

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 9, 2009

Meeting Opened at: Call to Order 9:42 AM; End of Meeting 11:40 AM

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

SCA Executive President's Welcome and General Announcements - Karen Blando Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – Kathleen Kosciusko

- June 12th minutes were approved.
- September 18th minutes were approved.

Report of Interim Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko

- The following lists the budget votes that took place between July 23rd and October 8th, 2009:
 1. On July 23, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$5,000. The total amount of \$5,000 is earmarked for various construction costs.
 2. On August 4, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$1,500 for additional sonotube installation for benches. The total amount was paid directly to Manta Contracting, Inc.
 3. On August 4, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$2,277.42. The total amount was paid directly to American Playground for bench upgrade (6 benches).
 4. On August 4, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$138.94 for additional shipping charges. The total amount was paid directly to American Playground.
 5. On September 20, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$850.00 for flagpole installation. The total amount was paid directly to Manta Contracting, Inc.
 6. On September 20, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$122.00 for additional delivery charges. The total amount was paid directly to American Playground.
 7. On September 20, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve additional funds to the Flagpole Courtyard at the Manhasset Secondary School in the amount of \$1,800.00 for furniture installation. The total amount was paid directly to Manta Contracting, Inc.
 8. On September 20, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve a Student Assistance Award for Driver's Education in the amount of \$235.00. The request

was received through Guidance. It was later determined that the student was not taking the driver's education course, so this funding is not necessary.

9. On September 22, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve a Secondary School Book Fair Banner in the amount of \$465.35. The request was received through Seval LaRocca, the Book Fair Chairperson.
10. On October 6th, 2009, the Executive Board voted to approve a fund request for Family Math Day in the amount of \$500.00. The request was received through Raymond Scacalossi .

These budget votes include many additions to the flagpole project at the secondary school. These were a result of construction overruns. Karen stated she really thought it was important to push these votes through so the project could be completed prior to the start of school.

Treasurer's Report – Jill McCarney (reported by Karen Blando)

- Membership dues are coming in.
- For photo days in the secondary school (specifically Seniors), Lifetouch waived fees for two students at \$150 each and a \$40 sitting fee. Christy Wepler added that Munsey Park's contract also includes fee waivers and ten students basic packages were waived. Going forward, the SCA will work with Lifetouch to secure appropriate waivers for students in need.
- Going forward, hospitality costs will diminish as the beginning of the year meetings are over (Open Houses and opening Parent Council meetings) and the Superintendent Breakfast is complete, which were the bulk of the expenses to date.
- According to the budget, we had \$7,000 budgeted for our audit. The actual cost will be \$8,500.
- There is a \$10,000.00 pledge to CASA that is being given next month.
- The Champions for Charity event is taking place again in December. Last year, the SCA made about \$7,000.00 from that event.
- The SCA did not collect \$5.00 for the SCA luncheon baskets or sell Lord and Taylor and Macy's tickets at open house this year.

Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz

The Lord and Taylor and Macy's benefit bash tickets are still on sale. So far with this effort, the SCA has made over \$1,000.00.

President's Reports

1. Jeanine Toes – High School

- Homecoming Dance sold 614 tickets and the dance was a success. The Homecoming Dance Chairs were Jeannette Reilly, Elizabeth Mantikas, and Sophia Yunakov. They decorated the gym and hallway, provided terrific sandwiches, drinks and snacks for the kids, and found a great DJ that kept the kids on the dance floor
- Upcoming Events:
 - 10/23 SCA MS/HS joint Parent Council Meeting
 - 11/10 Senior Banquet
 - 11/18 SCA Luncheon
 - 11/19-22 High School Musical
 - 11/21 Booster Club Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

