

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 13, 2009

**Meeting Opened at:** Call to Order 9:40 AM; End of Meeting 12:08 PM

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

## **SCA Executive President's Welcome and General Announcements - Karen Blando**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes – Kathleen Kosciusko**

- October 9, 2009 minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report – Jill McCarney**

- Membership is on target for this time of year.
- There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> membership mailing targeting those who did not join going out in the January or February timeframe.
- The Enrichment check was presented at the October 1, 2009 Board of Education meeting in the amount of \$27,000.
- The expenses are calculated for the middle school open house and picnic. The cost was approximately \$1,000.
- The middle school book fair purchased a banner to advertise the event. This is a banner that can be used in future years as well.
- The Halloween expenses came in slightly under budget.
- The audit fees are higher than budgeted; however, we are starting work with the accountant earlier in the year than in the past so our expenses will be lower in the future.
- The Educational Grants committee has distributed approximately \$9,000 thus far for Fall tuition payments.

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

The Lord and Taylor and Macy's benefit was a success. Champions for Charity is one of our largest fundraisers of the year. By registering online and shopping at the Americana and Wheatley Plaza, you can help raise thousands of dollars for our children. The Americana will donate 25% of your pre-tax purchase to the SCA.

Please go to [ChampionsforCharity.org](http://ChampionsforCharity.org) and select the Manhasset SCA as your charity of choice. When registering, you can also reserve your spot for a free breakfast at Cipollini. Sign up is limited due to space constraints so register early.

The Americana will mail your Champion card and you must present it when shopping. Americana gift cards are also a great idea, we receive 10% back if you choose that option. If you have lunch or dinner at Toku or Cipollini that too will count as a donation.

Shopping begins on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs through Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. You can also register online or by calling the Americana at 627.2277.

## **President's Reports**

### **1. Jeanine Toes – High School**

- Funds raised at Homecoming 2009 amounted to \$9130.00. As determined by the Student Council two-thirds of the money was deposited into the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade Frolic accounts (\$1521.50 each). The remaining money (\$3066) was donated to Duke-Wiser for an educational program in Kenya.
- The Senior Banquet took place Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The event was chaired by Pam Iskyan and Michelle McGann with great success. Over 350 people attended including students, parents, administrators and teachers. The teachers did a skit that was wonderful and the banquet raised profits of over \$25,000.
- The school is requesting anyone attending the upcoming play, "Thoroughly Modern Millie" bring in non-perishable food. The play is being put on by the high school starting November 19<sup>th</sup> and ending November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> grade is having a food drive for Island Harvest next week.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> grade has voted to determine the location of the Sophomore Dance. It could be held off-site without dates or on-site with dates. The vote supported (overwhelmingly) to continue having it on-site in the school cafeteria. The up-one/down-one will continue to apply. The students will discuss with Mr. Sippin and class advisor, Mr. Keen, some options for a change of format for the dance. Some suggestions have been to forgo the corsages and follow the highly successful Middle School Halloween party format.
- The prototype for the directory has been completed. The directory will be completed shortly.
- The SCA luncheon will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> at North Hills Country Club.
- Parent Teacher conferences will take place December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Penny Wars is coming up and all grades will participate.
- There will be a Booster Club hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The school is starting an Alumnae showcase in the hallway. It will highlight different alumnae.
- NOTE TO PARENTS: The Frosh is on the district calendar on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is actually scheduled to take place January 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The First Friday Night Live was held October 16<sup>th</sup> and was a big success, raising over \$500 for MWCABC in a 4x4 volleyball tournament. There were 150 students (20 teams) and teachers who participated. The SCA is appreciative of Dean Schlanger and all of the other teachers who joined in the fun.
- Dave Marcus recently spoke at the joint Middle School/High School parent council meeting. If anyone missed the discussion and is interested in hearing him speak, he will be at the Munsey Park Library on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- The Middle School Halloween Party was terrific. There was a new floor plan implemented. The SCA would like to thank Carol Ann Ronbeck for all of her efforts.

