

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** June 11, 2010

**Meeting Opened at:** Call to Order 9:47 AM; End of Meeting 11:56 AM

**Officers Present:** Karen Blando, Jeanine Toes, Caroline Kenlon, Christy Weppler, Mary Jane Reilly, Kathleen Kosciusko. Officers absent: Diane Gershkowitz, Jill McCarney

### **SCA Executive President's Welcome - Karen Blando**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **SCA Executive President's Remarks - Karen Blando**

We have had a fantastic year. On the Executive Level, we have a newly minted committee, Project Share, lead by our caring and wonderful Executive Vice President, Diane Gershkowitz. Membership, expertly led by Randi Cecchini and Mollye Fahey, held its own in a very tough economy and met last year's strong contributions; Saturday Series, led by Karen Corcoran, organized their efforts, kept costs down and turned around their profit profile; Enrichment led by Laura Tranchina and Annie Vetrone provided fun and interesting programs for our elementary school children; Kathie Panzone and Randi Berger brilliantly executed our Family Theatre offering; Susan Urban and Donna Terjesen extended our knowledge of Health and Wellness by providing information and a fantastic fitness week; the Nominating committee, spearheaded by Mary Kay Connors and Tammy Tam Kelly worked diligently to find us qualified new candidates to lead our organization; Planet Manhasset became a full executive Committee this year: Peggy Markham, Lisa Lynch, Vivian Thatos and Liz Miller were busy with new programs and ways to help us Think Green; Community Education, led most recently by Ed Garofolo, followed in the path of Marirose Merola and Regina Rule, who kept us up to date on information important to the District, Susan Hyde and Ronnie Nanos kept us in the news with Publicity; our Shared Decision Making Chair, Ellen Duran, built teams for a cooperative effort in the advancement of learning and improving performance; Senior Frolic Chairs Oriana Cyprus and Marie Horowitz continue to work hard towards the year end event; Summer Studies expertly chose qualified Juniors to receive Summer Study awards; Lynne Aloia is beginning to search out our Educational Grant candidates. And after 4 years, we finally said goodbye to Webmaster Michel Tomlinson and learned how truly important her job is. I am also very proud to announce we have tapped our new Webmaster, Jill Pullano. Very exciting! And now, Ways and Means: we would like to thank our Fair Chair, Linda Gurino, for a spectacular event. That, coupled with our other key fundraiser, the Fall Luncheon, to which we thank Katie Lane and Janice Rohlfing, Ways and Means will cut a check to the SCA in excess for \$147,500! Thank you Anne Dorogoff for taking on the challenge of Ways and Means Treasurer, we couldn't do this without you!

#### **Approval of Minutes / Board Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko**

- April 9, 2010 minutes were approved.
- April – June Interim Board Vote announcements were made.

### **Treasurer's Report – Jill McCarney (Presented by Karen Blando)**

- The 2010-2011 proposed Manhasset SCA Budget was approved (see attachment).
- With all of its reporting, the SCA is moving toward more transparency. The reports are more detailed than in past years.
- In the proposed budget, there is a new line item labeled SCA Award. This is a \$1,000.00 award to both a male and a female student who exemplify what the SCA stands for.
- The budget proposed is an aggressive budget. However, Karen Blando anticipates being able to make this budget a reality.
- The Senior Awards were given out to the top 20 seniors by GPA. The SCA granted \$200 each.

### **Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz (Presented by Karen Blando)**

- Project Share is up and running. So far they are focused on four projects.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> project focuses on basic needs for families in need.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> project focuses on frolic dresses for young girls in need.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> project focuses on little girl clothes size 3T-4T.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> project focuses on providing books for those students in need.
- All projects are implemented with the help and approval of the school social workers.
- The email address for Project Share is SCAProjectShare@optonline.net.

