



## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Friday, January 15, 2021

**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:** Executive Board Nominations 2021-Executive President, SR President, HS President, Secretary. *Nominations can be sent to Sabrina Scheer or Tonia Zacharia by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

### **EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT – TANIA KAPOOR**

- The Manhasset SCA Membership drive has raised \$30,000 in membership dues.
- The SCA made its annual contribution to CASA in the amount of \$10,000.
- The 2018-2019 audit is now completed. Given the delay in completing the audit, it will not be presented at today's meeting. Instead, the 2019-2020 audit will be presented during the next open Executive Board Meeting.
- Final installment for the 2018-2019 audit as well as the retainer for the 2020-2021 have been paid.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT – N. CHRISTINE SHAH**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Motion made to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2020 SCA Open Executive Board Meeting. Motion approved by the SCA Executive Board.

#### **Report of Interim Votes:**

- The proposal to pay \$4,749.00 to Arena Graphics (Invoice No. 66896-20) for 165 sweatshirts for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Munsey Park Elementary School Graduates has been approved by the SCA Executive Board via electronic communications on Saturday, December 5, 2020.
- The proposal to pay \$3,092.50 to Sherwood Forest Farms for wreaths and centerpieces has been approved by the SCA Executive Board via electronic communications on Sunday, December 20, 2020.
- The proposal to pay \$10,000 to CASA for Red Ribbon Week and salary of the Executive Director for the school year 2020-2021 has been approved by the SCA Executive Board via electronic communications on Saturday, January 9, 2021.

### **HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JANET DIASO**

Happy New Year! Thank you to the many parent volunteers and the HS Administration who helped to plan some special events for our seniors this fall/winter. Since the Senior Banquet has been postponed, the committees, SCA reps, administrators and class advisors worked tirelessly to create some **a t-shirt giveaway, a Senior Journal and a senior superlative video presentation which was released at 8pm on Friday, November 20th.** A big thank you to Stella Biniaris & Bea Roth for creating the t-shirts with Spectrum Designs and to Valerie Caliendo for organizing and producing the senior superlative video. The shirts were perfect and the video was a memorable and funny presentation which featured many teachers, administrators and staff.

Also, thank you to **Senior Journal** chairs, Michelle Guido, Bernadette Doherty and Nancy Albanese who organized the journal, which was distributed to students before Thanksgiving. Over 120 ads were purchased by family members of the senior class. It was a nice fundraising success for the Class of 2020.

In December, the SCA delivered **breakfast** from Let There Be Bagels to the **Secondary School custodial staff in appreciation** for their extraordinary efforts in keeping the schools clean this school year. We appreciate all of the custodians' hard work, especially this year while dealing with all of the COVID 19 protocols

Sign ups for the 3rd annual **SCA College Essay Workshop** will begin in February. This is a 1 on 1 workshop coordinated by Rebecca Chowske and MHS English teachers who help plan and assist in the editing process of college essay drafts. Nancy Schlaefter is the SCA committee chair and Rebecca Chowske is the lead coordinator. Many thanks to them for putting their efforts into this program.

Parent-Teacher Conferences were held on December 3rd for the first time via Zoom and were a big success. The SCA received tremendous positive feedback in this regard and many parents look forward to doing it the same way in years to come!

The 2021-22 Course Catalog was distributed via email and is currently on the Secondary School webpage. Due to the COVID pandemic, Secondary School students (grades 8-11) were asked to choose and submit their High School elective courses for the upcoming school year via a google forms link. The selection process concluded on Tuesday, January 12th at 11:00 PM.

Mid-terms previously scheduled for January 26th-29th have been canceled.

