

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2010

Meeting Opened at: Call to Order 9:40 AM; End of Meeting 11:37 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

- The Manhasset SCA logo has been updated and adopted. The updates include enhancing the picture of the building that sits behind the SCA lettering. This artwork was reinstated from the original drawing created in the 1970s.
- The landscape design for the final piece of the flagpole project was shown to the group. This landscape design has been officially approved by the board of education.
- The SCA provided a grant to the school to refurbish the auditorium. The goal was to restore the auditorium to its original beautiful state. The project should be completed by October.
- The 2010 Executive Board was introduced. The Executive Board members are Karen Blando (SCA Executive President), Diane Gershkowitz (SCA Executive Vice President), Jeanine Toes (High School), Laura Tranchina (Middle School), Mary Jane Reilly (Shelter Rock), Tricia Cash (Munsey Park), Peggy Gajdjis (Executive Treasurer), Kathleen Kosciusko (Executive Secretary).

Approval of Minutes/Board Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko

- June 11, 2010 minutes were approved.
- June – August 2010 Interim Board Vote announcements were made and approved. There was one interim board vote listed that pertained to an increase in SCA membership dues. This interim board vote was approved but tabled until December 31, 2010 at the latest.

Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis (Presented by Karen Blando)

- The end of school year 2010 (August 31, 2010) treasurers report is completed.
- The year-end Munsey Park and Shelter Rock financial reports are also available. These are non-budgeted areas because they are self-sustaining.

Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz

- Project Share is continuing at a strong pace. So far they supported a successful Back to School supply drive in which Project Share was able to donate over 125 individualized bags of school supplies to the students in our schools that need financial assistance. In addition, Project Share donated 80 binders, looseleaf paper and dividers to the high school as they have a high percentage of need. Very generous Project Share donors and Raindeew Family Center allowed this project to be successful and all students to have their supplies prior to the start of school.

- Project Share is going to start advertising specific needs on its website and foster the transaction if someone in the community donates that specific need. They will also be creating a 'closet' stocked with gently used items that families in need can pull from.
- the Lord and Taylor "Shop Smart. Do Good!" event that the SCA is participating in is underway. The SCA will receive \$5 for every ticket sold to a shopping benefit on October 5, 2010. There are discount incentives related to the purchase of the tickets. This was a successful event last year which we hope to repeat.

President's Reports

1. Jeanine Toes – High School

- The High School SCA Vice President is June Sutter, Finance Chair is Diana Cotumaccio, and Recording Secretary is Donna Gillis.
- The SCA Email/Directory Forms and Volunteer Forms were sent out in late June. The committee is in the final stages of compiling the Secondary School Directory and plan to print within a week or two. Any last minute additions can go to the HS Directory Chair Diana Stefan. All volunteer names have been forwarded to the appropriate Committee Chairs.
- Grade Level Chairs were selected based on volunteer responses. The open GLC positions were filled and we met on Sept 16th for the first time. Names and contact information for these individuals are posted on the SCA Website.
- The SCA presents "The College Process: Parents' Perspectives". We had our first SCA presentation on Sept 14th. Six parents from the Class of 2010 were invited to be panelists and had a great discussion and Q & A. Jane Grappone and the guidance counselors joined us for support and helped parents of HS students feel more comfortable with the college process.
- Photo Day is September 21st and 22nd and the HS Chair, Monica Zenobio, is scheduling volunteers. Students will have photos taken for ID cards on their photo day as well. Senior portraits will be completed by end of day today.
- The 12th grade parent meeting was on September 15. Guidance ran the meeting and reviewed the college application process. Parents were greeted by Frolic Co-Chairs, Seval LaRocca and Lois Morelli. Parents also received Senior Banquet information from Co-Chairs Pat Aitken, Beth Miller and Clare Clarke.
- The first MS/HS Parent Council Meetings is Friday, September 24 at 9:30 in the Black Box Theatre. Christine Meyer (summer studies chair) will present and award the recipients. Dr. Schlanger and Dr. Ambrogio will review the exciting changes and renovations that are taking place at the Secondary School.
- The Class of 2010 Frolic Gift, which is a result of an excess in the SCA frolic fund, is two wrought iron benches for the school. They will be placed by the gym doors, under the arches, to allow students to sit while awaiting pickup. They will be installed at the completion of the locker room construction. Thank you to Frolic Co-Chairs Marie Horowitz and Oriana Cyprus for a terrific job.
- The SCA Landscape gift to flagpole courtyard will enter its final phase in a few weeks. The landscapers will add trees, shrubs and flowers to this student popular area.
- There is a mini college fair on September 20 and 27.

