

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 14, 2011

**Meeting Opened at:** Call to Order 9:37 AM; Meeting adjourned: 12:02 PM

**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**

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

- One change was made to the November 14, 2010 minutes. Sari Kulka's name was misspelled in those minutes and will be updated in the final version of the minutes.
- The November 14, 2010 minutes were approved with change noted.
- December 2010 – January 2011 Interim Board Votes were reviewed.

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

- The second membership mailing helped in boosting membership numbers. The current total deposits for membership to date are over \$31,000.
- The treasurer is asking all individuals to turn in their expense receipts as soon as possible.

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

- The Lord and Taylor final check was received. It totaled \$3,100 (\$1,500 for ticket sales and \$1,600 for prize winnings and store sale percentage). In 2009, the MSCA made \$1,600. Diane is looking to have each school have a committee chair for this event going forward because it is an easy fundraiser, and this will facilitate continued success.
- Donna Gillis chaired the Project Share Coat Drive. A total of 175 coats were donated, Clean Concepts cleaned 160 of those. Project Share purchased five coats. There will be another coat drive in Fall 2011.
- There is a proposal being reviewed to make Project Share an official Executive Committee. The vote to approve this is scheduled to take place at May 2011 meeting. If approved, the By-Laws will be updated to reflect this change.
- The Holiday Gift Giving Program had a great response. A total of 82 families (MP - 22, SR - 28, MS - 11 HS - 21) were supported. Each family got all wishes filled, plus a \$100 in gift cards for grocery items and other items, and in some cases shoe gift certificates were added. Also, the MHS Candy Cane Tournament donated \$500 in King Kullen gift cards. A special thanks goes to committee chairs Lisa Middleton, Monica Zenobio, Daniele Cacioppo, Rosalba LoCurto, and Chris-Marie Tzavelis.

#### **President's Reports**

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

- The Shelter Rock Parent Council met on Thursday, November 18. Mrs. Rowland, Shelter Rock Library Media Specialist, and Ms. Merolesi, Shelter Rock Computer Specialist, helped 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. Their presentation generated much discussion about the importance of staying current on how to protect our children, including information about the importance of understanding all of the game devices that our children use that are hooked to the internet (such as the itouch and Wii.)

- Shelter Rock hosted its first Kidz Holiday Gift Bazaar Monday, November 29 thru Wednesday, December 1. This was 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. It was a big success, netting over \$2000 and it was not even thought of as a fundraiser. Thanks to Valerie Carillo, who brought this program to SR and to Nancy Schlaefer, Maria Brunetti and Sari Kulka, the co-chairs of this committee.
- The Student Directory was distributed. There was difficulty collecting the forms and proofing for accuracy and consistency, but Christine Zummo and Joan Suarez did a fabulous job. I have not heard of any mistakes at this time.
- "Guess Who is Coming to Read" takes place on January 25, and is being chaired once again by Leslie Fleck and Danielle Zammit. We have representatives from many different fields coming to read to the SR K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Some of the fields represented include: the LI Science Museum, a restaurant owner, a gym owner, pet assistance trainer, a fireman, a former professional athlete, a Supreme Court Justice, a chef, a nurse, a coach, and the school's superintendent.
- The 2011 Book Fair theme is "Carnival ~ Your Ticket to Read!" The Fair will run from March 7 to March 11. Instead of cash registers, Scholastic will be offering Easy Scans this year. Everything will have a bar code. We will again be offering the One-for-Books, poster raffles, wish list and book cover contest. Pre-school Book Fair Day will be Thursday, March 10. Our guest author is Suzy Kline.
- The Holiday Luncheon for Support Staff was held on December 15. It is a wonderful way for us to show our appreciation to all of the staff in the building. Thank you to Kathy Pappas and Raquel George for organizing this event for the past two years.
- The Holiday Gift Program collected gifts for all families around the holidays. See the Vice-President's report above for further details.
- Extended Extras will run again this winter, this time for grades 3 and 4. Courses being run are 2 sections of Spanish, and 1 section of Italian. (Chinese will be offered to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders next week.) Thank you to Laura Zaffiro and Kim Delaney for chairing this program for Shelter Rock.

### **Tricia Cash – Munsey Park**

- Munsey Park had its holiday concerts in December and they were all a huge success. Parents were very excited to see their children perform.
- The Board Meeting was held on January 6th at Munsey Park. Ronnie Brooks was honored for her years of dedicated service to Munsey Park School. More than 30 families came to thank Mrs. Brooks for her dedication. Mrs. Cernuto made a PowerPoint presentation of photos that many families submitted to commemorate her teaching career. Mrs. DePeppe led the children in a song for Mrs. Brooks.
- In addition to celebrating Ronnie Brooks' career, Charles Cardillo announced that the buses have been moved off campus and there was a curriculum presentation on K-12 Social Studies.
- Kindergarten registration will begin on January 19.
- There will be a Joint Parent Council Meeting at Munsey Park School on January 26, 2011 at 7:30pm. The topic will be the Great Body Shop Curriculum.

