

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: October 15, 2010

Meeting Opened at: Call to Order 9:32 AM; End of Meeting 11:25 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

- There is a new software program we are implementing to track the organization's finances. The reports are available on-line.
- There was a summer reading program profit of about \$567.00. The profit will be reflected in the financial records shortly. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go back to the schools.
- Red Ribbon week is October 18 – October 22. There are presentations for both students and parents being offered at all schools. Please refer to the ManhassetSCA.org website for a schedule of events.
- There will be a \$10,000 pledge from the SCA to CASA next week.
- In case parents are not aware of it, the High School publishes a newspaper (also available on-line) monthly. This is a great resource for the happenings of the school.
- The Manhasset School District Website (www.manhasset.k12.ny.us) has a new link which allows users to access staff contact information.
- November 18, 2010 will be the dedication of the auditorium that was in part, refurbished by the SCA. The dedication also coincides with the 64th anniversary of the 1st school play.

Approval of Minutes/Board Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko

- September 17, 2010 minutes were approved.
- September 2010 Interim Board Vote announcements were made and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis (And Guest Speaker Tim O'Keefe – SCA Accountant)

- Every year, Tim O'Keefe's firm does an audit and prepares the organization's 990. They also look at what financial controls are in place and make suggestions on how to fix any weaknesses in our current controls. Some of those suggestions may be implemented, others may not due to the cost/benefit of implementation.
- Peggy and Tim worked closely to convert the SCA financial records to an on-line system. It should allow for much better tracking of budgets and costs by committee. It will also allow any future treasurers to utilize the system from their own home (with their own computer and printer.) (The SCA donated the old treasurer's computer to Project Share.)
- The SCA will be determining how it will be handling thank you letters/tax notes to individuals and organizations that donate larger amounts of money to the organization.

- According to the current financial reports, the SCA collected about \$17,000 in membership dues. It should be noted that it collected another \$8,000 in the first two weeks in October.

Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz

- The SCA has finished the Lord and Taylor ticket sales. We sold over 300 tickets. Last year, 182 tickets were sold. The difference is in some part attributable to the decision this year to sell the tickets at the Open Houses.
- 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.
- Project Share needs extra large Halloween costumes. There will be a box outside of the middle school office where any donations can be delivered. Project Share is also looking for holiday clothes for the holiday concert.

President's Reports

1. Jeanine Toes – High School

- The secondary school directory is at the printer. The SCA would like to thank Diana Stefan, Directory Chair, for the many hours she dedicated to produce this year's Directory.
- The Senior Banquet is set for November 3rd at Leonard's. This is the major fundraiser for the Senior Class Frolic. Co-Chairs Pat Aitken, Beth Miller and Clare Clarke have assembled their committees and are organizing a very special evening for our seniors. They are working on a slide Show CD and journal, which will add to the memorable evening.
- The Frolic co-chairs, Seval LaRocca and Lois Morelli, have met several times with parents of class of 2011 and have begun the planning. They have approved a great theme (secret!) and are working through the budget and coordinating volunteers. This is a huge undertaking and I want to thank Lois and Seval for taking this on.
- The Homecoming Dance is sponsored by the SCA, under the direction of Jeannette Reilly. It will be held October 30. This is the largest dance of the year (last year 614 tickets were sold), as it includes all 4 classes, plus private school guests that reside in Manhasset. Tickets will be sold for \$15, which includes \$5 to be donated to a charity on behalf of MHS class governments. Tickets will be sold on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before dance, during lunch periods.
- The SCA is proud to have been able to provide the MS/HS with beautiful landscaping, which was the second phase of the wonderful Flagpole Courtyard project. The landscaping was completed last week.
- The next MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting is Oct 22 at 9:30. Because it is Red Ribbon Week, we will have a CASA sponsored speaker, Isabel Burk, of The Health Network. Her presentation will be "The Teen Brain". Please join us in the Board Room for this presentation.
- Please tell all students that they should go to the lunchroom on Monday, October 18 to pick up their student photos.

2. Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- As stated above, the secondary school directory has been completed and is at the printers. Thank you to Diana Stefan for all her hard work putting the directory together and to Pam Perulli for all of her help with the Middle School portion of the directory.
- The Middle School Photo Day is complete. Thank you to chairperson Karen Barnes for organizing the day. The photo make up day is November 1. Student ID cards will be distributed during gym once they are complete.
- The MS Welcome Back Dance was a success. A strong 328 students attended and the proceeds will go towards the purchase of Spirit Day t-shirts for Middle School students.
- The MS Friday Night Live is this Friday, October 15 from 7:30 – 9:30. There will be floor hockey, soccer, basketball and ping pong.
- The MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting will take place on Friday, October 22 at 9:30 in the Board Room. (See High School note above for details.)
- The MS Spirit Day will take place on Friday, October 29th. Students will receive Spirit Day t-shirts and take part in Spirit Day activities.
- The MS Halloween Party will take place on Sunday, October 31 from 7:30 – 9:30. Thank you to Carol Ann Ronbeck, Lisa Middleton and Linda Gurino for chairing the event. Volunteers and donations are needed.

3. Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School

- Our September Parent Council meeting had very high attendance, with Mr. Geczik introducing the new teachers and explaining their selection process. All of the chairs of the SCA committees were introduced, and they were given an opportunity to say a few words about their committee if they wished. Cindy Cardinal was there to personally invite and encourage the parents to attend the BOE meetings. There was a lot of positive energy in the room.
- Red Ribbon Week is next week. The chairs have distributed their red ribbons, so you should see them on trees and poles as you drive around town. Thanks to Erica Kinloch and Patrice Leone, and of course CASA, for bringing this important program to our schools.
- Photo Days were held this week, under the superb organization of Marilena Kasopodis, Jane Russell and Peggy Attanasio. The children all looked adorable in their button down shirts and their skirts! I understand that they kept to their time schedule so everyone was happy.
- The Directory Forms are in their final days of collection, and we hope to do our big merge of files next week and get it to the printer. Thanks to Christine Zummo and Joan Gangaram, and to the GLCs, room reps and the grade level editors for all of their hard work.
- Extended Extras registrations went out last Friday, and were due back on the 14th. We are offering 5 classes, 3 in Spanish, one French, and one Latin. Kim Delaney and Laura Zaffiro, our chairs, are sorting through the registrations and determining the classes.

- Holiday Giving program has met with the social worker and are meeting with the other schools today (Friday) to start this wonderful program. Our chairs are Chris Marie Tzavelis and Rosalba Locurto.
- Kids Holiday Gift Bazaar is in its planning stages and is recruiting volunteers to help the children to shop. This will take place the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following Thanksgiving so that they are all done shopping before Hanukah. Val Carillo, Nancy Schlaefer, Sari Kulka and Maria Brunetti are chairing this new program.
- The Halloween Party committee met recently with Mr. Geczik to review the safety and security of this event. They are excited for their Spooktakular event. Thanks to Melinda Smotkin and Ruth Brown and all of the talented parent volunteers for organizing this party.
- Lunch/recess Duty begins this week. Thanks to Katie Derasse and Liz Oliveri for organizing all of our volunteers.

4. Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- Munsey Park completed 2 photo days with the help of seasoned chair, Christine Tatarian, as well as the shadow chairs, Amy Keogh and Cathy McAree. All teachers and students had their pictures taken and re-takes are in November.
- The first Parent Council meeting was attended by the department chairs and new teachers and staff. Pat Aitken graciously came to welcome all members of the community to attend board meetings.
- Directory forms have been collected and have been sent to the printer.
- Plans are well underway for the 5th and 6th grade Halloween party. The theme this year is Haunted Manhasset Woods. Thanks to Tammy Kelly and Joan Berger, as well as, our 5th grade Halloween chairs, Sarah Beresheim and Maria Aliprantis.
- The Holiday Gift Giving program is meeting October 15 to organize its families and donors for the holiday season. The recipients will be needy children and their families within the district. These families will be identified by Lori Pietrafesa. All families will be given an opportunity to help out with this rewarding program.
- Extended Extras (EX2) will begin in Munsey Park and Shelter Rock on October 19. There will be two sessions. One session will be for 5th and 6th grade from October 19 - December 21. The second session will be for 3rd and 4th grade and will run from January through March. It should be noted that these classes are exploratory not preparatory courses. They will run like any after school program but funded by the parents. The fee for the classes will be \$125 for each child for 8 weeks. The languages offered will be Spanish, Latin, French and Italian.
- The playground installation has been put on hold indefinitely. There were some dry well issues discovered in the initial phase of the project and those issues have to be researched and resolved prior to moving forward. We will keep you posted as to the progress of this project.

