



SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020

Call to Order: 9:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned: 9:54 AM

Officers Present Virtually During Zoom Teleconference:

Cathy Conniff, Executive Co-President
Leslie Fleck, Executive Co-President
Janet Diaso, High School President
Markella Maliagros, Middle School President
Cathy Croce, Munsey Park President
Anna Oncel, Shelter Rock President
Tania Kapoor, Executive Treasurer
N. Christine Shah, Executive Secretary

Executive Co-President's Welcome – Cathy Conniff and Leslie Fleck

Pledge of Allegiance

General Announcements: Champions for Charity – 12/3/2020 - 12/5/2020
12/3/2020 – Kick-off event at Blue Mercury, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT – TANIA KAPOOR

- The Manhasset SCA Membership drive is a huge success accumulating over \$26,000 in membership dues.
- Shelter Rock Spirit Wear online sales brought in over \$10,000 in sales.
- Munsey Park Spirit Wear online store sales ended on Thursday, November 12th. Sales haven't been reported as of yet.
- Munsey Park 6th Grade Yearbook payments have been collected.
- The expenses for both Munsey Park School and Shelter Rock School Halloween Celebrations have been processed and are under budget.
- Members of the community made individual donations to Project Share in the amount of \$373. Project Share contributed \$1,236 to school supplies purchases this past month.
- Saturday Series Winter Session custodial fees are still outstanding. They are expected to be lower compared to previous years due to the Coronavirus school shutdown in spring.
- The 2019-2020 audit is yet to be completed. Our accountant, Tim O'Keefe, has not been able to obtain the needed financial information to complete the audit.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT – N. CHRISTINE SHAH

Approval of Minutes:

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2020 SCA Open Executive Board Meeting. Motion approved by the SCA Executive Board.

Report of Interim Votes:

The proposal to pay \$3,000 to O'Keefe CPA, LLC representing a retainer payment for accounting services and audit of the SCA's financials has been approved by the SCA Executive Board via electronic communications on Friday, October 23, 2020.

HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANET DIASO

The **HS after-school sports program** has been a tremendous success. During the past two months, all fall sport teams have been practicing together with conditioning and strength drills with the proper social-distancing protocols in place. All feedback from parents and students has been extremely positive. Thank you to the school administration, Booster Club and BOE for implementing this plan.

Many **clubs** have resumed at the High School in the past month. Students have been meeting virtually on zoom, usually after school. This has proven to be successful to keep the students engaged with each other and keep the spirit of the particular clubs active.

The SCA, HS Administration, Senior Banquet chairs, and Frolic chair, Christy Wepler, are in the midst of planning a few special events for our seniors this fall/winter. Since the Senior Banquet has been postponed, the committees have been hard at work arranging **Senior t-shirts, a bowling night** and a **senior superlative video presentation, which will be released on November 20th**.

The **senior journal** chairs, Michelle Guido, Bernadette Doherty and Nancy Albanese have been busy assembling a journal to be distributed before the Thanksgiving holiday. Over 120 ads were taken out by family members of the senior class. Thanks to these chairs for making this a successful fundraiser for the Class of 2020.

College Signing Day, for all committed senior athletes, will be held on Wednesday, November 18th @ 4pm. It will be held outside the HS for parents and students to attend and to obtain photo opportunities.

Unfortunately, there won't be any **Holiday Concerts** at the High School this winter. Dr. Hale reported that they'll keep an eye on spring and make a decision regarding those events as it draws closer. In the meantime the music department is planning to release some virtual performances/slideshows as the year progresses. **The fall play** is going to be premiered and presented online on December 4th.

Grade 11 Guidance Presentation was last night, November 12th. A booklet will be sent to all 11th grade families with pertinent material discussed at the presentation. For those who missed it, a power point will be made available on the guidance website.

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on the evening of December 3rd and all day on Friday, December 4th. All conferences will be via zoom. Please look for an email from Dr. Schlanger, sent last Friday, with details on how to sign up.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARKELLA MALIAGROS

Announcements/Reminders:

Halloween 10/29, 10/30

Chaired by Theresa Morrison

On Sunday October 25, 2020 Janet, Paula and I got together at the school and decorated the entrances with hay bales, pumpkins, mums as well as some Halloween dolls and inflatables. We had senior students hand out disposable Halloween themed masks to all the students. We also made an announcement for students to wear black/orange on the Thursday and Friday leading up to Halloween.

SCA Secondary School Directory:

Last call to submit information for directory was 10/31. It will be posted in the highlights for all 7th grade families and any 8th grade families who have change of address/phone number.

