

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** November 12, 2010

**Meeting Opened at:** Call to Order 9:34 AM; End of Meeting 11:05 AM

**Officers Present:** Karen Blando, Diane Gershkowitz, Jeanine Toes, Laura Tranchina, Mary Jane Reilly, Tricia Cash, Peggy Gajdjis, Kathleen Kosciusko

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

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

- Membership Dues are down this year over last year. So far this year, we have deposited about \$26,000 in membership dues. This is about a 25% decrease since last year. One suggestion made to boost membership was to change the membership letter to be more concise. Another was to have a membership table at parent/teacher conferences. Other potential solutions included, better discussion points at the open houses and making the directory a member only item.
- Prior to the end of the year, the executive board will vote to determine if a dues increase will take place next year.

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

- October 15, 2010 minutes were approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis**

- All presidents should review the new report format and provide any feedback on if the new reports are providing helpful information.
- Photo days did quite well this year. The SCA estimated a \$3,000 profit for the secondary schools and actual profits came in around \$5,000.
- A reminder to get all receipts from all committee events in as soon as possible once completed.

#### **Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz**

- The Americana Champions for Charity fundraiser raised about \$11,000 for the SCA last year. This year, the fundraiser will take place December 2 – December 4. This is an event where 25% of all sales are given back to the SCA. All Americana Manhasset and Wheatley Plaza stores and restaurants participate in the event.
- Project Share needs extra large coats. There are about 100 children in need of coats and Clean Concepts on the corner of Northern Blvd and Plandome Road has offered to wash or dry clean all coats free of charge.
- The Executive Board voted to approve student assistance for nine High School students to attend the Senior Banquet at cost of \$45 per student (totaling \$405).

## **President's Reports**

### **1. Jeanine Toes – High School**

- Homecoming was October 30. There was a parade, the football game and the dance. Over 500 students attended this SCA event, which was chaired by Jeannette Reilly. Sixty-six percent of the proceeds from the dance will be divided among the 4 classes, and thirty-four percent is donated to charity, as determined by the class officers.
- The wrought iron benches were installed by the arches. This was a gift from the SCA and Frolic Class of 2010.
- The Class of 2011 Senior Banquet was held on Wednesday, November 3 at Leonard's of Great Neck. This event was attended by 420 students, parents, staff and administration, and is the largest fundraiser for the annual Senior Frolic. The keynote speakers for the event were Noel Gish, Kim Cerqua and superlatives presenter, Pat McDonough, who helped make the night extra special for the students.
- November 18 – 21, is the high school play, "Into the Woods".
- November 30 will be a guidance presentation on standardized testing at 7:30 PM.

### **2. Laura Tranchina – Middle School**

- The first Friday Night Live was held on Friday, October 15 and was a success.
- Isabel Burk, Director of the Health Network, spoke at the Parent Council Meeting in October. She gave a very informative discussion on the effects of alcohol and drugs on the teen brain. Thank you to CASA for sponsoring this speaker for Red Ribbon week.
- Spirit Day took place on Friday, October 29. The children had a lot of fun participating in a pep rally and wearing their new Spirit Day t-shirts.
- The Halloween party was fantastic. Over 450 children attended and were treated to a haunted maze, music, games, pizza, candy, baked treats and a lot of fun. Thank you to Carol Ann Ronbeck, Lisa Middleton and Linda Gurino for their tremendous effort in making this party a huge success.
- The secondary school directory has been printed and will be mailed shortly.
- The second Friday Night Live will take place tonight, November 12 from 7:30 – 9:30 PM. There will be various gym activities for the students to participate in. We are hopeful that this will boost participation in the event.
- SCA Speakers Bureau will be presenting Rachel's Challenge to the middle school students on Thursday, November 18.
- Online registration for parent/teacher conferences starts Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 PM. The school will be using a new online tool, Teacher Reacher. It is recommended that parents create an account prior to sign-up opening. Detailed instructions can be found on the first page of the district website. Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday, December 7.
- A MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting will take place on Friday, November 19. There will be a Mathematics Curriculum presentation given by Ray Scacalossi, District Coordinator.
- Champions for Charity days are Thursday, December 2 – Saturday, December 4. By selecting Manhasset SCA as your charity of choice, 25% of your pre-tax purchases

from the Americana will be donated to the Manhasset SCA. Register your card at [www.championsforcharity.org](http://www.championsforcharity.org).