- The Secondary School Book Fair took place. We had some hurdles this year, but the book fair continues to be the best avenue for getting books into the kid's hands. There was a 20% decrease in sales this year potentially because we depended on the highlights for advertising. Next year we want to advertise in backpack express. We also want to allow the kids more flexibility in attending the fair. There was a gross profit of \$6,200 generated at the school and another \$1,400 generated at Barnes and Noble. However, we only qualify for a 15% profit, not 20% as in years past.
- Friday Night Live is taking place tonight, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-9:30 PM.
- Student Directory is going to print. One per family will be sent in the mail. The SCA thanks Diana Stefan and Clare Clarke for their efforts.
- The Middle School and High School joint Parent Council meeting is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. It will include an auditorium presentation and a musical excerpt from "Thoroughly Modern Millie". Tickets to this show are available on-line.
- The Holiday Gift Giving letter went out. On-line responses were due by November 10<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Currie is the contact for the Middle School.
- The Champions for Charity event is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please register on-line and specify the Manhasset SCA as your charity of choice. Then shop at the Americana or Wheatley Plaza on these dates. This is a large fundraiser for the SCA.
- The Middle School Holiday Dance is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a guidance presentation "Testing 101" on December 1<sup>st</sup>, which will be very valuable for parents of 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
- On-line registration for the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Parent Teacher Conferences starts November 18<sup>th</sup>. There is an informational letter on the school website and in the SCA Highlights.
- The Middle School Holiday Concerts are scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> (part 1 and part 11, respectively).
- As a suggestion from the Shared Decision Making team, "Pride of the Tribe" will be implemented. With this program, four students per quarter will be recognized for the following "PRIDE" qualities (Patience, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, and Empathy).
- "A Christmas Carol" will be performed on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Eighth graders will receive extra credit in English for attending. In addition to this, the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade will see the live performance on a field trip November 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

- \*The Halloween party was a huge success. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders experienced the "CarnEvil" theme as they danced, played games and entered the Haunted Maze. Thanks to Tammy Kelly and Joan Berger and their committee who made the night so successful.
- \*October's joint SCA meeting took place at Munsey Park during Red Ribbon Week. CASA presented with tips on how to manage today's chaotic lifestyle.
- \*Red Ribbon Week took place with assembly programs for the students focusing on making good decisions.

- \*November's joint SCA meeting took place at Munsey Park. A representative from Scott Foresman/Pearson gave a presentation on the district's new reading program for Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
- \*There is another Parent Council meeting scheduled for November 17<sup>th</sup>. The Community Education committee will be speaking about the vote.
- \*The Holiday Gift Program is underway at all of the schools. This program is going well with donations to date matching the needs.
- \*We began collecting donations for our Emergency Preparedness Committee to create 61 safety backpacks for each class. They will include enough water for the class, a flashlight with batteries, and a package of band-aids. They will be used in the event that the students have to remain in their room for an extended period of time or that they have to evacuate.
- \*The registration for the Extended Extras pilot program in world languages is complete. Now the committee will place students accordingly. Classes will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at Munsey Park. We conducted a survey to get a sense of the interest level and created classes based on that survey. Since the survey, the interest has grown substantially. Sixth graders will receive first priority. Based on the survey, we will be offering Spanish, French and Italian.
- Our Technology Committee has begun its work capturing the children in photos for archiving by class. They have met with Sean Adcroft and Debbie Cernuto (our computer specialist) to test out our equipment and review the appropriate guidelines for filming productions in the school. The SCA purchased media equipment last year in order for the children to be able to use cameras and camcorders in the classroom for educational purposes. These will be utilized as well.
- Directories for Munsey Park are complete and will be distributed next week.

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

- See Munsey Park Bullet Points Marked with a \*.
- While the language program is being offered at Shelter Rock as well, French will not be offered. There was not enough interest for the language based on the survey.
- Directories for Shelter Rock are almost complete.
- Shelter Rock is having a Box Top Drive which raises about \$400 per year and raises school spirit.

### **Principal's Reports**

#### **1. Dean Schlanger**

- The Halloween Party was unbelievable – a huge success. Thanks to all involved.
- Parent / Teacher conference sign-ups will be on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. This includes all six grades.
- Report Cards are going out by Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. This year honor roll will be noted on all report cards. In the high school, High Honor Roll (3.5 or Greater GPA) and Honor Roll (3.00 – 3.499) will be noted. In the middle school, the notations will be made as Gold (3.7 or greater GPA), Silver (3.5-3.699) or Bronze (3.3 – 3.499). All of the above listed categories are for unweighted GPAs.

- The school will contact St. Mary's to determine if it is possible to move the confirmation retreat days to non-school days.

