

**FLHSA Meeting  
January 13, 2023**

**Attendance - Yalda Bahari, Michelle Brooks, Colette Dow, Farah Hoyt, Kyle Kaino, Kristen Valente**

**Excused - Sharon Luppino, Jen Kothari**

**Guests - Sue Ostrofsky, Amy Pirro, Angela Alvarado, John Morello (via video), John Tesatori and Kevin (via video)**

**Meeting began at 9:30**

**Potential Speakers**

Ms. Pirro introduced two potential speakers to speak to our students about wellness and mental issues/self-help.

**John Morello** - Performs a one man show with 20 years of experience performing the show to communities, background in stand-up. Coming of age tale based in comedy with serious themes. Growing up in poverty, addiction in family, own issues around depression and anxiety and observing racism in his community. Substance abuse, mental health and bullying are primary themes.

Incorporates feedback from the audience to maintain relevance. Aware that students can tell when you are not sincere - each audience is different and unique. If possible, he would want to understand what the feedback/concerns/insights are from the students prior to coming to do the show.

Works with any size audience. Prefers not to do it in the gym. Would consider doing a few smaller (two) shows/audiences. Sue suggested we would likely want to have 2 smaller groups as well as one for the parents with necessary pre-work/preparation prior to the presentation to ensure students get maximum benefit. Will provide references and Ms. Pirro will provide a link to the FLHSA board to review prior shows.

**John Tesatori and Kevin/JCK Foundation** - Local - both grew up in Westchester. Dobbs Ferry/Iona Prep/Irvington. Prefer grade-wide assemblies. Then they often follow up with individual classroom visits - specific activities - helps students feel heard. They will require a pre-visit survey in .

Kevin will provide the presentation on structure, logistics, etc. as well as a link to the documentary. There is a 20 minute documentary which provides a background on John C. Kelly and then John and Kevin each lay out their stories. They do an activity to engage them. Break into little groups and then provide a prompt to help the students use the themes/lessons/insights

presented during the assembly. There is also a parent component which will be outlined in the proposal.

**Amy Pirro and Angela Alvarado left the meeting at approx.10:45am.**

**Wellness Week** - Sue explained that this year they are trying to do a more comprehensive approach. Will include the chosen speaker.

### **Bus Circle**

Sue is working hard to eliminate drop-offs in the bus circle due to the danger and impeding bus. Sue will follow up on the lighting issue Jen raised at the last board meeting.

### **Cellphones**

Sue has informed parents that these are not allowed in the classrooms and she will be informing everyone that no one is allowed to take a picture of anyone without their permission.

**Sue Ostrofsky and Kristen Valente left the meeting at approx.11:10am.**

### **Spring Event**

At a previous meeting the board discussed the possibility of a Spring Dance in March or something similar to bring the school together. Amy Pirro suggested doing a talent show potentially instead of a dance. Amy said a number of kids have suggested. She will speak with the Student Union. Will plan to charge admission and have the school store open to raise money.

FOLLOW UP - Student Union has said they are not interested in doing the talent show. The possibility of doing a dance was discussed. Will need to follow up.

**Cap N Gown Ceremony** - Michelle suggested considering adding an Ice Cream Truck - Michelle will provide name of one used in recently. Parent paid for in prior year.

**Teacher Appreciation** - Kyle Kaino suggested adding some event/idea about having at least the seniors give their "favorite" teacher some acknowledgement. Perhaps in conjunction with Teacher Appreciation Day/Week which is May 2 - 6. Require the leaders of the various clubs, teams, musical groups, etc., to be tasked to "rally their troops" to engage in some acknowledgement for teacher appreciation.

Colette will speak with Mr. Videla and Class Officers to determine whether this is something the Senior Class would be interested in spearheading.

**Benches** - Have arrived! Michelle will speak to Sean about getting them installed.

**Vending** FLHSA getting a new additional machine. Farah suggested the additional machine be beverage based. School store is doing great with selling snacks so would prefer to not install a machine selling snacks.

**Meeting ended at 11:30 am.**