2. Caroline Kenlon – Middle School

- The following recent events took place at the middle school:
 - Photo Days (make-up day is 11/6/09). ID cards will be handed out in gym period when complete.
 - Welcome Back Dance was a huge success!
 - All students received a T-shirt for first ever MS Spirit Day.
- The following are upcoming events planned for the middle school:
 - MS Friday Night Live - 10/16, 7:30-9:30 PM. We'll have music, ping pong and more. Several teachers will be there to engage the kids.
 - MS/HS Parent Council meeting - 10/23 in the MS Library. Author Dave Marcus will be speaking about his book Acceptance.
 - Lord and Taylor and Macy's charity shopping days 10/13 and 10/17.
 - MS Halloween Party Saturday - 10/31. We are looking for donations of gift cards and baked goods.
 - Secondary school Book Fair in conjunction with Barnes and Noble - Nov 4th - Nov 8th. Jennifer Culonita is a teen author of "Sleepaway Girls" will be speaking at the book fair.
- The Student Directory group had a last call announcement last week. Clare Clarke and Diana Stefan are working to get this out to everyone. They are shooting for Nov 1st. We need all forms to be filled out this year to be included.
- The MS yearbook can be ordered on-line. It is a very easy process. If people order on-line, they can get some additional things such as a cover and name imprinted on the book. If they ordered from the form and want to order on-line so that they can get these extras, the yearbook group can return their check. The website to order on-line is yearbookforever.com. The deadline for ordering is March 31st.

3. Christy Wepler – Munsey Park

- The K-6 **open houses** were completed with the split format and were a success. Parents were able to socialize and shop for spirit wear as well as meet SEPTA, Booster Club, Tower Foundation, Family Theater, and Saturday Series reps and either register or sign up for programs.
- Munsey Park just completed 2 **Photo Days** with the help of seasoned chairs, Christine Tatarian and Laura Tranchina. All teachers and students had their pictures taken, and the re-takes will be in November.
- Department Chairs, school nurses, and new teachers and staff members attended and were introduced at our **first MP SCA meeting of the year**. The nurses discussed H1N1 and criteria for keeping children home from school when they are sick. At that time, parents signed up to volunteer for committees.
- Most of our **directory forms** have been collected, and now our committee can work on the final product.
- Plans are underway, thanks to Tammy Kelly and Joan Berger, for the annual **SCA 5th and 6th grade Halloween Party**. This year's theme is CarnEvil and

will have a fun house/haunted house carnival theme. It will include scary clowns, etc. Any volunteers can call Tammy or Joan. They are accepting donations for gift cards and baked goods.

- Colleen Bock has agreed to spearhead a **Safety/Emergency Preparedness committee** which will supply every classroom with an emergency duffel bag with waters, rice krispie treats, bandaids, and cell phone numbers.
- A committee of Dr. Kendall, Dr. Leone, teachers, and parents met to plan **Munsey Park's 70th anniversary**, which is in 2009. We decided to celebrate for the entire year! The plan for the year will be to dedicate a decade to a month starting in November with the 1030's when MP was finished. The classes will focus on the music, inventions, current events, clothing and fun facts of each time period. Then in June, we will have a celebration in the 00's on the field with all students, teachers and past MP teachers, students, and staff. These celebrations will be photo documented for a Munsey Park archive.
- The **Holiday Gift Program** committee has met to organize its families and donors for the holiday season. The recipients will be needy children and their families in the district who will be identified by Lori Pietrafessa and Jennifer Barbieri Smith, the school social workers in MP and SR. All families will be given the opportunity to help out in any way. This is a very rewarding experience for all.
- **Extended Extras (EX2)** will begin in MP and SR in January starting with a **PILOT program in world languages** for the 5th and 6th graders that will run until the March break. Manhasset teachers will be teaching the after school classes for the 10 week period. It is our hope that this self-sustaining program will be successful and will open the door for a series of after school programs (space providing) offered to all students, such as typing, chess club, movie making, etc. Both schools will meet to plan together so that there is equity between all of the classes. Parent volunteers will be necessary for its success. It should be noted that these classes are exploratory courses and not preparatory courses. They will be run like any after school program but funded by the parents. The courses will probably cost \$100 - \$125 per course. There will be 16 students per class. The classes will be offered twice per week, but each student can only take a class one time per week.

