

SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2011

Meeting Opened at: Call to Order 9:35 AM; Meeting adjourned: 11:15 AM

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

SCA Executive President's Welcome - Karen Blando

- The SCA will address some discrepancies between Shelter Rock and Munsey Park schools and will make it a point to ensure that we continue to have consistency between schools with regards to projects including, but not limited to, staff lunches and box top initiatives.
- January 2011 – February 2011 Interim Board Votes were reviewed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes/Board Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko

- The January 14, 2011 minutes were approved.
- January 2011 – February 2011 Interim Board Votes were reviewed.

Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis

- Membership has collected \$29,000, after expenses, to date. This is below the budgeted \$32,000.

President's Reports

Jeanine Toes – High School (given by Laura Tranchina in Mrs. Toes absence)

- The high school began its 2011 Social Season with the Frosh on January 11. The dance was held in the cafeteria, decorated with a Safari theme. The event was well attended under the guidance of Class of 2014 Advisor, Kristen Tadlock.
- The annual Soph was held on February 5, which was another very successful event. Almost 300 students attended this dance and we received very positive feedback on the attempt to step up the event. Monica Zenobio and Lisa Middleton transformed the cafeteria into a 'Winter in Times Square' theme. Parent Tammy Kelly organized at Class of 2013 Baking Party for students, which donated many trays of home baked goods to the evening, and provided a fun Friday night event for any Class of 2013 student interested. Thank you to Class Advisor Dan Reardon and GLCs Janice Pecorino and Donna Barcia, who spent so much time and energy into making this a special event for our Sophomores.
- Plans are underway for the upcoming Junior Prom, which will be on March 5. GLCs Debra Capolarello and Kim Overlander have been working with Class Advisor Chris Keen about the SCA Junior Promenade and Dance itself.
- The SCA HS Speaker's Bureau, chaired by Caroline Kenlon, hosted an amazing and inspiring day with Broadway star and Manhasset native, Melissa Errico on Monday, February 7. Melissa worked with theater and choral students during the day and then performed for the students, staff and community at 3:30.
- On February 8, the SCA hosted "Race to Nowhere" for the Manhasset community. See middle school bullet point above for more details.
- Graduation Meetings, which occur monthly until June, will begin next week. I am joined at these meetings by Class Officers, Class Advisor Angela Ferguson, Mr. Sippin, GLCs Maryellen Grimm and Peggie Sweeney. This allows the students to have an active role in planning their special Graduation Ceremony.

- Next week Ryan's Story will be presented to the MS/HS as part of CASA Wellness Week. The 9th and 10th graders will see it on Tuesday, February 15, and the 11th and 12th graders will see it on Wednesday, February 16. There will be a parent presentation on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 (HS Auditorium). See the CASA Munsey Park bullet point above for more details.
- The new SCA scholarship application is close to being finalized. There will be two \$1,000 Scholarships, one each for an outstanding boy and girl. The Scholarships will be awarded to the students who best exemplify the mission of the SCA and will be chosen by the Executive Board of the SCA. The honored students must represent a commitment to the school and the overall community.

Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz

- The Munsey Park Women's Club is having a fun run in June and Project Share will be the recipient of any monies collected from this event.
- The Junior League will be providing knapsacks to all children in need for the September 2011 school year.
- Project Share is looking for suggestions on how to obtain prom dresses for students in need prior to the prom.
- Project Share has a new logo.
- Dr. Kendall invited Diane Gershkowitz to speak at one of the student council meetings about Project Share initiatives.
- It was suggested at the meetings that Project Share focus on the current limited bus schedule for some students in need as well as providing birthday presents that can be used for a birthday parties that kids in need are invited to.

Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- On January 14, the 7th grade students participated in a Revolutionary War Living Histories program. This program was provided by the SCA Speaker's Bureau.
- The MS Valentine's Dance was held on Friday, February 4th. It was a tremendous success; over 325 students attended which is a higher number than at past dances. Many students wore pink in support of breast cancer. Admission to the dance was \$5 and all proceeds are going to the Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer (MWCABC). In addition, the school sold breast cancer pens and valentine cookies and proceeds from these sales will go to the MWCABC as well. In total, \$1875 will be donated (this is a preliminary amount and is subject to change).
- The Secondary School Book Fair was held on Wednesday, February 2 through Friday, February 4. The MS students attended the Book Fair with their English class and High School students attended the Book Fair during lunch or study hall. There were over 130 book titles to choose. Proceeds from the Book Fair have not been determined yet however sales seemed lighter than in the past. Our guest author, Bill O'Reilly, who was to appear on Tuesday, February 1 had to postpone his speaking engagement. A new date has not been set.
- "The Race to Nowhere" was presented on Tuesday, February 8. The event was sold out with 400 reservations being made. Following the movies there was a panel discussion made up of school administrators, guidance counselor, social worker and a child psychiatrist. The event was a tremendous success and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Many thanks to Zari Ginsberg and Caryn Sawyer who put in tremendous effort and truly made the event a huge success.

- The week of February 14 is CASA Wellness Week. The district, CASA, and the SCA will be presenting "Ryan's Story" during the week. See Munsey Park CASA bullet point above for more details.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (by teacher request) will be held for Grades 7 – 12 on Tuesday, February 15 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- The MS Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Dance will be held on Friday, March 4 from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. All proceed will be donated to the MDA.

Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School

- Guess Who is Coming to Read was held on January 25, with classes in grades K-3 being visited by guest readers.
- The Bookfair will run from March 7 to March 11. The theme this year is Book Fair Carnival ~ Your Ticket to Read!
- Extended Extras is up and running for second graders to be exposed to Chinese. SR has 13 children enrolled for this program, running on Tuesdays. We are doing a survey to determine what classes will be offered in the future. It will be distributed on Monday and collected before break.
- Our next Parent Council meeting is on March 17. The topic is being developed, but it will be by Amanda Gimondo and will be a follow-up to the Race to Nowhere presentation.

Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- Guess Who is Coming to Read was held on January 28th. We had approximately 26 readers to come to the K-3 classrooms.
- Extended Extras is up and running. Second graders have begun to learn about the Chinese culture and language. A Survey has been constructed by the committee and the presidents in order to determine the needs of the student population. We will then decide on the classes that may be offered in the future.
- Kim Haggerty from the Shared Decision Making team has enlisted the help of Laura Tranchina in forming a panel of 7th grade parents. This panel will explain the parents' perspective on the Middle School transition to the 6th grade parents.
- Seussical the Musical was a huge success at Munsey Park. This was a sold out event.
- The Book Fair will run from March 7 to March 11 with a kick off evening on March 7 from 6:00pm-9:00pm.
- John Halligan will be conducting an assembly for CASA Wellness Week for the 6th grade on Monday, February 14. Mr. Halligan will share his son Ryan's story with video of home movie clips and pictures of Ryan. John will tell the story of Ryan's life and the factors that led up to his suicide. The children will be able to get a perspective from inside a family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyber bullying. They also develop an understanding of the overwhelming effect of a teen suicide on a family. There are many life lessons shared, including forgiveness and finding ways to turn a tragedy into hope for others. There will also be a parent presentation of "Ryan's Story" on Wednesday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the High School.
- The next Munsey Park Parent Council Meeting will be on March 16 @ 9:30am. The subject of this meeting will be Study Skills. The presentation will be done by a panel of teachers from Munsey Park. The teachers are Maria Cordell, Karen Murphy, Iris Gandler, Jeffery Semel, Kathleen Murray and Cheryl Smith.

Principal's Reports

Secondary School – Dean Schlanger

- Dean thanked the SCA Speaker's Bureau for its presentation of Melissa Errico and Ryan's Story to the schools and to the community.
- 2nd Quarter report cards have been mailed to student. The teachers really focused on ensuring they contain substantial feedback.
- Dean had the pleasure of taking students to the Spiderman Broadway play. The outing was a success.
- There is another trip planned for 94 students to see American Idiot on Broadway in the near future.

Community Education and Board of Education (Presented together) – Ed Garofolo and Pat Aiken and Cindy Cardinal

- Ed Garofolo and Pat Aitken discussed the upcoming legislature being reviewed and asked that each board member take home a packet of letters to be signed and sent to their representatives with regards to the hard cap on school budgets. The group provided the packets to be signed and has extra on hand for anyone else in the community who may want one.
- They met with representatives with other communities to discuss this issue as well.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Kosciusko
SCA Executive Board Secretary