### **Superintendent's Report (Charlie Cardillo)**

#### **1. Proposition Vote – Reported by Bill Shine**

- The vote is to take place December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The board is currently in negotiations with MESPA regarding two points. First, back pay for terminated employees and second comparable work for terminated employees.
- The board cannot tell us at this time how much money will accrue from comparable work. It involves a workforce of 39 employees.
- The Board of Education will have to pay for all employees comparable work if proposition does not pass. However, it is still less expensive to pay the full workforce comparable work and outsource the buses than to purchase the buses.
- Negotiations on comparable work are taking place and the board is looking at buying out the contracts, etc.
- Shortly there will be a question and answer in the Manhasset Press relating to the voting topics.
- The current vote does not impact back pay.
- Back pay will not affect the school budget directly.
- If proposition passes, the Huntington Coach outsourcing contract will be maintained.

#### **2. Facilities**

- The doors were replaced in the building. The old doors are still on-sight and may be kept in case they are needed in the future.
- We are installing the bleachers now in the high school and we will begin installing them in the middle school next week. All of the bleachers should be installed on-time for winter sports.
- There are new solar panels at the secondary schools. These were donated by a company and payment will come in the form of the savings generated by the panels.

#### **3. H1N1**

- The attendance in the schools is still good. We are at about 95%-97% attending.
- Munsey Park at one point dipped to about 91.35% attendance in the lower grades.
- The nurses are on top of attendance and providing valuable data to find out what is causing any absences.
- The secondary school will be a sight for the H1N1 vaccination program. Details will follow shortly.

### **Board of Education SCA Liaison Report – Pat Aiken**

- The next couple of board meetings will focus on the upcoming budget vote. Please vote on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Committee Reports**

### **1. Community Education – Regina Rule and Marirose Merola**

- There are two handouts currently in circulation. One helps people to understand the vote. The second flyer shows the language that will be used at the voting polls.
- There is a way to register to vote in the school votes in the secondary school office.
- The last day to register to vote is December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **2. Nominating – Mary Kay Connors and Tammy Kelly**

- Need all presidents to submit names for the nominating committee.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> nominating committee meeting is in January, so we will need the committee identified in December.
- The positions needed to be filled this year include a Munsey Park President, a Middle School President and the Executive Treasurer.
- For submissions, please contact Mary Kay Connors at ([kconn363@optonline.net](mailto:kconn363@optonline.net)) or Tammy Kelly ([T2Kelly@optonline.net](mailto:T2Kelly@optonline.net))

### **3. Planet Manhasset – Peggy Markham**

- The Planet Manhasset is a newly elected SCA committee.
- Planet Manhasset has a Green Gear subcommittee which sells snack bags and water bottles, which were sold at Open House as a Fundraiser. They will also sell at the SCA Fair
- They have a Simple Green subcommittee which publishes a newsletter and posts it on the SCA website. The newsletter contains going green tips.
- They have an Earth Friendly subcommittee which works with the school board to implement programs such as the no idling policy.
- Recently, they formed a Middle and High School Student Green Club. There are about 30 students in the club so far.
- In December the group will be supporting the Christmas tree recycling program. It will be held January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 12 at the Congregational Church.
- They will host a viewing of "The Inconvenient Truth" for students.
- The group will be having an assembly in the Middle School to discuss the harmful effects of plastic.
- They have purchased and set up some recycle bins and will do the same on some of the sports fields in Manhasset.
- The group will participate in an Earth Day Project to raise awareness about environmental topics. All schools will participate in the same capacity.
- Planet Manhasset is revitalizing a green house that already exists at the high school. They are encouraging students to maintain the green house and start a victory garden there.
- The group is discussing the use of the classroom Smartboards to promote earth friendly messages when not in use.

### **4. Health and Wellness Report – Donna Terjesen and Susan Urban**

- The Health and Wellness group had a newsletter that went out at the beginning of the school year. The next newsletter will include a disclaimer stating that the information presented are only suggestions and that each family should follow health and wellness guidelines that work for their family.

- The group is still determining when the next newsletter will be distributed.
- The group is discussing the possibility of purchasing “healthy food” artwork for the school cafeterias. They are still determining cost and placement.
- Guest speakers focusing on healthy food choices are being looked at. They want to have a doctor or a nutritionist speak. Details on progress are to follow shortly.
- Food sales across the schools are up.
- The middle school had a food suggestion box for feedback which will be implemented shortly.
- In March they will implement a program for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, encouraging all to exercise for one hour per day.
- In May there will be a Fitness Week. It will focus on health and fitness.

**5. Shared Decision Making – Ellen Duran (as reported by Executive President, Karen Blando).**

- The SDM team met October 16<sup>th</sup> and held a training session in the library.
- Topics submitted to address this year included Homework, Cultural Events, Anti-Bullying, etc.
- The minutes from the meeting are posted on the manhassetca.org website.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kathleen Kosciusko  
SCA Executive Board Secretary