### **Laura Tranchina – Middle School**

- Friday Night Live was held on Friday, November 12. Attendance was moderate. There were various gym activities for the students to participate in. The last Friday night live was supposed to be on Friday, January 7. It was cancelled because of the early school closing. The next Friday night live is scheduled for a Friday in April.
- The HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting was on November 19. Following a guidance update by Kimberly Cosenza, Raymond Scacalossi gave an overview of the Mathematics Curriculum and explained the new classes offered.
- The MS Holiday dance was held on Friday, December 3. The suggested admission to this dance was three cans of food which was donated to Coach Bob Rule's and Frank Bice's Neil's Wheels Program. 318 students attended and close to 850 cans of food were collected. Frank and Liz Bice, as well as, Neil Barber's parents attended the dance as well.
- The 8th Grade Parent meeting was held on Wednesday, January 5. District coordinators discussed curriculum and possible course selections for 9th grade. There was a very informative power point presentation that explained the selections. The meeting was well attended. Course selections were due on January 11.
- The SCA Speakers Bureau will be presenting a Revolutionary War Living Histories program to our 7th Grade today, January 14. Mr. Joe Ryan returns to the MS to weave the magic of living history as he presents a powerful Revolutionary War reenactment of a soldier's life.
- The mid-term exam schedule can be found on the MS website and on the SCA website as well. In addition, mid-term review sessions can be found on the MS website in the Assignments, Projects and Test section of your child's team.
- The Secondary School Book Fair will be held February 2 through February 4. Opening night will be on February 1 and will feature a discussion by guest author, Bill O'Reilly. Books focused on our Secondary Students will be available for purchase before and after the guest speaker. The MS students will attend the Book Fair on one of the above days with their English class. Gift Certificates are still available for purchase and the order form can be found on the SCA website. Proceeds from the Book Fair will support activities at the Secondary School. Please support the Book Fair and help make it a success.
- The MS Valentine's Day Dance will be held on Friday, February 4. The proceeds from this dance will be donated to the MWCABC.

### **Jeanine Toes – High School**

- Homecoming finances were finalized and the checks were disbursed. The funds raised by the 550+ student ticket sales allowed for a contribution to Monster's Kids (MHS alumni Tim Goettleman, founder) of \$2674.00. Each class account was given \$1336.50 to be used for dances and proms.
- In early December the SCA helped facilitate the Penny Wars, which is a competition between the classes. The winning class gets to have a special Candy Cane Tournament, which is an extremely popular volleyball tournament just prior to holiday break. The student government voted to donate all money, including the "prize money", to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation in honor of Katie Bluhm, MHS Class of 2002. Bella Totino, who coached Katie in HS, accepted the check for \$1500 on the family's behalf.
- The SCA assisted with the kickoff to the 2011 "social season" with the FROSH (Freshman dance) on January 8. A large percentage of the Class of 2014 attended, thanks to the administration getting the Jets game on 3 large screens in the cafeteria. The event was successful and there were no incidents. GLCs Donna Barcia and Kim Overlander were present for the entire dance, and 9th GLCs Johnna Lombard and Mia Hitchcock ran tickets sales and helped with the pre Dance setup.

- The Secondary School Book Fair will be February 2, 3 and 4 with author Bill O'Reilly helping to kickoff the event by participating as a guest speaker on February 1. The event will start at 7:30 PM and Bill O'Reilly is scheduled to speak at 8 PM.
- The SOPH (sophomore dance) is scheduled for Saturday, February 5th. GLCs Donna Barcia and Janice Pecorino will run ticket sales for 2 days prior to the dance.
- GLCS Debra Capolarello, Kim Overlander and Jeanine Toes have met several times with Class Advisor Chris Keen with regards to the Junior Prom. With the rising costs associated with a catered event, the ticket price will be higher than last year, probably in the \$100-\$110 range.
- The SCA is sponsoring the movie, "Race to Nowhere", February 8 at 7:30 PM in the HS Auditorium. There will be a panel discussion to follow.
- Along with the district and CASA, the SCA will sponsor Ryan's Story the week of February 14, which is Wellness Week. There have been several planning meetings to ensure a successful presentation with extra support for students. This is a powerful presentation about Bullying, Cyberbullying and Youth Depression.
- Mock Interview Night is scheduled for March 1 at 6:30 PM. We will help the guidance office recruit parents with experience in college interviewing. This was a very successful event for juniors last year, and the feedback we got from students and parents was very positive. Please send interested parties to Jennifer Landman in guidance.
- The SCA is considering sponsoring a Friday night event for secondary school students in the community the Friday before the SCA fair from 6 – 9 PM. It would be an event that would allow the students to participate in fair activities without the long lines. They are considering signing on a DJ or do a Battle of the Bands to play that evening and limited food will be served. The Village of Munsey Park would need to approve.

