



Manhasset Secondary School SCA Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, September 24, 2010

Title of Meeting: MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting

Location: Secondary School, Black Box Theatre

Welcome and Opening of Meeting

Jeanine Toes, High School SCA President, introduced herself and welcomed meeting attendees. Introductions were made for Laura Tranchina, Middle School President, June Sutter, High School Vice President and Cris-Ann Frisone, Middle School Vice President. Thanks were given to Hospitality Committee Chairs for providing meeting refreshments.

Guidance Update

Jane Grappone, Director of Guidance, announced that 7th grade orientation went smoothly. Panel discussions were held with the teams. Counselors had a prior articulation meeting with 6th grade. Pull-in topics such as bullying and study skills will be included. Home and Career classes are the venue for these topics. Bullying packets were distributed, issues identified and concerns to be addressed. The 8th grade is uneventful and moving along. Counselors are currently meeting with senior students. An electronic system is in place so documents can be sent from our school to colleges. Thirty teachers have sent electronic letters of recommendation. High School schedule changes are done. Tuesday, September 28, 2010, is 9th grade Parent Night. At the end of the first quarter, 10th grade students will have career planning during health classes.

Principals' Report

Dr. Dean Schlanger, Principal, Secondary School welcomed all to the 2010-2011 school year. This year had an outstanding start. Open Houses went well. Building improvements were briefly discussed. Teacher retirements were recapped and a synopsis was given on each of the new 21 teachers utilizing a slide show format. He advised that feedback is always welcomed, good as well as constructive.

Mark Sippin, Assistant Principal, discussed senior parking. Total of fifteen spaces, fourteen have been assigned and one parking space to be raffled at the Homecoming Dance. Driver's Education is conducted by Bell Auto School. Lectures in morning and driving sessions held in the afternoon. All school clubs are listed in the lobby and on the



website. New students invited to join. Advisors are currently meeting with class government regarding the Homecoming in October.

Peter Vercessi, Assistant Principal, discussed the 7th grade opening assembly. This assembly covered topics such as discipline, attendance issues and the encouragement of good behavior. Parents are asked to stress “Doing the Right Thing” with their children. Mr. Vercessi asked parents to contact the Middle School Office if they need to communicate with their children during school hours. Please note: Cell phones are not permitted during school hours. The Welcome Back Dance ticket price will be \$10. The proceeds will offset the cost for Spirit Day tee shirts. Spirit Day will be held on Friday, October 29, 2010, with an abbreviated class schedule. In the afternoon, Middle School students will be distributed tee shirts and participate in school spirit games and activities. In November, the 8th grade students will have a field trip to see *A Christmas Carol* in Port Jefferson. The cost for this trip is \$25. Mr. Vercessi also discussed the issue of limited building space. There are currently 1,451 students enrolled in the Secondary School. Next year’s projection is currently over 1,500 with over 300 new 7th graders anticipated. The cafeteria is over crowded especially 5th period. An additional Middle School lunch period will be necessary for next year. This matter will be discussed at a Shared Decision Making Team meeting.

Summer Studies Awards Program

The summer studies program has been sponsored by the SCA for over 35 years to rising seniors. Christine Meyer discussed the application and selection process for receiving a Summer Studies Award. This year 41 applications were received and 13 awards given in the aggregate amount of \$13,000. Three recipients spoke about their individual summer studies which included an acting program, a European history course at Cambridge University and a nutrition program at Penn State. All recipients were grateful for the educational learning experience afforded to them by the SCA.

Board of Education

Pat Aiken, Board of Education, spoke to invite all parents to attend Board of Education meetings. These meetings are not only related to district business, but often have important and interesting curriculum presentations. Parents are encouraged to attend. Upcoming meetings are as follows:

- Oct 7 – Facilities updates (meeting location - EOC Building)
- Oct 14 – Presentation of assessment data analysis for all standardized tests
(meeting location - Secondary School)
- Oct 21 - ELA Curriculum Presentation (meeting location – Black Box Theater)
- Nov 4 – Annual Finance Presentation (meeting location – Shelter Rock)



Nov 18 – Math Curriculum Presentation (meeting location – Munsey Park)

Dec 2 – Social Studies Curriculum Presentation

The Board of Education concluded by encouraging parents to give their thoughts and comments.

Update on School Renovations

Dr Anthony Ambrogio, Administrator for the Arts & Human Resources proudly introduced the new HS Orchestra Director and MS Orchestra teacher. He also highly praised the new MS Band teacher who was not present. Tremendous renovations are under way for the auditorium to be restored to its classic American Neo-Gothic state-of-good repair. Renovations include arch painted to look like limestone, new red stage curtains, restoration of wood panel and grates in front of stage, new upholstery for chairs, painting of walls, faux gold leafing over stage, wood panels tongue oiled and new carpet. Sincere gratitude was expressed to the SCA for subsidizing over \$50,000 for the seat upholstery portion of the renovation.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Charles Cardillo spoke about the opportunities that are available for our children. The district brought in new teachers that are children centered and yet they can meet the academic challenges for all of our children. Manhasset's ELA and Math scores (7th & 8th grade) are the top in Nassau County. Last year's Class of 2009, had 70% of the class achieved a 3 or greater on AP Exams. This year grades 5 & 6 have a more challenging math program. Mr. Cardillo briefly discussed facility improvements including a fund raising event for three additional tennis courts and the use of grant money. He spoke about the bus move and the need to move the administrative offices.

SCA Business

Jeanine Toes encouraged parents to join the SCA. Membership envelopes are available on the front table. She informed parents that the MS/HS directory is almost ready to go to print. She requested that parents who haven't already filled out forms to please do so. Parents were reminded and encouraged to support the Shop Smart, do good! Fundraising shopping event to be held on October 5, 2010, at Lord & Taylor. Coupon books are being sold at \$5 each. Laura Tranchina announced that the Health & Wellness Committee needs volunteers. She also mentioned Arts for the Cure and that proceeds are to benefit the Manhasset Junior Breast Cancer Coalition.

Meeting concluded at approximately 11:35 am.