4. **Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School**

- Open Houses (Grades 2-3 and 4-6) – Room Reps collected new "Student Information Forms", an all in one form for permission to be in the directory, on the class list, and on the SCA and District e-mail distribution. Tables set up for SCA Membership, Family Theatre, Shelter Rock Spiritwear, Septa, Saturday Series, Tower Foundation, and Booster Club.
- A **Lunch/Recess meeting** was held October 8th, 2009. Lunch Aids were all in attendance, on their own time, to introduce themselves so we can work as a team.
- A **Character Education program** has begun with Maureen Florio. The name of this program is "The Social Emotional Connection".

- An interactive **Behavior Code assembly** took place with worksheets sent home to the families for discussion. This was a suggestion from the Shared Decision Making team.
- Directory forms are trickling in.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Volunteer Lunch/Recess Meeting: October 8
 - Photo Day: 10/13-14 (information going out shortly)
 - Fall Newsletter: submissions due on 10/16
 - Red Ribbon week: 10/19-10/23 (still looking for volunteers)
 - October PC Meeting – October 23 - Joint at Munsey Park
 - Halloween Party: Saturday, 10/31 - planning underway

Manhasset Middle School Teacher/Advisor Report – Lori Pellegrino

Ms. Pellegrino reported that the Middle School Yearbook can be ordered online this year with a variety of options including a name on the cover, etc at yearbookforever.com. If any student has already ordered, the order can be revised on the website. Ms. Pellegrino will return any checks already received. Deadline for ordering is March 2010.

Superintendent's Report (Charlie Cardillo)

1. H1N1

- There was a big surge of information at the start of school relating to H1N1. The school has been working with the Nassau County Commission of Health.
- The school will be used as a place to provide vaccinations to people in November or December. The town will be providing volunteers for this.
- H1N1 has been mild in nature thus far this year, contrary to expectations.
- Consequently, attendance at school is much better than anticipated, in the high 90% range.
- If attendance dips below 90%, the school will consider it to be extra activity related to sickness and possibly the H1N1 virus.

2. Litigation

- We have been outsourcing for four years with Huntington Coach.
- On October 22nd, there will be a special meeting with the board of education to address pending litigation and anticipated transportation vote.
- The litigation we are involved in relates to 40 employees let go when we started our contract with Huntington Coach. There is possible back pay requirements for these 40 employees (one person has settled).
- We are beginning the process of solving this problem and it is not an easy process.

3. Facilities

- We have received a great deal of generosity from many organizations
- There are 2 outstanding projects underway. 1st is the door maintenance. 2nd is the Munsey Park bus loop and lastly the Pit Area at the Secondary School in the summer of 2010.
- The girls varsity softball field project is almost funded by a private group. The cost is \$215,000.00 and they need approximately \$50,000.00 to complete.
- Most schools have full power in the event of a blackout. Shelter Rock will need a fully functioning generator at some point.

4. Budget Votes

- We are in for a rocking time in 2010 and 2011. We need to continue good relations with the parents.
- Pension contributions are volatile and will contribute to a 4% budget increase.
- The contingency budget will be at 0-1%.
- The meeting in February will address great hurdles to overcome for budget vote.
- Last year, the budget got 60% support, but it was the lowest budget increase in 25 – 30 years.

Board of Education SCA Liason Report – Pat Aiken

- On October 15th, the Board of Education will present the regents and AP results.
- On October 22nd, the Board of Education meeting will focus on the transportation proposition. A date will also be set at this meeting for transportation discussions.
- On November 5th, the Board of Education meeting will focus on Audited credentials and reserves.