For our next meeting, the SCA will host Terence Houlihan, a witty, funny and engaging speaker who has worked with adolescents for over 25 years as a teacher, counselor and administrator. Please join us at this special evening meeting which will be Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30pm via Zoom. Please look for the zoom link distributed via email from you GLCs. His "Timely Tips For Parenting Your Teenager during COVID19" presentation will promise to be a light and informative talk for anyone who has a tween or teen.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – MARKELLA MALIAGROS**

**Announcements/Reminders:**

**Middle School Fundraisers**

None being planned at this time

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night**

Held on Wednesday 1/6/21 via zoom. It was well attended. Thank you to Dr. Schlanger, Mr. Vercessi and all the Department Heads for their presentations.

**Midterm/Regents**

Week 1/25-1/29 Canceled

**National Junior Honor Society Induction**

This will be held on Wednesday 1/20/21. This will be prerecorded and all 8th Graders who will be inducted will receive a link to join the ceremony.

**Directory**

Michele Longobardi reports that the Directory has been sent to Minuteman Press. We are awaiting a proof. Should be distributed by mail by mid-January.

**Evening Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting 7:30-8:30 pm 2/2/21**

Speaker Terence Houlihan, "Timely Tips for Parenting your Teenager: It's All In Their Heads!"

**Middle School Play**

Will be on online screening held on Friday 2/5. The play is *The Last Day of School*, by Ian McWethy. Approximately 40 middle school students are participating.

**Next morning Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting**

Friday, 3/5/21, 9am

**MUNSEY PARK PRESIDENT'S REPORT – CATHY CROCE**

**SUMMARY:**

The general feeling of Munsey parents is an appreciation for in-person learning. I say this as we end the first week of full remote learning in our 2020-21 school year. It is most parents wish that students can return to school this coming Tuesday, January 19th. Parents are hoping that Covid is not spreading in the schools and want to believe that having our children in school is the best place for them during these challenging times. On a separate note, parents are especially interested in upcoming testing and wonder if testing can be realistically administered during Covid.

**HAPPENINGS:**

Sadly, **Book Week** was postponed. It was meant to take place the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> and we hope will be rescheduled some time in the spring when an in-person experience may be possible. By way of reminder, this signature event involves one parent dressing up as a popular literary character while another parent 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.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** were held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>. We had good feedback from parents about the zoom experience. Most felt they ended up having more time with the teachers.

**Student Directories** were distributed to all families and faculty the week before Thanksgiving. A big thank you to Laura Dworkin for her tireless work to get this out so efficiently.

**SCA Joint MP/SR Parent Council Meeting** was held on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. D'Anca, Director of School Counseling Services gave an impressive presentation on "Mental Health" and the very real impact Covid has had on our families. Also presenting was our Executive Director of District Special Education and Pupil Services, Ms. Rushforth. Ms. Rushforth tackled the lofty subject of "Health and Wellness" and provided parents with information to help navigate the current challenges we are all facing at home and in school. Questions abounded regarding Cleared4Class daily attestations, Covid testing, contract tracing, cluster testing, and potential school closures. The SCA is thankful for the ongoing support and "open door" access both these leaders have provided our entire community.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, our **Enrichment Program** presented the Fourth Grade with the ever-popular "Journeys Into the American Indian Territories" experience. It was well received by the students and teachers alike.

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, The SCA Executive recognized the custodial staff by providing an **Appreciation Breakfast**. It cannot go without saying how vital the custodial team has been in keeping our school open and making our children safe. They have worked non-stop and deserve our sincere gratitude.

We also showed our appreciation at Munsey on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for our **Support Staff**. The SCA provided a hot lunch catered by our local restaurant, Herb & Olive. All support staff were provided with individual bento boxes filled with a complete lunch and sweet treat. Great efforts were made to be Covid conscious – hot lunches were delivered at multiple times throughout the day and to different locations in the building to ensure no gathering or contamination. Herb & Oil was extremely accommodating and professional. I would highly recommend anyone to support this local business.

