by **Christina Roumeliotis**. Passed **unanimously**.

Agenda additions requested:

- New Business:
 - A) Zumba Fundraiser
 - B) Spring Photo Shoot

Agenda item: 3. Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2026

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

Motion to **approve** the January 2026 minutes by **Kassandra Theodorakopoulos** and seconded by **Niki Kallinteris**. Passed **unanimously**.

Agenda item: 4.1 President's Report

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
Elena Legatos



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- Special thanks to Andrea, Liza, Niki, Katherine and Debbie for organizing staff appreciation week (daily set-up, food coordination, and support). Noted the significant effort (daily hospitality) and excellent feedback/photos.
- Winter Carnival Volunteers:
 - Event is organized by school leadership / Ms. Abbate.
 - School still short approximately 20 volunteers; HAHSA to resend volunteer email reminder.
 - Date: February 27
- Bagpiper (Remembrance Day) – Follow-up:
 - Prior year: HAHSA paid for bagpiper and was asked to confirm re-booking early.
 - Decision deferred; will revisit next month.

Agenda item: 4.2 <i>Principal's Report</i>	Presenter: Mme Gosselin
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Family Literacy/Reading Event – Book Distribution:

- Principal thanked HAHSA for funding/providing books for students' siblings.
- Delivery happened the following day due to logistics; students were surprised and excited. Parents expressed appreciation afterward.

Chairs:

- Principal confirmed receipt of chairs and thanked HAHSA for support.

Black History Month:

- Thanks to HAHSA for funding 4 presentations (age-appropriate and impactful; students remembered the presenter from last year).

Staff Appreciation Week – Admin/Staff Feedback:

- Principal expressed strong gratitude; staff enjoyed a multi-day hospitality program (coffee, bagels, muffins, salads, sandwiches, drinks, cookies, sweets, pizza; ongoing leftovers across days).
- Parents were very supportive.

Winter Concert Chairs (Red Chairs):

- Principal specifically praised the visual impact of the red chairs used at the winter concert.

Agenda item: 4.3 <i>Treasurer's Report</i>	Presenter: Patrick Cristofaro
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- Patrick reviewed budget changes since last month.

Revenue highlights:

- Pizza Days: Already reached full-year projection and we are only halfway through the school year; additional revenue now "icing on the cake".



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- After-School Sales: Strong performance and close to projections even before second session registration.
- Athletics Merch: First sale finalized at a little under half of projection (still positive).

Expense highlights:

- Amilia/Monthly charge: Increases ~\$90/month (recurring).
- Pancake Event: Came in under budget.
- Staff Appreciation: High parent generosity; donations exceeded expenditures at time of meeting (some expenses still pending reimbursement/claim).

Chairs purchase:

- Correction required: Line should read \$4,305 (not \$5,354).
- 133 chairs plus dollies/attachments were ordered and delivered in time for the winter concert.
- Winter concert black chairs rentals (line item \$1,049).
- Receipts reminder: Members to submit outstanding receipts (photo/email acceptable initially; originals to follow).

Charitable Donation Receipt Policy:

- Item tabled to March for review/printing and discussion to ensure CRA compliance.
- Table charitable donation receipt policy to discuss in the March meeting.

Agenda item: *4.4 QFHSA Rep's Report*

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

- Acknowledgement that the TSAW went well with strong parent participation and positive online posts.

Agenda item: *4.5 Governing Board Rep's Report*

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

- GB reps not present; brief update provided by attendees who had been at GB.
- Key item tabled at GB: Addition of a civility component to the code of conduct (adult conduct/how parents and staff address each other).
- Discussion indicated the school board/government may issue standardized guidance. Therefore, GB deferred to avoid inconsistent interpretations between schools.
- Action: Monitor board/government direction and revisit when guidance is confirmed.

Agenda item: *4.6 Parent Committee Rep's Report*

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos



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- No Parent Committee Representative this year. Item to be removed from the agenda going forward unless a rep is assigned.