- Open House is September 23.
- The ninth grade parent meeting is September 28.
- The community service fair is September 29.
- Homecoming is October 30!

2. Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- The Middle School Vice President is Cris-Ann Frisone, Finance Chair is Grace Mahler, and Secretary is Donna Cullinan-Gillis.
- The Student Directory and Volunteer Forms went out in June. These forms are still being accepted. Directory forms are being compiled and volunteer lists are being distributed to the appropriate chairpersons.
- Based on volunteer responses, four open Grade Level Chair positions were filled. We met for the first time on September 16. Their names and contact information will be posted on the SCA website.
- Sixty-five students participated in the SCA school supply order fundraiser. The total raised was \$325. Thank you Khea Glynn for organizing.
- Superintendent's Conference Day was held on September 1.
- An opening day picnic for 7th graders took place and the students children enjoyed pizza and flying saucers.
- The Middle School Open House was held on Tuesday, September 14 and was a success.
- Photo days are on September 21 and 22 during gym. Students will have photos taken for ID cards as well.
- As stated above, the first MS/HS Parent Council Meetings is Friday, September 24 at 9:30 in the Black Box Theatre. Christine Meyer (summer studies chair) will present and award the recipients. Dr. Schlanger and Dr. Ambrogio will review the exciting changes and renovations that are taking place at the Secondary School.
- The MS Welcome Back dance will be held on Friday, September 24 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm.
- The Halloween party needs volunteers, however, we can not decorate the gym until Sunday of Halloween due to a scheduling conflict.

3. Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School

- The Shelter Rock Vice President is Sari Kulka, Finance Chair is Susan Powers, and Secretary is Anja D'Angelo.
- Through the Ambassador Program parent volunteers called seventeen new families to personally welcome them to Shelter Rock and to answer any questions they may have. Feedback was positive from both the Ambassadors and new families. Thanks to Katie Lane and Robin Held for coordinating this program.
- Ninety-one students participated in the SCA school supply order fundraiser. The total raised was \$413. Thank you Maria Brunetti for coordinating this sale.
- We collected 125 committee volunteer forms to date. Thanks to Sari Kulka for organizing the data on these forms and for distributing the information to the committee chairs. The parent council list will be on the website next week.
- Shelter Rock SCA had balloons at the entrance to the building on the first day of school to welcome the new students to a new academic year.

- Heroes Week runs September 13 – 17. It celebrates our community and personal heroes. Firefighters from Plandome and Manhasset-Lakeville, as well as officers from the 6th precinct, welcomed the students to school each day. The children were beaming with excitement to see these local heroes at their school, dressed in their turnout coats, helmets and boots. Grades 4-6 made chains with the names of their personal heroes that are hung in the hallway. The heroes, along with a student, led the pledge each day. Thank you to Robin Held and Melanie Kaye for coordinating this program.
- The grades K – 1 open house took place. The room representatives collected the “Student Information Forms” giving us permission to list the students in the class list and the directory. Several tables were set up to promote different initiatives and fundraisers. These tables included SCA Membership, Lord and Taylor shopping event fundraiser, Family Theatre, Spiritwear, Septa, Saturday Series, and Tower Foundation.
- Shelter Rock is participating in a new initiative called the Kidz Holiday Gift Bazaar. It runs from November 29 – December 1. It is an opportunity for students to shop for inexpensive gifts (ranging in price from \$1 to \$5) for mothers, fathers and other family members giving students the opportunity to participate in the act of giving during the holiday season. Many items will be for sale, including a selection of stationary, frames, pens, jewelry and toys. The goal of this new program is to focus on the giving of gifts rather than the receiving of gifts during the holiday season. This is not a fundraiser. It is a service for the students. We hope that this program will foster generosity and giving, allow the children to practice their budgeting skills, and give the children a sense of the value of money. Thank you to Val Carillo for taking the initiative to bring this program to Shelter Rock School.
- Other open houses are scheduled for September 22 and 29.
- The September Parent Council Meeting is September 23. Cindy Cardinal and Pat Aiken will speak at this meeting.
- Photo Days are October 13 – 14.
- The Fall Newsletter will be published in early November.
- Red Ribbon week is October 18 – 22. We are still looking for volunteers for this.
- The joint MP and SR October Parent Council Meeting is October 20 at Shelter Rock.
- The Halloween Party is Sunday, October 31. The planning is underway.
- Extended extras will continue this year and we are meeting next week to discuss the details.

4. Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- Munsey Park Vice President is Lucy Choy Puma, finance Chair is Jill Pullano, and secretary is Andrea Phelan.
- The SCA provided a welcome back breakfast for Teachers and Staff on Superintendents day at Munsey Park School.
- We welcomed new students with an ice cream social on the Wednesday before school began. New students were paired up with Munsey Park buddies from their new classes and were given a tour of the school.
- Thanks to Laura Petras, the school was able to pre-order school supplies. We are very pleased with the outcome, we sold 243 packages. Munsey Park made about

\$1200 from that program. Raindeew went above and beyond in their efforts as did all of the volunteers.

- Over the summer, over 100 parents signed up to work on various committees and the committee chairs are all in place. We do still need a Halloween chair person for the 5th grade Halloween party.
- New Parents were invited to Munsey Park on Monday night to give them the ins and outs of the Munsey Park School. Students wrote small pieces to share their experiences at Munsey Park.
- Our first Open House for K-1 was a success. We set it up so that all the class representatives were in the dining room with sign up sheets for parties and trips. Spirit Wear, Planet Manhasset, Family Theater, Tower and Septa lined the hallways with a variety of things to sell. Lord and Taylor coupons were sold at the Membership table, so a big thanks to Mollye Fahey.
- We will have our first SCA meeting on Wednesday, September 20th. The new teachers will be introduced by Dr. Kendall. Pat Aitken will also be in attendance to welcome parents and encourage them to attend Board of Education meetings. We will also do a final sign up for committees after a brief synopsis of each.
- Thanks to Jen DeSena and Kristen Ryan Spirit Wear is off to a great start. They sold spirit wear at both the new parent meeting and the K-1 open house and so far have sold about \$3900 of merchandise. They plan on ordering different items for the Holiday season.
- International/Diversity Awareness has changed and will no longer be a one day celebration. It will be implemented within other committees. Kristen Perfetto met with Mrs. Owly and already started the process for National Library Week.
- Thanks to Colleen Bock the safety backpacks are already in K and 1 classrooms. The plan is to have them in every classroom by September 29th.
- The Great Body Shop is beginning in Munsey Park. Many parent letters have already been sent home. The health and wellness committee will make sure that the teachers have the monthly lessons on a regular basis and the children and parents will have a login and password to access the program online.
- The Congregational parking lot will be more accessible to Munsey Park parents because of the new walkway that is being installed, thank you to Christy Weppler for making it happen.
- Extended Extras will continue this year.
- The new playground, donated by the SCA, will be installed on Monday, September 20.

Principal's Reports

1. Jean Kendal – Munsey Park

- There are currently 941 students enrolled at the school. Enrollment is down 15 – 20 kids, but a section was added.
- Co-teaching is underway in all grades except 6th grade where they are doing pull-outs. Co-teaching is going well.
- The SCA-donated playground will be installed within the week. This includes four climbers and a rubberized surface.
- The Tower Foundation course is up and the teachers are using it.