Secondary School Joint Parent Council Meeting:

We asked Joy D'Anca to address the difference between social workers and psychologists at our school. And hopefully have one of the school psychologists speak about the stress of learning at home and some strategies for parents to ease the stress. And we reached out to Dr. Butera to discuss the mascot conversation and the next steps for that. A little background about the Diversity Panel conversation coming up and the Social Emotional Wing and how it will work with Covid.

Discussions from our Parent council GLC meeting:

Addressing the issue of extra help for students - since teachers are no longer available in the morning and the afternoon. And the discussion regarding opening bathrooms was brought up and Dr. Schlanger really was not budging.

MUNSEY PARK PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CATHY CROCE

SUMMARY:

Over-all, the month of October has felt the most normal since school started and almost like it was any other year at Munsey Park Elementary. Families feel fortunate that there have been no school closures and most students have transitioned to social distancing protocols. It was especially exciting for the kids this month with Halloween, Red Ribbon Week and Picture Day – all of which contributed to this feeling of normalcy.

HAPPENINGS:

The **NWEA tests** were administered and there was no negative feedback from parents. With the increased use of Chromebooks in school and remotely, it is my opinion that the children are more accustomed to being online so stress levels may not be as high at home.

Our second **Grade Level Chair Meeting** was held October 19th. Topics of particular interest continue to be: social emotional welfare of the students, mask breaks, restricted recess, grading, mental health days and absenteeism. We will continue to discuss with administration.

Red Ribbon Week took place the week of October 26th. CASA presented two assemblies via zoom of “The NED Show” and “Ned’s Mindset Mission”, to which the students showed their support by wearing red. The school was also decorated with the traditional red bows as a reminder to our Munsey families to encourage good decision-making.

As always, **Halloween** is a highlight for the kids and despite the pandemic, this year was no exception. The SCA Executive was determined to create a week of excitement leading up to Halloween. The exterior of the school was decorated for the first time and students enjoyed Munsey Park’s 4th Annual Pumpkin Decorating Contest; Halloween crafts and games in every grade were led by parent volunteers who zoomed into the classrooms; spooky riddles were read daily; a visual scavenger hunt was created in the school yard for teachers to bring their students; Halloween music played and we even had parent volunteers dress up a mummies to greet the children and staff on the Thursday and Friday before Halloween. In lieu of the Annual Fifth and Sixth Grade Halloween Party, the SCA gifted each upper student with a commemorative Halloween water bottle and personal note. The week concluded with students and staff dressing up on Friday and individual classes held contests for best costumes. I would like to acknowledge the hard work and imagination of our Halloween Chairs, Libby Doumanis, Georgia Katsoulis, Jenna Post and Teri Ann Quinlan. I would also like to thank Maria Herrington for once again organizing an extremely successful Pumpkin Decorating Contest, which she founded. At the end of the week, it was clear that Halloween was definitely NOT cancelled at Munsey Park this year!

Munsey Park launched its first online store for **Spirit Wear** on October 29th. The store closed last night at midnight to ensure delivery for the holidays. To-date, over \$10,000 worth of apparel was sold to more than 120 families. Our hope is to expand the offering and re-open the store in the next quarter.

Munsey Park’s **Photo Re-take day** successfully took place on November 10th.

Finally, today is **World Kindness Day**. For the first time, Kindness Day is being celebrated at the elementary level and the SCA has partnered with our mental health teams to shine the light on how positive behavior and interactions can foster good feelings. Students have been encouraged to write a letter to anyone that has recently shown them some kindness whether it be another student, faculty, an aide, a custodial staff member or teacher.

LOOK AHEAD:

Book Week: Week of November 15th

We have made the difficult decision to postpone Book Week in the hopes that this event can take place when parents can once again participate in person. By way of reminder, this signature event involves one parent dressing up as a popular literary character while another reads the book to the class. This is such a meaningful event for our children that trying to do this via zoom would not be as memorable.

Munsey Park Student Directory: Target delivery is week of Thanksgiving

SCA Enrichment – Journeys Into The American Indian Territories: 4th grade is scheduled for December 2nd

SCA MP/SR Joint Parent Council Meeting: December 2nd

SHELTER ROCK PRESIDENT’S REPORT – ANNA ONCEL

5/6th Grade Halloween Party

The traditional SCA Halloween party for the 5th and 6th graders was not possible this year. Instead, the Halloween Chairs Talar Aprahamian & Stacey Kelly (6th Grade) and Vanihsa Shah (5th Grade) worked hard to create a fun-filled week leading up to Halloween for all the students to enjoy. They decorated the inside and outside of the building and hosted its first pumpkin decorating contest for all the grades. It was a huge success and many participated. To mark this event in some way for the 5th and 6th graders, a Spirit Wear beanie hat engraved Manhasset was gifted as a memento from the SCA. We know this cannot replace the experience and excitement of our customary upper-year party, but we hope our token will make them feel special in some way and we look forward to seeing them next year. Thank you to the wonderful 5th and 6th grade chairs along with the volunteers that help decorate Shelter Rock to make Halloween a memorable experience for the entire school.