### **President's Reports**

#### **1. Jeanine Toes – High School**

- Student elections for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades were held and all officers for 2010-2011 are in place. Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders will have elections in the fall.
- The SCA provided refreshments for the District's Annual Retirement Tea. This celebration honored retiring faculty members.
- The Senior Awards took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the SCA Head of the Class Award was presented. This award and scholarship is given to students whose GPAs place them at the top of the class.
- On May 17th, the SCA sponsored Peter Van Buskirk, author of The Admission Game, to speak to the HS students and parents about the college process.
- The school completed the 3rd and Mandatory Parent/Student Frolic Meeting. All seniors and guests, accompanied by a parent or guardian, must attend one of the meetings in order to attend the Frolic.
- One hundred and forty students, staff and SCA parents came together to paint a 21' x 7' Beetlemania mural. What makes this painting so special is that each participant painted only a 12" x 12" square, not knowing how it would all come together. The huge mural will be unveiled on Monday afternoon. AP Art teacher Michael Sansone has worked tirelessly on this project, and the SCA parents appreciate his efforts and were so honored to be a part of it.
- The 2010 Commencement Ceremony planning is underway.
- A fantastic art show took place June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

- Fifteen people got \$12,000 in grants from the SCA. This award has a very rigorous application process and is great preparation for college entrance.

## **2. Caroline Kenlon – Middle School**

- The May 13th Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a huge success, thanks to all the volunteers, especially co-chairs Donna Gillis and Sue Auriemma.
- A very successful middle school spring concert was held on May 24 and 25.
- On May 28, the incoming 7th graders (nearly 300 strong), visited the middle school and the SCA provided ices for all.
- The middle school end of year BBQ (official send-off for the 8th grade class) was very well attended. The SCA distributed the traditional 8th grade t-shirt as a gift to the class.
- Yearbooks are still available at \$50 per book. Please contact Lori Pelligrino (267-7581) if interested in purchasing one.
- Final Exam and Regents schedules are posted on the district website.
- Volunteer forms will be posted on the SCA Highlights this week.
- School supply packets will be available for sale via RaindeW.
- Summer Reading Order program pilot mailed this week.

## **3. Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School**

- The SCA coordinated a field day BBQ for the fifth and sixth graders. Two hundred and fifty children feasted on hamburgers and hotdogs.
- The Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a fitting tribute to the tremendous staff at Shelter Rock.
- The opening of the school year showcased the SCA's major purchase for the school, a new circulation desk for the library. This has dramatically changed the flow of the library and the ways in which the space can be used. The SCA has also purchased a new rug and magazine racks which are being delivered and will be ready for use in September.
- The SCA purchased a series of books called "Special Kids in School." Mrs. Gimondo, our school counselor, will use them in her meetings with classes with special needs children, and they will be maintained in the teacher collection for use by all teachers.
- The Manhasset Schools Retirees gave each school a gift of \$500. Shelter Rock used the funds to purchase new copies of classic books for the library. These books were on display for Children's Literature Month.
- The school dedicated a memorial for Mrs. Berliner in the courtyard and the SCA was able to participate by purchasing two picnic tables in her honor. There is also a plaque with Mrs. Berliner's picture framed with the saying "She led us to ask and wonder." It is in the science lab.
- Shelter Rock created a comprehensive packet of information for the new parents, and we gave each of the children special Shelter Rock SCA crayons and a coloring book.
- Planet Manhasset initiated a "go green" week with themes revolving around Earth Day (Thursday, April 22) and the three R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). These themes were taught in a variety of creative ways, including the creation of a beautiful Coral Reef made from all recycled materials which is on display in front of

the main office. Another project, the Grocery Bag Project, has also been completed and the beautifully decorated bags were on display throughout the week.

- In preparation for Go Green Week, Planet Manhasset and the Town of North Hempstead insured that each common room (auditorium, cafeteria, etc), classroom and office space in Shelter Rock was equipped with 2 recycling bins, one for paper and one for recyclable trash. The students learned about the bins that week.
- Throughout the week, classes received specially prepared "Getting Caught Doing Things Green" stickers for being "green aware." This is a variation of the popular "Getting Caught Doing Things Right" sticker program at Shelter Rock School.
- A new initiative of the SCA this year was Extended Extras, the foreign language after school program for grades 5 and 6. Shelter Rock had about 60 children participate in Spanish and Italian classes at Shelter Rock.
- The Ambassador program was implemented. In this program, Shelter Rock paired a "seasoned" parent with a new parent to welcome them to SR and answer any questions that they may have about the school. We are continuing this initiative next year and will continue to develop the program.