And finally, it saddens me to say that another wonderful program has been postponed due to Covid-19. Spearheaded by CASA, our **Health and Wellness Week**, featuring the world-famous Harlem Wizards, was to launch a virtual Wizfit Challenge. Students would participate during gym as well as at home in virtual physical challenges and earn prizes for achieving set goals. I cannot say enough good things about Connie Bruno, our partner from CASA, about how hard she has worked to make this happen and how obvious it is that she cares to no end about our children and their well being. Thank you Connie for all you have and continue to do. Thankfully, we have set a new tentative date of January 25<sup>th</sup> to bring this program to our school.

**LOOK AHEAD:**

**“Guess Who is Coming to Read?”**: Postponed until Spring

**SCA Joint MP/SR Parent Council Meeting**: Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am – Math Program

**SCA Joint MP/SR Parent Council Meeting**: Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am – ELA Program

**Enrichment Program**: Fifth Grade “Birds of Prey” scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>

**Book Fair**: Postponed until Spring

**SHELTER ROCK PRESIDENT’S REPORT – ANNA ONCEL**

**Directory:**

The 2020-2021 directories for Shelter Rock were distributed the second week in December. Thank you to Nonna Madia who undertook this immense task.

**Spirit Wear:**

Shelter Rock Spirit wear had its “ ‘Tis the season for spirit wear”. The Spirit Wear store had a profit of \$4,379.02. Thank you to the Manhasset community for supporting the SCA and to the SR Chairs,

Brenda Kim, and Selina Lin. Be on the lookout for the Spring 2021 Spiritwear. There is a lot of new apparel.

**Custodial Staff Breakfast:**

The Shelter Rock Custodial Staff was recognized with a bagel breakfast from Let There Be Bagels as well as a candy poster board on December 15 as a token of appreciation. The custodial staff are an essential role in prepping, opening, and maintaining a clean and safe environment amid the covid-19 pandemic. The Shelter Rock custodians are always available to lend a hand with a bright smile no matter how busy they are. We are thankful to have such supportive and dedicated custodial staff.

**Joint SR/MP Parent Council Meeting:**

On December 2nd, we are happy to have Dr. D'Anca, Director of School Counseling Services, and Ms. Rushforth, Executive Director of District Special Education and Pupil Services presenting an overview of Social Emotional Well Being and Health & Safety. The meeting was very well attended.

**Support Staff Appreciation:**

Even-though we were unable to hold our traditional Support Staff luncheon we could not let the holiday season pass without thanking our incredible support staff for all that they do. On December 18, 2020, the Shelter Rock Support Staff received a Manhasset Mask as a gift of appreciation. As we couldn't "mask" all that they do! A special thank you to Victoria Grassano for making this day special for the Support Staff.

**Sixth Grade Yearbook:**

Sixth graders have received their SR sweatshirt before the Holiday break. The Yearbook Chairs are busy working on the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade yearbook. Although it might not be a traditional looking year the chairs are hard at work being creative to ensure this grade has a special year. Thank you to Kathleen Marelli and Ginny Young for all your hard work.

**Health and Wellness Week**

The Harlem Wizards are joining MP & SR for Health and Wellness week with their new virtual kid's experience - The WizFit Challenge. Children are guided through a series of fun exercises, basketball tricks, and character coaching produced by the Wizards and sponsored by CASA. Thank you to Connie Bruno for all your support and effort to make this happen.

**Enrichment Programs at Shelter Rock:**

- Second Graders- virtual presentation with Author- Suzy Kline on Nov 6
- First Grader – Long Island Science Museum Reptiles and Amphibians on December 11

**Upcoming Enrichment Programs at Shelter Rock:**

- Fifth Grader- Birds of Prey will be on January 22 via zoom.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Virtual Joint Parent Council Meeting on January 22, Mrs. Lauren Tallerine, District Coordinator of Mathematics K-12 will be presenting on elementary math.