- The Holiday Dinner Dance is on Friday, December 3, 7:30 – 9:30 PM. The suggested admission is a donation of three cans of food which will be given to Coach Bob Rule's and Frank Bice's Neil's Wheels Program. Through this program, food will be donated to six homeless shelters in the Huntington Station area.
- The Holiday Orchestra and 7th Grade Choir Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 14 (please note the date change) and the Holiday Concert Band and 8th Grade Choir Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 15.
- The Middle School production of "A Wizard of Oz" will take place on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18 at 7:30 PM.

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

- Red Ribbon Week was held last month. The building was decorated in red ribbons and heart balloons for all to see as they drove down Shelter Rock Road, and the children had age appropriate programming during the week. The two parent programs were well attended and greatly received. Many thanks to the Shelter Rock chairs, Erica Kinloch and Patrice Leone.
- Halloween was an exciting time all over Manhasset, and at Shelter Rock it is a particularly interesting place as Mr. Geczik and Mrs. Williams hold a contest each year to let the children decide what the two of them will wear that day. A fourth grade student came up with this year's theme: Peace and Quiet. Mrs. Williams dressed as Peace, in a hippie outfit, and Mr. Geczik dressed as Quiet, as a mime. The fifth and sixth grade Halloween Party was great fun thanks to co-chairs Melinda Smotkin and Ruth Brown and their many volunteers who decorated and ran the many components to this evening.
- The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind gave a presentation to our grade 2 students on Wednesday November 3rd. There were two presenters; one currently training a puppy that will eventually be in service for the visually impaired. The second presenter will bring her service dog and discuss with the children all the ways in which her dog helps her in her daily activities.
- The sixth grade students read Marcia Byalicks' book, "Quit It", as a reading and writing project this past summer. This insightful book will now be the springboard for our first ever writer-in-residency program at Shelter Rock. The author will make several all day visits to our team 6 classes throughout the school year.
- This week Brian Heinz will be conducting individual fourth grade classroom writing workshops, and more in-depth, personalized study. In September he presented his program, "From Writer to Reader" to the entire grade in the auditorium.
- In the first grade, Heather Forest is coming next week to perform her unique minstrel style of storytelling, a blend of original music, folk guitar, poetry, prose, and the sung and unspoken word.
- In the fifth grade, Rusty Johnson, Wildlife Explorer, will present his show "Twilight of the Wild" on November 22. He will be speaking about "Birds of Prey" which will enhance the "Birds of Prey" unit that they have been researching since the beginning of the year.

- Last week there was a retirement party for the seven retirees of last June. Since they took the retirement package there was not the traditional retirement tea for these teachers, instead there was a recognition ceremony from the Board. Cindy Cardinal presented the retirees with a gift, and Mr. Geczik and Mrs. Williams spoke beautifully about each retiree, and the evening ended with an entertaining slideshow. What made the evening so special was the attendance of students and parents who came out on a rainy evening to honor their former teachers. It was a very touching night, one that made everyone proud to be part of a special community.
- The Shelter Rock Parent Council meeting is on Thursday, November 18th at 9:15 AM, to be held in a classroom so that we can utilize the Smart Board. Mrs. Rowland, Shelter Rock Library Media Specialist, and Ms. Merolesi, Shelter Rock Computer Specialist, will help parents keep their children safe on-line through the introduction of NetSmartz, an interactive internet safety program used in both Shelter Rock and Munsey Park Elementary Schools.
- Photo Re-take day is November 18, 2010.
- Parent/teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, November 17th and Tuesday, December 7th.
- Shelter Rock is hosting its first Kidz Holiday Gift Bazaar from Monday, November 29 - Wednesday, December 1. This is an opportunity for children to shop with their class for inexpensive gifts (ranging in price from \$1 to \$5) for the special people in their lives. The bazaar will be held in the Recess Room and will be run by parent volunteers. This is not a fundraiser. It is a service for our students. The Kidz Holiday Gift Bazaar is designed to be a safe, child-focused environment where children can learn how to budget and spend wisely, while they also experience the "Joy of Giving". Thanks to Valerie Carillo, who came up with the idea to hold this program, Nancy Schlaefer, Maria Brunetti and Sari Kulka, who are the co-chairs of this committee.