### **Principal's Reports**

#### **Secondary School – presented by Secondary School Principal Dean Schlanger and Middle School Vice Principal Peter Vercessi**

- The Secondary School is currently making arrangements to host Melissa Errico, a Broadway star from Manhasset, to come and meet with the theatre students and choral groups. She will perform for them and them for her. There will be an after school option to see some of the performance on February 7 at 3:30 PM.
- The Court of Champions is taking place next Saturday.
- The school put in the speed bumps in the secondary school parking lot. Traffic has been slowed down as a result.
- The administration is looking to maximize the parking spots that used to be used to house the buses. Current thinking is that these will be made into student spots and student spots will become visitor parking.
- The movie "Race to Nowhere" will be presented to the Manhasset school community Tuesday, February 8. The SCA is sponsoring the event.
- The mid-term exam schedule is currently on-line. A more comprehensive schedule will be published on January 19. Hard copies of this schedule will be kept in the office for those students without internet access.
- The deadline to sign up for 2011-2012 classes is April 15<sup>th</sup>. An override option will be available through the 1<sup>st</sup> week in May. The coordinators are working to define expectations with all classes so parents and children can make good decisions when determining schedules.
- The place to hold the staff appreciation luncheon is still being determined, as the teacher cafeteria is too small.

- There will be an orientation this Thursday, January 20, at 5:30 to speak to students unsure if they want to attend Manhasset secondary school. This event is usually well attended, with 60 – 70 potential students attending.

## **Executive Committees**

### **Health and Wellness – Zari Ginsburg and Caryn Sawyer**

- The Health and Wellness committee is working on several initiatives to enhance the physical and emotional well being of the students in the Manhasset district. Some of these initiatives include:
  - Monitoring the food quality, quantity and service of food by Whitson’s, our food service provider
  - Marketing the school lunch program
  - Taking a survey for student feedback on preferences for school lunch
  - Beautifying the secondary school lunch rooms through displaying art work from the students in the cafeteria has been put on hold due to facility constraints
  - Facilitating fitness week (May 16-19) which entails district wide events to be held during physical education classes to promote physical activity and overall wellness
  - Hosting Health and Wellness speakers to present on “The Great Body Shop” and “Race to Nowhere”
  - Working with The Outpost and other groups to sell healthier products on school campus

### **PASE – Debbie Bowman**

- Debbie read the function of PASE in the Manhasset school district and explained that each year, PASE focuses it’s funding on a theme. This year, the funding will be focused on IEP changes that have taken place. Allison Rushforth will be giving the 1<sup>st</sup> presentation on the IEP changes on February 18.
- The group hosted a Barnes and Noble gift fair and is exploring another gift card fundraiser.
- PASE also saw success in the “Friendship Club” for second graders to facilitate socialization skills for those kids that needed assistance in this area.

### **Community Education – Ed Garofolo**

Ed Garofolo, Community Education Chairperson, did a presentation concerning the upcoming School Budget Vote. Ed’s main focus was to focus on the importance of communication and getting the word out in town not only to vote in the upcoming Budget vote but also to be sure that

- All who are registered do actually vote
- To get those not registered to vote

Ed has done some in-depth statistical research concerning the percentage of registered voters in Manhasset.

- 2700 school families are registered
- 1400 of these actually voted in the last budget vote
- 80% of Manhasset School District parents are registered, but 650 of these parents are not registered. While 650 does not sounds like a large number, it actually is a problem when you consider that in 2010, 42% of the registered **parents** voted... that means that in order for our budget to have passed last year it was “other” people in town that voted yes (i.e. Grandparents, nursery school aged families, etc.) This group was needed to push the budget through. The concern was voiced as to why and how to get all the registered school families to vote. (i.e. both spouses).

One of the objectives is to register college age kids - those from out of town through absentee ballots. Registering HS seniors was another thought. Also mentioned was registering those with children in nursery schools.

**Superintendent Report/Board of Education Report – Charles Cardillo/Board of Education Members: President Cindy Cardinal, Trustees Pat Aitken and Regina Rule**

Board of Education members, Cindy Cardinal, Regina Rule and Pat Aitken attended as well as School Superintendent Charlie Cardillo. They did an informal, presentation amongst all listed discussing the upcoming budget. The tone was gloomy and they quoted the “future as grim.”

- At this time the numbers are not final but there is concern as there is a 2% tax cap on levy per Albany.
- Manhasset faces at least a minimum of 3% increase due to pension and healthcare increases.
- There is no confirmation yet that our state aid remains intact
- A possible option is that the community rallies together to over-ride the tax cap, but 60% of the community would have to support this.
- A 1.2% increase barely passed last year so there is valid concern that this option should even be considered. A clearer picture of the situation should be available after our February break.

On a positive note, the school buses have moved off campus.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kathleen Kosciusko  
SCA Executive Board Secretary