

Shelter Rock School, Manhasset, NY
SCA Parent Council Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009

Mary Jane Reilly, Shelter Rock SCA President, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and spoke briefly about the Ambassador Program, Hero's Week, and the newly implemented Foreign Language Exploratory Program for 5th and 6th graders, which is need of parent volunteers.

Sari Kulka, Shelter Rock SCA Vice President, spoke about the ongoing volunteer initiative, highlighting the following volunteer needs:

- a. Saturday Series Chair needed
- b. Family Theatre volunteers needed
- c. Community Service volunteers needed

Mary Jane Reilly then introduced the Shelter Rock SCA Executive Committee, Grade Level Chairs and Committee Chairs. The following Chairs spoke:

Christine Monterosso, Community Education Committee Liaison, spoke about distributing the voter registration forms.

Melinda Smotkin, Halloween Co-Chair, announced the date of the Halloween Party (10/31) and stressed that parent volunteers are still needed.

Katie Lane, SCA Luncheon Co-Chair, announced the date of the luncheon (11/18) and stressed the need for volunteers, especially for a Silent Auction Chair.

Zari Ginsburg, Health and Wellness Chair, reported that an activity room has been established for use at recess (in lieu of the hallways) and stressed that Lunch Duty volunteers play an interactive role with students at recess. She reminded parents to send in sweatshirts in cooler weather and to avoid flip flops on the playground. She also suggested parents send in a healthy alternative in addition to treats on their children's birthdays.

Joanne Giardinelli, Red Ribbon Week Co-Chair, announced that October 19th is the start of Red Ribbon Week (this year's theme is "Drug Free is the Key") and then spoke about what it represents and what would be going on during the week.

Ellen Albrechtsen, Shared Decision Making Committee, announced the committee is still seeking one additional parent volunteer and then highlighted some of the committee's recent ideas which have been implemented such as Hero's Week, the Ambassador Program, and the School Behavior Code.

Terry MacGown, Sixth Grade Yearbook Co-Chair, announced that 6th grade parents would receive a notice about their upcoming photo contributions to the yearbook.

Simone Klein, Spirit Fundraiser Co-Chair, reminded everyone to keep supporting the SCA by ordering spirit wear.

Rebeca Johnston, Volunteer Lunch Room Coordinators Co-Chair, announced that on Oct. 8th at 9 a.m. there would be a sign up meeting for lunch duty (grades k-4).

Mary Jane Reilly informed everyone there would be website blasts every Sunday night from the SCA and that there was a goal to manage email distribution from room representatives into one comprehensive email a week.

Sari Kulka asked that all Parent Council Members check that their information is correct on the Parent Council List before leaving the meeting.

Mr. Geczik then welcomed everyone on behalf of himself and Mrs. Williams. He gave the following updates:

A. H1N1 Virus Update

Higher absence rates are expected this flu season and the following protocols have been put into place in an effort to contain the spread of the virus:

1. Student education which involves hand washing and coughing protocols.
2. Additional cleaning which includes both sanitizing lunch tables after every lunch session and sanitizing student desks nightly. A fresh paper towel for each surface is being used. This may be discontinued after flu season due to time constraints.
3. Provision by the District of antibacterial soaps and sanitizers. It was stressed that products supplied by the district are eco-friendly and non-alcohol based.

Nurse Pat Galloway discussed the following:

1. Attendance is currently at 99% with no reported cases of the H1N1 Virus.
2. The school will not be giving out vaccinations.
3. Parents are requested to be specific about reporting symptoms when calling the absence line as the Nurse's office identifies illness clusters for State and Department of Health reporting purposes.
4. It was emphasized that if a student demonstrates flu like symptoms during school, the school will isolate that child and parents must be available to pick up their child or authorize someone to do so. Student may return to school 24 hours after being fever free without using a fever reducing medication.

One parent asked whether there had been any discussion about mandating teachers to be vaccinated and the answer was no.

Another parent asked whether Nurse Galloway had heard that the H1N1 flu vaccine was not going to be given to individuals and the answer was no.

B. Staff changes

Staff changes were reported and one new teacher present at the meeting, Mr. Sean Miller, Special Education, was introduced.