#### **4. Tricia Cash – Munsey Park**

- Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. A big thanks goes to Rosa Stein, Peggy Gajdjis and Sylvia Medzhibovsky.
- The Halloween party was enjoyed by the 5th and 6th graders. Thank you to Tammy Kelly and Joan Berger as well as the 5th grade chairs, Sara Beresheim and Maria Aliprantis.
- The Enrichment Committee had author, Brian Heinz come to the 4th grade classes on November 9 and 10. Heather Forest will come on Tuesday, November 16, 2010 for grade 1. Rusty Johnson will come on Monday, November 22, 2010 for grade 5. (See Shelter Rock bullet points for more details on these enrichment presentations.)
- The Parent Council meeting for Munsey Park will be on Tuesday, November 16 at 9:30 AM. The Presenters will be Deborah Cernuto and Kathleen Olwy. The topic that will be presented is Cyber bullying.
- Photo re-take day is November 19, 2010.
- Parent/teacher conferences will take place on Wednesday, November 17 and Tuesday, December 7.
- Ronnie Brooks has retired and will be honored before the Board of Education Meeting on January 6, 2011 at 7pm in the library. Ronnie Brooks was not only a dedicated

teacher but also served as the Manhasset SCA Executive President. Please come to honor this great woman whose life has been dedicated to the Manhasset School district.

### **Principal's Reports**

#### **Secondary School – presented by Mark Sippin and Peter Vercessi**

- The high school student senate is having a food drive for Island Harvest.
- The high school musical "Into the Woods" is the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> in the new auditorium.
- The Poetry Coffee House (an open microphone event) where students and staff perform is taking place.
- On November 24<sup>th</sup>, there will be an early dismissal drill and all students (in all schools).
- All charitable proceeds from the high school homecoming dance will support Monster Kids. This is an organization associated with LIJ Children's Hospital.
- The school report cards for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grading period will be sent out today, November 12<sup>th</sup> and should arrive at homes early next week.
- Parent/teacher conferences are taking place December 7<sup>th</sup>. The on-line process to secure time with the teachers is up and running. The school is asking all parents to only request a parent/teacher conference if it is really necessary as there is not enough slots to have each parent have one with every teacher.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to see "A Christmas Carol" is next Friday. The cost of the trip is \$25.00. The school will explore the option of doing the play in house next year through Theatreworks. This would cut down on the cost per student.
- Rachael's Challenge will be coming to the Middle School next week.

#### **Superintendent Report – Charles Cardillo (Reported by Cindy Cardinal)**

- The school is currently working on the parent portal to present progress reports.
- We are in the process of reviewing the code of conduct as it relates to bullying, cyber-bullying and sexting and other prohibitive student conduct.
- We are in the process of analyzing the safety of the secondary school grounds to determine if we can get a crossing guard at the school.
- The board recognition for the Shelter Rock retiring teachers was fantastic.
- In regards to Race to the Top, the program is really focused on providing monies to underperforming schools. While the state did receive a government grant, Manhasset will not be submitting an application to receive monies from the program. The benefit of the small amount of funds we may receive would not justify the cost of submission.

**Executive Committees – Nominating – Lisa Chieco and Mary Beth Accurso**

- The nominating committee requested chairpersons from each school to be identified as soon as possible.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kathleen Kosciusko  
SCA Executive Board Secretary