Agenda item: *4.7 Communications' Report*

Presenter: Elena Legatos

- Send social media post requests directly to Communications for timely sharing.

Agenda item: *4.8 Fundraising Coordinator's Report*

Presenter: Tanya Barr

Big Box of Cards:

- Launch planned for end of the month; run for one month. Tanya to coordinate samples.

Silent Auction:

- Emails sent this week; strong initial response.

Marble Run / "Marble Madness" interactive activity:

- Date: March 27th (Friday evening) after school.
- Pricing: \$45 (1st child), \$40 (2nd), \$35 (3rd).
- Volunteer needs: Estimated one volunteer per table.
- Structure: Two groups (Pre-K/Grade 2 and Grades 3–6).
- Space: Likely requires gym.
- Capacity: Discussed as potentially up to 50 per session, possibly ~100 total. Pending vendor and registrations.
- Action: Confirm gym booking at least one week in advance; finalize maximum capacity with vendor and launch Zeffy/registration posting.

Principal for a Day Fundraiser:

- Concept: Parents buy raffle tickets for a child's chance to "shadow" principal during routine, non-confidential activities (announcements, rounds, supervision, lunch).
- Ticketing: Online (QR code); not cash based.
- Prizes discussed:

1. Principal for a Day (mock/shadow)

2. Runner-up: Secretary/Office shadow

3. Runner-up: Office helper/admin tasks

- Event date: April 20th
- Winner announcement: Discussed as April 15th or 16th (to be confirmed).
- Promotion: Poster/QR at Parent Night.
- Action: Hold a short planning meeting with principal to outline the day's schedule and boundaries.

i) AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES REPORT



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- Continuing existing programs and expanding offerings: LEGO/robotics, science, and a Pre-K friendly “edible art” cooking-style program (not full cooking; designed for younger ages).
- Benefit: Vendor minimum registration is 10 students, enabling broader offerings.
- Chess interest noted (historic strong student interest).

ii) ATHLETICS MERCHANDISE REPORT

Current sale window: February 16th to March 27th

- Some stock/backorder issues noted.

Try-on set proposal:

- Request approval to purchase a range of smaller sizes (XS/S, etc.) for try-on events.
- Estimated cost: \$350
- Orientation date mentioned: May 6th (tentative; depends on schedule).

Motion to **approve** \$350 purchase for try-on set by **Susana Van der Veen** and seconded by **Maria Almeida**. Passed **unanimously**.

iii) SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR REPORT

- Book fair scheduled for next week.
- Set-up planned Monday afternoon, likely alongside of gym.
- Teacher time slots: Still missing six teachers (older grades noted). Reminder sent.

Supply purchase – bags:

- Approved to purchase plastic bags (approx. \$50 for 1,000 bags).

Action items:

- Debbie will purchase bags and submit the receipt to Patrick.
- Confirm the remaining teacher schedules and finalize the volunteer schedule.
- Print and organize class wish lists (noted that Debbie had emailed Sandie).

iv) TCBY & PIZZA REPORT

- No major operational issues. Nikki has begun assisting in helping reduce workload.
- Discussion for next year: Consider splitting payments (3–4 instalments) to reduce September financial burden for families (uniforms + lunch programs + activities).
- Further discussion deferred to March/April when planning for next year’s approvals begins.

v) USED UNIFORM REPORT

- Sale scheduled Thursday, February 19th (same evening as parent-teacher meetings).
- Volunteers needed: 4:00–8:00 PM



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- Donation drop-off preference: February 16th to 18th (per Sandie).
- Action: Send email reminder; accept all sizes (previously requested medium sizes but “anything welcome”).

