

**Manhasset High School/Middle School Joint Parent Council Meeting  
Friday, September 21, 2007  
Minutes**

1. Welcome and opening of meeting by Jeannette Reilly, High School SCA President

Jeannette welcomed those in attendance and thanked the past president Lynne Aloia. She introduced the High School Grade Level Chairpersons; noted that the directory will be out shortly and thanked Sandy Demitroff and Michel Tomlinson for their work on the new SCA website: [www.manhassetzca.org](http://www.manhassetzca.org). Jeannette asked members of the community to join the email list noted on the website to maintain effective communication. Upcoming dates of importance: Mini College Days 9/24, 10/1 and 10/22; 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents' Meeting 9/20; 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents' Meeting 9/25; HS Open House 10/11; SAT Exam 10/6; SCA Luncheon 11/14.

2. Welcome and remarks by Kathy McIntee, Middle School SCA President

Kathy welcomed those in attendance; acknowledged SCA Executive President Sandy Demitroff and introduced Grade Level Chairpersons. She reported on the Opening Day Picnic on 9/5; Photo Days 9/18 and 9/19. She noted important dates: Middle School Open House 9/27; Welcome Back Dance 9/28; MS Book Fair 10/23 – 10/25; Halloween Party 10/31 (volunteers needed).

3. Report from Jane Grappone, Lead Counselor - Guidance

Ms. Grappone reported on the new orientation program for Middle School seventh graders. The 261 students in the seventh grade make this a record size class. She described the new small group orientation meetings as well as the individual meetings and counseling contacts the new students will have to smooth their transition to the Middle School/High School complex. Ms. Grappone noted the new counseling pages on the school website; advised that information about the PSAT will be forthcoming; and described the roll out of the new Naviance Program which provides students with an excellent resource to begin building their resumes as they prepare for college applications.

4. Report from Tim Frost, Co-Chair of SCA Summer Studies Awards Program

Mr. Frost described the summer studies program which has been financed by the SCA for 38 years and enables selected Manhasset High School juniors to undertake meaningful summer study in the year preceding their senior year. Two student recipients of awards in the summer of 2007 described their experiences: one in a distinguished acting program and another in an advanced science research program. Both students acknowledged the SCA for making the summer studies program possible.

5. Report from Dr. Guastela regarding Gifts from Tower Foundation and SCA

Dr. Guastela demonstrated various information gathering probes and described two research quality telescopes purchased with grants from the Tower Foundation and from the SCA.

6. Report from Peter Vercessi, Assistant Principal Grades 7 - 9

Mr. Vercessi addressed enrollment: 1,315 students – 486 in Middle School; 829 in High School. He noted a smooth orientation for the incoming seventh graders. He addressed the issue of gym lockers and day lockers which are adequate for the current population but which are expected to be insufficient next year as a result of expected growth in enrollment. A proposal to acquire an additional 100 to 200 lockers is being considered.

7. Report from Dr. Anthony Ambrogio, Director of Human Resources & Fine Arts

Dr. Ambrogio presented information regarding the new graphic design digital media lab equipment and the new music MIDI lab – state of the art equipment donated by the SCA with installation and design advice donated by parent volunteers.

8. Presentation by Mr. Armand Markarian, Director of Building & Facilities

Mr. Markarian presented evidence of the summer 2007 construction and maintenance work implemented at the three facilities. He noted the sod project at the High School; the roofing projects at Shelter Rock and the High School; the painting and repair projects at all schools; the tennis court repairs at the High School and various other projects completed during the summer.

9. Comments from Mark Sippin, Assistant Principal for 10-12

Mr. Sippin commented on student government activities; two new clubs - Rachel's Club: Be Like Rachel and TV Media Club – that are in development; and discussed Homecoming events scheduled for October 26 and 27.

10. Comments from Dr. Dean Schlanger, Principal

Dr. Schlanger indicated his enthusiasm at joining the administration at the Manhasset School District. He addressed seventh grade orientation and transition with an emphasis on dialogue and communication in response to ideas arising out of the Shared Decision Making Committee. He indicated a new policy whereby all students will be permitted to go outside for fresh air after lunch. He addressed a new project involving the patterns of classifying students in the district.

11. Comments by Dr. Cardillo

Dr. Cardillo spoke briefly and described a successful opening to the 2007-2008 school year.

**Next Meeting: Joint HS/MS SCA Parent Council Meeting October 26 at 9:30 a.m.**