Principal's Reports

Dean Schlanger – Secondary School

- 1974 class alumnae attended the school over the weekend for a tour of the facilities. They were very impressed with the recent projects, including the auditorium and the flagpole.
- There was an 11th grade girl hit by a car on campus. She will be okay, however, the school is asking the SCA to help in the distribution of a letter reminding all persons driving on campus to drive with caution.
- Progress reports were mailed on Monday, October 10.
- The Student Senate is up and running and providing leadership opportunities for some students.
- The school is looking to implement a "Captain's Council" as well. It will allow all varsity captains to take on further leadership roles. It will be structured as a mini leadership academy.

Board of Education Report – Cindy Cardinal

- The District will recognize Coach Don Scott on his 500 Cross Country Wins on Thursday, October 21, 2010, Black Box Theatre, Secondary School, 8 p.m.
- The District hired a District Coordinator of World Languages, Laurie Marshall-Lauria, and new staff members across all 3 schools over the summer.
- Due to the District adopting the 2010 NYS Retirement Incentive for 15 teachers and the cooperation of the MEA in a contract modification, the district will net savings of just over \$2.4mm in the next 5 years. Recognition of those that retired over the summer will be held in each school at Board meetings over the next month.
- The secondary school welcomed the largest 7th grade in recent history: 289 students!
- The District signed an "Intermunicipal Agreement" (IMA) with the Town of North Hempstead regarding the buses parking in an unused lot off West Shore Road in Port Washington at North Hempstead Beach Park. While the goal was to have buses off school property by now, because of physical details that need to be addressed by the Town of North Hempstead, those plans have been delayed.
- The District's contract with the Manhasset Educational Support Personnel Association expired on June 30th, and negotiations are ongoing.
- Secondary School Locker Rooms are being fully utilized and are largely complete. A new and improved "grab and go" window in the secondary school cafeteria was built over the summer. The bus loop at Munsey Park was completed and allows for much safer and more efficient bus operations there.
- The new turf field at the back of the secondary school is being installed, and lights were erected over the summer. This project has been donated to the school by members of the community working with Indians Rock.
- Extensive work on facilities took place over the summer at all 3 schools. Please see a slide show of the work on the board of education website.
- The SCA gave a number of gifts to the District including the repair, renovation and reupholstering of the seating in the secondary school auditorium, an all weather play surface and climbing items at Munsey Park, plantings around the secondary school flagpole and bench area and the installation of benches back by the gym entrance.

- The Board passed a resolution that states "BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manhasset Union Free School District Board of Education opposes any legislation, from whatever source, that would shift the responsibility of the County of Nassau for funding multi-year tax certiorari settlements of its assessment errors onto the local school district tax levy". This was done because as part of the plan to close the current County budget gap, the Nassau County Executive has proposed ending the county guarantee which holds school districts harmless from payments of property tax claims. The County guarantee dates back to 1948 when the New York State Legislature determined that Nassau County should be responsible for costs and penalties resulting from its errors in assessment. This proposal is being made without the approval of New York State or the county school districts, and it would result in a shift of the payments from the county to the individual school districts, thereby raising school taxes without providing any educational value.
- In raising the bar for students for what it means for a student to be proficient, the NYS Board of Regents has changed the scale for scoring ELA and Math exams for grades 3-8. A presentation and analysis of assessment data was be given on Thursday, October 14 as part of the Board meeting.
- All members of the community are welcome to attend a Board meeting at any time! Your comments and thoughts are always welcome at boe@manhasset.k12.ny.us.

Executive Committees

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kosciusko
SCA Executive Board Secretary