Agenda item:	4.9 Hospitality Committee Report
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Presenter:	Andrea Chountoumadis
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- Rolling amount forward for next year and/or buying durable supplies in advance (plates/serving items) to reduce last-minute purchases.
- Consider setting a guaranteed base budget next year (e.g., \$1,600–\$1,800 suggested) so the committee can plan confidently while continuing to seek donations.
- Decision: Leave \$499.18 allocated to staff appreciation for now; committee to propose a plan for next year’s approach and target budget.
- Action: Hospitality/Staff Appreciation recommended plan/budget for next year.

Agenda item:	4.10 Photo Representative Report
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Presenter:	Maria Almeida
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- Survey feedback referenced: Some parents felt pricing is high and wanted different/modern backdrops (plain preferred by some).
- Recent vendor performance led to higher school kickback vs past vendor.
- School-wide photo day must be done in one day.
- Action: Maria/committee to explore green screen/backdrop options and discuss pricing flexibility with photographer.

Agenda item:	4.11 School Supply Report
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Presenter:	Catherine Kapogiannatos
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Proposal to switch to School Start (new vendor):

- Preliminary comparisons showed significantly lower prices on several items.
- Delivery options discussed (school vs home delivery fees).
- Other schools reported returns around \$1,500 with similar student counts.

Motion to **approve** the switch of the school supply vendor to School Start for one-year trial by **Liza Dodd** and seconded by **Debbie Psillos** Passed **unanimously**.

Agenda item:	5.0 Special Reports
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Presenter:	Elena Legatos
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A) SURVEY RESULTS

- Survey distributed to the school community; 56 replies received (noted low relative to school size).
- High awareness of HAHSA’s purpose.
- Fundraiser preferences: Family/community events (fun fairs, trivia/community nights), plus ideas like casino/comedy nights.
- Strong demand for STEM/robotics and more after-school enrichment.



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- School photos: Mixed satisfaction; requests for more varied backgrounds/poses and better student preparation (constraints acknowledged—limited time, high volume).
- Lunch programs: Generally positive; some parents asked for a third option.
- Parents request more transparency/visibility into HAHSA work (revenues/expenses and planned activities).

Teacher perspective shared:

- Strong turnout occurs when kids are excited, and parents are invited into events.
- Recommendation: Prioritize community events (start/end of year, movie nights, fun fairs) to build engagement and fundraising momentum.

Action items:

- Communications team to explore a short reel/video format for recurring updates.
- Committees to incorporate survey feedback into next-year planning and near-term fundraising strategy.

Agenda item: <i>6.0 New Business</i>	Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos
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A) Zumba Fundraiser

- Proposal: Repeat Zumba fundraiser in spring (higher participation expected), possibly outdoors weather-permitting.
- Date proposed: April 24th
- Question noted: Kids attending—prior feedback indicated instructors are not qualified to teach small children; to be revisited.

Motion to **approve** spring Zumba fundraiser (April 24th) by **Christina Roumeliotis** and seconded by **Susana Van der Veen**. Passed **unanimously**.

B) Spring Photo Shoot

- Proposal: Spring themed photo shoot (Mother's Day leaning), with more elaborate backdrop/props (potentially higher price point).
- Dates offered by photographer: April 18th/19th, April 25th/26th, or May 23rd.
- Pricing discussed as a \$50 package with retouched photos (final options to be confirmed).
- Revenue split discussed: 70% HAHSA / 30% vendor.
- Outdoor photoshoot preferred due to natural light, but April weather may be unpredictable. Decision to proceed with approval pending final date/logistics.

Motion to **approve** Spring Photoshoot (pending final date and details) by **Liza Dodd** and seconded by **Katherine Morency-Jarvis**. Passed **unanimously**.

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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HILLCREST ACADEMY HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (HAHSA)

- Following HAHSA meetings, dates reserved:
 - March 9th, 2026
 - April 13th, 2026
 - May 4th, 2026
 - June 8th, 2026

Agenda item: *9.0 Adjournment*

Presenter: Catherine Kapogiannatos

Catherine Kapogiannatos motions to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 PM, **approved** by **Christina Roumeliotis** seconded by **Katherine Morency-Jarvis**. Passed **unanimously**.