C. Co-Teaching Model

1. It was announced there would be another parent meeting planned on this topic in a few weeks that would have more specific information.
2. In a range of services provided to students classified with a disability the Co-Teaching model involves a classroom being staffed by both a regular education teacher and a special education teacher or teacher assistant.
3. The model currently exists in grades k, 1, and 2 with plans to possibly advance it to grades 3 and 4 next year.
4. There are typically 6 classified students in a co-teaching classroom and 2 co-teaching classes on every participating grade level.
5. Children may still be pulled out for services and other aides may still be in the classroom.
6. There is a recognized benefit for all the children in having two teachers in the classroom.

One parent asked how full the kindergarten afternoon classes would be in a co-teaching classroom because classified kindergartens stay full day. Mr. Geczik said he would look into it and reminded everyone that there were two teachers to handle the students.

D. Current enrollment numbers (numbers available at the Main Office)

E. Construction and Building Maintenance Update

1. 4 student bathrooms renovated
2. Floor tile in 7 classrooms replaced
3. Library/Media Center redesigned
4. Installation of 9 SmartBoards

F. Instructional Program Update

1. All but 7 rooms now have SMARTBoards.
2. An after school enrichment program has been implemented for grades 5 and 6 which replaces the Gifted and Talented program. There will be three 10 week sessions which approximately 20 students will attend. Student population may vary from session to session.
3. Grade 6 math instruction is now geared to a student's ability.
4. A Reading Street reading program, about which there will be a meeting on November 4th, is in place for grades 1, 2, and 3. The primary literacy program in kindergarten is Foundations and is supplemented by Reading Street.

G. Administrative Issues

1. Parents were reminded to stop for school buses that are unloading/loading children in the school parking lot.
2. Parents were encouraged to leave normal dismissal protocols in place during inclement weather for the sake of the children's safety.

Mr. Geczik concluded meeting with a reminder that both he and Mrs. Williams prefer to be contacted by telephone. Parents were informed that any emails they send to the school are saved by the School District and as such, become part of the permanent record.

Parent question/ concerns expressed at the end of the meeting:

- Have the school emphasize using a sanitizer before lunch for those classes which go to recess before lunch.
- Encourage Lunch Duty volunteers to both emphasize hand washing/sanitizing to the students prior to eating and help with table sanitation after lunch.
- The issue of problems with bullying came up and this was acknowledged as a very important issue and will be addressed in more detail in a future meeting.
- The question of how much teacher preparation there was of the new reading program came up. The teachers have had a lot of training and they spent the first two weeks of school assessing the students which is part of the program.

SHELTER ROCK SCHOOL MANHASSET, NY 11030

SCA Meeting – Principal's Report September 24, 2009

Introduction of New Staff

- Mr. Sean Miller – Special Education
- Mrs. Agatha Gliksman – Part Time Art

Staff Changes

- Miss Kathryn O'Connell – Grade 1 to Kindergarten
- Ms. Christine Chiu – Kindergarten to Grade 1
- Mrs. Joyce Rappaport – Grade 6 to Grade 4

Enrollment

• SC K&1	1 section	9 students	(12:1:3)
• SC 2	1 section	9 students	(12:1:2)
• SC 3 & 4	1 section	5 students	(12:1:2)
• Kdg.	5 sections	98 students	
• Grade 1	5 sections	94 students	
• Grade 2	5 sections	108 students	
• Grade 3	5 sections	94 students	
• Grade 4	5 sections	117 students	
• Grade 5	5 sections	121 students	
• Grade 6	5 sections	120 students	
• TOTAL	38 SECTS	775 STUDENTS	

Construction and Building Maintenance Update

- Renovation of 4 student bathrooms (Grade 5 and Grade 2)
- Replacement of carpeting with floor tile in 7 classrooms
- Redesign of Library/Media Center

Instructional Program Update

- SMARTBoards
- After school enrichment program (Grades 5 & 6)
- Grade 6 math instruction
- Co-teaching classes (Grades K, 1 and 2)
- Reading Street reading program (Grades K, 1, 2 and 3)

Administrative

- Arrival Procedures
 - School busses
- Dismissal Procedures
 - Inclement weather
 - Parent pick-up
 - Changing afternoon bus routes
- Contacting Mrs. Williams and Mr. Geczik