MP/SR Joint Parent Council Meeting

On Tuesday, October 27, a virtual Joint Parent Council Meeting was held at 9:30 am. Dr. Whitney Roban, Clinical Psychologist and renowned sleep expert spoke to the Manhasset families. An “Education in Essential Secrets for Healthy Sleep”. We hope that together with Dr. Whitney Roban and parents were inspired and empowered to get their family on a healthy sleep schedule and use the useful tips suggested. Thank you to Connie Bruno from CASA for this wonderful program.

Red Ribbon Week

- Red Ribbon Week Theme Be Brave, Be Kind, Be You ran from October 26-30th. The event, chaired by Elena Vases and Marietta Frangiskatos included two programs for Shelter Rock Students on Wednesday, October 28. Students wore red on this day
- Grades K through 2nd grade attended a virtual assembly on “The Ned Show”
- Grades 3-6 grade virtual presentation was on “Ned Mindset”
- The programs were very well received by the children and they learned a lot from it.

Enrichment Programs at Shelter Rock in October:

Journey into American Indian Territory occurred on October 5th and 6th for the fourth graders. This SCA sponsored enrichment program was virtual. The students were interested and very much enjoyed the presentation.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Upcoming Enrichment Program:

- Second Grade- Suzy Kline
- First Grade – Long Island Science Museum Reptiles and Amphibians

Photo Day Retake: November 18, 2020

Parent Teacher Conference: November 23, 2020 and December 4, 2020

SCA MP/SR Joint Parent Council Meeting: December 2, 2020 at 9:15 AM

CASA UPDATE

Jennifer DeSena, Executive Director, CASA

Connie Bruno, Project Director, CASA

Red Ribbon Week kicked off with Dr. Roban, Clinical Psychologist and sleep expert, who spoke to Manhasset families about the importance of sleep. Grades K through 2 had a virtual assembly from “The Ned Show,” and grades 3-6 had a virtual presentation on the “Ned Mindset.” (**NED: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best**) Both programs were well attended. David Hymowitz conducted a parent presentation about drug trends. The highlight of Red Ribbon Week was a virtual presentation to secondary school students by Stephen Hill, the founder of Speak Sobriety. This presentation was very compelling and Stephen Hill seemed to have made a strong connection with the students. Mr. Hill will be speaking again on November 19th. As for upcoming events, CASA is looking into programs for Health & Wellness Week in 2021, and also may bring back some parent workshops.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Pat Aitken (President of BOE)

Christine Monterosso (Vice President of BOE)

- A recent presentation by the Manhasset Medical Panel regarding COVID-19 was well received and the district hopes to be able to have additional discussions.
- The Board recently completed a visit of the Shelter Rock and Munsey Park schools. The Board conducts an in-person visit of each of the Manhasset public schools routinely.
- Due to questions raised by some community members regarding the application of the new attendance policy in the current hybrid school model, the administration will be revisiting the recently revised attendance policy.
- There will be additional discussions about community goals to be more inclusive, and a 3rd community discussion session will be held on November 30th.
- A recent discussion session was held in our community regarding the current Manhasset mascot. The discussion was joined by local Native American community leaders, current and past Manhasset students, parents, and other community members. More discussions will continue regarding the issue of the Manhasset mascot to ensure that there is sufficient opportunity for people to voice their views and to address the concerns raised regarding the current mascot.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT – DR. VINCENT BUTERA

- The recently held discussion with the Manhasset Medical Panel went very well, and there will be follow up of the discussion panel.

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- There have been some rumors that the Manhasset school district is considering going full remote after Thanksgiving, but this is a rumor. At this time, the Manhasset School District plans on continuing with current instruction plan, and the District is consulting with the health department with each incident of COVID-19. The plan for the November 25th full remote trial day is just to be prepared in the event that full remote instruction is required at some future date.
- The Inclusivity Discussion will continue in our community. The summary of this continuing conversation will be addressed at the following meeting, Joint Meeting for Middle School and High School, which will be starting at 10 am today.

Respectfully submitted,

N. Christine Shah

SCA Executive Board Secretary