

**Minutes**  
**SCA Munsey Park**  
**Parent Council Meeting**  
**January 21, 2010**

Mary Jane Reilly, Shelter Rock School President, opened the meeting and introduced Marilyn Donnally of the Community Education Committee. She encouraged everyone to register to vote. The school budget vote will take place in May. Studies show that only 20% of Manhasset residents who are registered to vote actually get to the polls and vote. She is here to encourage everyone to get out and vote and register if you have not done so already. She has registration forms available to those who need one.

Keela Newton from Adventures in Learning was our next speaker. She is recruiting parents for volunteers. Adventures in Learning services the Spinney Hill community. She is asking for volunteers to share parenting ideas and for mentoring. The volunteers would help support the parents in need and nurture friendships.

The main topic of discussion at the meeting was bullying and Amanda Gimondo, elementary school guidance counselor, was on hand to discuss it. Amanda visits all elementary school classrooms and discusses social and emotional topics. One of the main topics she discusses with the children is bullying. Some children exhibit bullying behavior. It is an emotional issue. Amanda suggests that when dealt with a bullying situation, you want to make it work so they can coexist. The children don't have to become friends but be able to be around each other and not have problems.

Amanda then discussed the people involved in a bullying situation: the victim, the bully and the bystanders. We need to open the lines of communication for children to express themselves, especially the victim if they are in a bullying situation. Many children don't report bullying for a long time because they are afraid or embarrassed. Because studies have shown that lots of bullying doesn't get reported or is reported later, it is very important for the victim to develop skills to handle the bullying. You don't want a victim to think they are a victim for life. If the lines of communication are open between students and parents, classroom teachers, bus drivers, principals and guidance counselors, then it is easier to help a child through a bullying situation. A bully only changes his/her behavior when a victim's behavior changes. Bullying is basically a poor form of communication.

Amanda was available for questions after her presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.