PASE SCA Liason Report – Deborah Bowman and Renee McMahon

- PASE was founded in 1990 to address the needs of special education in Manhasset.
- PASE services include preschool children with disabilities, any student with and IEP and one of the thirteen classifications mandated under IDEA, any student with a 504 classification, and any student receiving services as part of RTI.
- The mission is to educate parents on new and proven therapies for a wide spectrum of disabilities, develop new and enhance existing district programs, and to raise funds to support programs and technology improvements.
- There will be an Annual Elementary School breakfast on October 15th. There will be a Barnes and Noble bookfair fundraiser from October 22nd – October 25th. There will be two after school pilot programs kicking off on October 19th. These programs include and Art Therapy program and a Friendship Club.

SEPTA SCA Liason Report – Lori Mann and Ann Marie Moschitta

- SEPTA is an organization that supports special needs children and gifted and talented children with programs for kids ranging from 3 years old to 21 years old.
- Several programs being focused on this year. These include five children's programs – 4 being offered through Saturday Series.
- There are six student school based programs being piloted. Two are in Munsey Park two are in Shelter Rock and 2 are in the secondary school.
- There will be science program for the 8th grade gifted program.
- There will be another movie night this year.
- There will be a winter social gathering with a psychic this year.
- SEPTA is appreciative of the active parents who provide many ideas. One parent suggested including preschool kids in the sensory program.
- For any further questions on SEPTA, please contact Lori Mann or Ann Marie Moschitta.

Committee Reports

1. Ways and Means Fall Luncheon – Katie Lane

- The invitation went out the 2nd week of October.

- They are asking for donation and help on the silent auction and raffles.
- They put a 'wish list' together and distributed via backpack express and posted it on the website.
- At the luncheon, there will be a calendar raffle and a 50/50 raffle.
- There will be a jazz vocal choir.
- They ask that the board talk up the luncheon and remind people that it is an important fund raiser for the SCA.

2. Community Education – Regina Rule and Marirose Merola

- The community education committee helps the community understand the issues around a budget vote.
- Their 1st meeting took place Friday, October 2nd.
- They are making a budget that is higher than the estimated budget (\$6,100.00 total). The additional funds are a result of needing funds to support two votes instead of one.

3. Enrichment – Laura Tranchina and Annie Vetrone (reported by Karen Blando)

- The Enrichment Committee is responsible for bringing in three enrichment program for each grade at Munsey Park and Shelter Rock.
- The committee uses input from teachers, the assistant principals and parent volunteers to select programs that support and enhance school curriculum.
- Programs that are selected can be author visits, musical performances, science themed programs, social themed programs, etc.
- All programs are continuously evaluated to ensure that we provide the children with unique, high level programs that are enjoyable while enriching the school year curriculum.
- This year the Enrichment Committee has twenty-one different programs coming to both schools; programs include an author visit from Gordon Korman for 6th grade, an environmental awareness program for 5th, a journey into Native Americans for 4th, a musical performance for 3rd, a bugs science program for 2nd, a Sing Me a Story program for 1st, and a performance of "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" for K.

4. Family Theatre – Kathie Panzone and Randi Berger (reported by Karen Blando)

- This year, the SCA Family Theatre will be featuring two shows. First, A Christmas Carol on Saturday, December 5th and 2nd, Charlotte's Web on Saturday, February 27th.
- Both shows will appear at Munsey Park School. Advance ticket sales for both shows are \$18 per person. Advance ticket sales for only one show are \$10 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the door on day of show for \$12 each. Advance Ticket Sale Drives took place at the three Open Houses at Shelter Rock and Munsey Park Schools in September and to date, we have generated \$860 in sales.
- Posters will be distributed around town and there will be mentions in the Manhasset Press and the weekly SCA newsletters. The advance ticket sale order forms will be

distributed in the children's back packs at both Shelter Rock and Munsey Park schools during the week of October 26th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kosciusko
SCA Executive Board Secretary