

SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting

Friday, March 5, 2021 Via Zoom

Markella Maliagros, MS SCA Pres., Janet Diaso, HS SCA Pres.

Directories have been mailed to all families. Contact Janet or Markella if you did not get one. The Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be May 19 and preparations are underway.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Vincent Butera

Regarding re-opening and re-entering the school, a survey of the secondary staff and the parent community, grades 6-12 was conducted to gauge the sentiment on reopening. Seventy-three percent of families indicated that they wanted to return full time.

A BOE meeting is scheduled for early next week. The school is looking to phase in students back into the building or give students the option of whether or not they want to return full-time. This must be done in a thoughtful, measured, and safe way.

Covid-19 is still around, and the building has quite a bit of work to do to plan for that return. Want to make changes without putting students and faculty in danger. It will therefore be a phased-in approach where some grades are returned before the break and by mid-April everyone is returned. In September, the plan is for everyone to return. Full time and remote are definite options, however we are not sure about the hybrid option. This will be decided next week. It is important to note that the flexibility we currently have between plans will no longer be there.

Parents asked if the school would send out another survey which explains the potential consequences of going back full-time since the students will now be only 3 feet apart in the classroom. For example, if someone in the class tests positive, students will be required to quarantine. Regardless of a mask or partition, if you are exposed to someone with Covid for at least 15 minutes and was within 6 feet of that person, you are considered a contact tracer. It was also noted that plexiglass does not help if you are within the 6 feet circle.

Allison Rushforth noted that If you are in close contact with someone who has Covid, you have to quarantine for 10 days according to the New York State DOH. If you have already had Covid and you are in the 90-day window you must have a consultation with a school nurse and/or pediatrician because of the different Covid variants. The DOH medical director will then make that determination if you have to quarantine. Manhasset School's medical directors are Dr. Ronald Marino and Dr Rosalie Gian Santana. DOH authorizes the school districts to test for high-risk sports but they do not require it.

Other topics for further discussion are outdoor classrooms, tents and lunch classrooms.

A small number of students in the middle school have returned full-time. These are students who are struggling academically such as students with IEPs and disabilities.

Next Thursday is the unveiling of this year's budget. The proposal will include enhancements, no reductions and no piercing of the cap. We believe the number is very reasonable and will be well received.

Sports seasons have started, and we are optimistic. There is no plan to expand weekly testing for anyone other than those students doing sports.

Principal's Update: Dr. Dean Schlanger

The 6th grade orientation on Zoom had 200 plus parents in attendance. Lunch on the lawn to transition the 6th graders to middle school may need to be replaced with another activity. The Marie Rodgers event will have to be re-structured with tours as opposed to games. The parent panel discussing transitioning will be April 27th.

More Senior co-curricular events and activities will be taking place; things are getting a bit better, and we have more options. Christy Wepler heads this year's frolic committee which will meet Monday 7 pm to discuss an outdoor frolic event. Graduation is Friday, June 25.

The state is issuing guidance regarding Regents exams. They want four Regents to take place: Algebra, Earth Science, Living Environment and English Grade 11. Manhasset has an appeal pending to waive the Regents requirement. At this point we do not know if the school will have finals or Regents. Manhasset's plan will be communicated once it is decided. Also, we are in the final stages of informing the students and parents regarding AP Exams. There will be three unique testing periods: (1) full in person; (2) hybrid and (3) fully digital. Manhasset will offer the in person (students use pen and paper) as well as a digital officering for remote and hybrid students. Manhasset cannot use Unitarian Church this year as in the past so looking for other options for in person testing.

Guidance Update: Dr. Joy D'Anca

8th grade guidance counselor meetings for high school parents and students will be on Zoom.

9th grade meetings will be taking place with parents and students and 11th grade junior conferences will also take place with students and parents.

Counselors met with 10th grade students without parents.

Reach out to counselor if you do not have a date for any of these meetings.

A representative of Method Test Prep spoke to the students about the SAT and the ACT and going test optional. This discussion was taped and is on the Guidance office's webpage.

We had successful mock college interview night with a 5-person professional panel. This was mostly an information session where the panel speakers talked about the interview process. This also has been recorded and is on the website.

On March 17 at 630pm David Hymowitz will do a presentation on why kids self-medicate.

Please always know the entire team is available for you and we invite you and your child to reach out.

CASA Update, Connie Bruno: Program Coordinator

The answers to the Bach Harrison survey which measures risk factors in teens, *i.e.*, characteristics or behaviors that lead to negative outcomes, are being analyzed and we will have the results in a few months. Protective factors such parent support decrease the likelihood of negative outcomes and resiliency.

The Set Connect club will be putting up fliers in the school showing individuals who have had mental health issues in the hopes of removing the stigma associated with mental health issues.

Board of Education Update: Christine Monterosso and Pat Aitken

Tuesday at 7pm the BOE will be discussing the phase re-entry for students.

Thursday at 730pm will be the regular board meeting with student recognition and presentation of the preliminary budget at 8pm.

Next Parent Council Meeting will be April 9 at 10 am.

Adjourned.