#### **4. Christy Wepler – Munsey Park**

- The SCA coordinated a field day BBQ for the fifth and sixth graders.
- The Staff Appreciation Luncheon was a great success to show appreciation for the wonderful staff at Munsey Park.
- For National Library Week, parents dressed up as literary characters and read to the K-4 classes. The 5th and 6th graders played library Jeopardy and had a library scavenger hunt.
- Kathy Olwy (library/media specialist) and Debbie Cernuto (computer specialist) presented at one SCA parent council meeting on cyber bullying and internet safety. This will be continued next year at open house. The parents will have the opportunity to hear about Netsmartz.
- Charlie Cardillo spoke to a small group of parents regarding the budget at a joint SR and MP parent council meeting.
- Patrick O'Reilly and the reading specialists presented on summer reading at another parent council meeting. Information was handed out on various activities parents can do with their children over the summer to enhance reading and writing all year long. The activities are available on the website.
- The Munsey Park Birthday celebration will be on Wednesday, June 16th at 1:45 pm on the Munsey Park field. A fire truck and a photographer are coming to take an aerial photo of the entire school shaped in a giant "70!". Student council will run a short ceremony which will include the singing of Happy Birthday and the MP Song along with a short presentation by the student council. The classes will then separate and have snacks on the field. All are welcome to attend. We will be selling posters of the photograph to raise money for our new playground.
- After 1½ years of meetings and plans, we have finally (tentatively, pending board approval) chosen the new playground equipment to be added to the current Munsey Park playground. It is called Kid Power and is a cardio based system with a track, lights and a bike. It is "green" in that it is powered by kids and doesn't need any electricity. It will be used by all gym classes and by any teacher who would like to

do science or math experiments. We have money in our funds for the equipment but need to raise money for the installation (\$7 – \$10 K). The goal is to raise enough from the “birthday present” drive to install it over the summer.

- The new Munsey Park SCA president and vice president will be Tricia Cash and Lucy Puma.

### **Principal Reports – Dean Schlanger**

- Parents recently expressed apprehension about the college application process. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, a writing workshop is being offered. The workshop will have the students who choose to participate produce an essay outline by the end of the workshop.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation is now being done at the end of the June instead of at the end of the summer (June 21<sup>st</sup> in the Black Box Theatre).
- The school is hosting a Sixth Grade Friday Night Live in honor of Marie Rogers.

### **Superintendent Report – Charles Cardillo**

- Three or four interesting events taking place over the last 24 hours was shared with the group. First, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade did a fantastic production about the industrial revolution. Second, Shelter Rock had a science fair for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This fair stressed the importance of the process of a finish product, not a finished product. Third, the Relay 4 Life is taking place at the secondary school. Fourth, the secondary school also just started to participate in the NY State marching band competition.

### **CASA Report – Lisbeth Shibley**

- The proposed program for next year has an internet aspect which will help parents understand what is happening on the internet with their children.
- CASA is also partnering with the SCA on several programs (i.e., Parenting for Prevention in the younger grades, Chemistry of the Brain in the Secondary School.)
- All meetings are being held in the schools during the day so that school counselors can participate in the process.
- CASA is reintroducing the CASA games in 2012.
- They are sponsoring a drug mailing and are hopeful to collect many pounds of drugs that parents don’t know how to dispose of.
- For a full listing of CASA’s activities and schedules, see their documentation.

### **Liason Reports - Board of Education Report – Cindy Cardinal**

- It is Aline Khatchadourian and Larry Belinsky’s last month with the Board of Education.
- At the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the new members of the Board of Education will be sworn into office. The new members are Regina Rule and Craig Anderson.

### **Executive Committee Reports**

#### **1. Community Education (Presented by Regina Rule)**

- Ed Garafolo will be leading this committee this year. He is extremely knowledgeable, has many impactful ideas, and is looking forward to getting information out to the public with regards to the budget votes.

- If anyone knows anyone who would like to participate in this committee, please contact Ed Garafolo.
- 2. Membership (Presented by Karen Blando)**
  - The membership committee recorded a total profit of \$31,281.90. This is in line with last year's membership fees collected.
- 3. Saturday Series – Karen Corcoran**
  - Saturday series is no longer paperless and that is contributing to it being profitable again.
  - The fall profit from Saturday Series was over \$8,000.
  - The winter profit was over \$12,000.
  - Alice Meyer Woo and Ruth Brown will be taking over the Saturday Series role next year.
- 4. Planet Manhasset (Presented by Karen Blando)**
  - Part of the money raised by the Planet Manhasset group will be used to add more recycle bins in the schools.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kathleen Kosciusko  
SCA Executive Board Secretary