- The bus lane has been extended and the light was moved slightly, making for an easier bus dismissal.
- The lunchroom has been redecorated with new art-work and round tables that hold eight students.
- We introduced behavior codes with different behaviors codes for different areas of the school.
- Grades 5 and 6 have the accelerated math class and an AIS services. Please contact the Munsey Park School to see who is in charge of these classes.
- Last year, Munsey Park introduced the Reading Street program in grades K - 3. The decision whether to implement the same program in grades 4 - 5 is being made currently.
- Liz Shibley got training for the Great Body Shop program that is being introduced.
- There are three new supervisory aides for students with special needs on the playground. They will help these students to socialize successfully.

2. Robert Geczik – Shelter Rock

- There are currently 771 students enrolled at the school.
- The early retirement program initiated in June was the cause of seven retirements at the school. We screened over 900 candidates to replace the retirees. We invited 120 candidates to interview. Eight wonderful new teachers came out of the process. They will be formally introduced at the next Shelter Rock parent council meeting.
- Shelter Rock was repainted and looks great.
- Ceilings were replaced in the main hallway.

3. Dean Schlanger – Secondary School

- There are twenty-one new teachers in the secondary school. These new teachers will be formally introduced shortly. We feel like we were able to select the crème of the crop. Some of the new teachers will also be coaching.
- Currently 1450 students. Enrollment is up and we expect it to continue to rise over the next few years.
- The middle school open house took place and there was positive feedback on the breakout sessions.
- The High School open house is Thursday, September 23.
- The auditorium renovation is underway. The locker room renovation is expected to be complete by the end of October. The girls lacrosse field will have the turf installed by the end of November. There is fencing that is being put up around Memorial Field. Sidewalk repairs are underway. They are putting up wall padding in the gym. All computers have been upgrade to Microsoft 2010. There is a new freezer in the cafeteria and there is a new "Grab and Go" area as well.
- The buses will go off campus in October and this will make room for additional student parking.

Superintendent Report – Charles Cardillo (Reported by Cindy Cardinal)

- Charlie is encouraging all parents to attend the Board of Education meetings.
- The school is very excited about the Great Body Shop program. Bullying messages are woven into this. And one goal is to delay the students' exposure to alcohol.
- Regina Rule and Craig Anderson, the two new Board of Education members, completed a Board of Education workshop.
- We have a great number of new teachers this year because of the teacher retirement program. In order to get these teachers, the schools had to prove there was a 50% savings in costs. This was a significant concession on the union's part.

Executive Committees

The following line items list the chairs for the SCA Executive Committees. These individuals and a definition of each committee are also listed on the ManhassetSCA.org website. Please contact any of these individuals or the website for further information on any of the listed committees.

1. Community Education – Ed Garofolo and Ellen Albrechtsen
2. Educational Grants – Lynne Aloia and Lisa Carlin
3. Enrichment – Annie Vetrone and Pam Kenlon
4. Family Theatre – Randi Berger and Kimberly Pidherny
5. Health and Wellness – Zari Ginsburg and Caryn Sawyer
6. Historian – Lisa Belinsky
7. Membership – Mollye Fahey and Tara LaSalle
8. Nominating – Mary Beth Accurso and Lisa Chieco
9. Planet Manhasset – Peggy Markham, Lisa Siconolfi, Lisa Lynch, Vivian Thatos, Linda Clarke, Liz Miller
10. Project Share – Diane Gershowitz
11. Publicity – Susan Hyde, Ronnie Nanos-Petrakis
12. Saturday Series – Ruth Brown, Alice Meyer Woo
13. Senior Frolic – Seval LaRocca, Lois Morelli
14. Summer Studies – Chistine Meyer and Dawn McCormick
15. SCA Fair – TBD
16. SCA Fall Luncheon – Katie Lane and Janice Rohlifing
17. Treasurer – Ann Dorogoff
18. Website – Jill Pullano, Garol Goldfond, Winnie Yang, Maria Cizmarik, Diane Kraft

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kosciusko
SCA Executive Board Secretary