**Postponed until Spring 2021**

- Book Week
- Guess Who's Coming to Read
- Book Fair

**CASA UPDATE**

**Jennifer DeSena, Executive Director, CASA**

**Connie Bruno, Project Director, CASA**

We want to recognize the efforts of Cathy Croce and Anna Oncel who worked with CASA to create a program for Health and Wellness Week. We have created a program in conjunction with the Wizards which will run for roughly a month and incorporates health, fitness, and character education in the following areas: Wellness, Imagination, Zero Hate, Fun, Inspiration and Teamwork. It is being kicked off in the Elementary Schools with a short video, the following day a live ZOOM session with the Wizards, and then the first Challenge in gym class and a Grand Finale Party hosted via Zoom (one for Munsey and one for Shelter Rock) with children and families. There are 6 videos, 10 minutes long, which will start in gym class and then the remainder will be completed at home. At the end of each Challenge students will learn the WizFit Shuffle and perform it during the Grand Finale. The Wizards will be creating 4 short videos of encouragement for the teachers to play in their classes. There is a website where teachers can monitor kids and encourage them, and they can win tickets to a November 2021 game of the Wizards if every student in their class completes the challenge. The second track of the program which is optional is a fundraiser for CASA school programming. The grand prize is a golden basketball.

In December, we brought back Steven Hill for the "Not My Kid" program. His father also spoke about his challenges with a son battling the disease of addiction. This was very successful, and we had over 100 participants.

February 1<sup>st</sup> we will have a screening of the film "Like" which is a documentary discussing the effect of Social Media on kids, parents, and people in general. After the screening, several people in the film will host a panel discussion. This screening is very relevant to current issues our kids face. People will have to register to see the film online. We will also have a recording which will be available for 48 hours after the screening.

CASA will conduct the Bach/Harrison Survey in grades 8, 10 and 12. The survey questions the behaviors of our kids and looks at factors that influence these behaviors.

We will be hosting a parent workshop called "Raising Resilient Children. This is tentatively scheduled for the end of February and will be finalizing it shortly.

SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) has selected 33 new members. The club is looking to bring in speakers and may bring Robin Hoffman (the MS social worker) to address mental health issues. She has spoken to them in the past and was very well received.

The MS SetConnect Club has 12-15 members and is creating a large banner about mental health and the banner will be displayed at the Secondary School with one side created by the Middle School Students and the other side

created by the High School students. The HS club has 12 members and has started a Pen Pal program with senior citizens at a local nursing home.

It is suggested for parents to watch The Social Dilemma which is a Netflix documentary which explains alternate set of facts and how this type of reasoning appeals to a lot of people because of the way social media targets its users. This documentary includes interviews with the creators of social media platforms and is very compelling.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – DR. VINCENT BUTERA**

Manhasset Schools will reopen for hybrid in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 18, 2021. Also a reminder is being sent to community regarding the travel advisory and the need to follow guidelines, however the schools will not take punitive measures.

Information regarding state and standardized testing during current COVID restrictions will be addressed during the MS/HS Joint meeting, immediately following this meeting. Regents have been cancelled for January 2021 by New York State. It has not been determined at this time as to whether Regents will be given at the end of this school year. AP Testing is moving forward however these exams will be administered in a remote format in our school district.

The Diversity/Equity Initiative continues to be discussed and currently we are in the phase of bringing people together to talk about these important issues. The Mascot issue also continues to be discussed and we are currently putting together a group of people to get together and have this conversation in the community to have an exchange of perspectives.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE**

**Pat Aitken (President of BOE)**

**Christine Monterosso (Vice President of BOE)**

- Math: At the next Board Meeting, as noted on the Board Agenda, the math curriculum will be discussed, including the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math program.
- Task Forces – If you are aware of people that would be interested in being on these committees/groups addressing these issues, and engage in these conversations, please let us know.
- The SEL wing is going to move forward this summer, so that it will be ready for September.



**Respectfully submitted,**

N. Christine Shah

**SCA Executive Board Secretary**