

SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council
Friday, October 16, 2020

*Welcome - Janet Diaso opened meeting and thanked the Administration and Board of Education Members for attending.

*Markella Maliagros welcomed Dr. Butera to the meeting, and turned it over to him.

*Dr. Butera made mention that a new attendance policy had been mailed out to parents and guardians from the District - there were modifications made to the policy in light of positive covid cases and opting out, etc.

Dr. Butera spoke to the fact that there had unfortunately been a positive covid case in the High School and that their protocols worked out perfectly. The case was reported to the Department of Health, who then recommended a protocol that was followed. The District Offices are still having daily discussions about how to keep making schools as "normal" as can be for the kids on a daily basis.

*Next week, a discussion will start about the Indian Mascot. A letter will go out later this week inviting community members to attend the Zoom Board of Ed meeting, which will also be attended by members of the Shinnecock Indian Tribe, as well as the Congress of American Indians.

*Diversity Initiative Discussions continue to take place. Two were held over the summer and a third will be held in early November, focusing on respecting dignity of EVERYONE.

*The Mental Health Initiative continues to develop.

*Discussions continue about the Band program in the school. The safety of the Band program is still being discussed. Currently, it is being held outdoors, but thoughts are turning to what happens when the weather starts to turn.

*Dr. Schlanger - Principal's Report:

*Kids have really stepped up and have been doing great.

*Senior Banquet - Discussions about how to bring celebration for the class for a Fall celebratory moment are well underway.

*Quarter 1 Progress Reports will be posted on the Parent Portal today (10/16) at 4:00.

*Photo re-takes have been taking place in the Senior Spa

*Sports Intramurals are underway with pretty decent participation

*Clubs and Activities - trying to offer meaningful yet do-able opportunities.

*Trying to set up push notification that will go to students and parents daily that will include the day's announcements that usually go out over the PA at school.

QUESTION to Dean: Parents want to know how attestations and temperature checks are being handled. Answer: The walkers and kids being dropped off go in front door, Bussed students go in back. Every kid is temperature tested if they do not show the Green Pass when they arrive.

QUESTION to Dean: What about older siblings coming back to Manhasset from college for Thanksgiving. What happens to the siblings that are still attending school in Manhasset? Are they being told to stay home? Answer: Mrs. Rushforth is looking into

it more, but children who are symptom free are still welcome to go to school No one is being told to stay home if they are not sick.

QUESTION to Dean: When entering the building to go to class, is the process similar for Munsey Park and Shelter Rock? Answer: If a child has not been “Cleared for Class” they are sent directly to the Nurse’s office, where they will have their temperature checked and their parents/guardians are called in order to get the attestation over the phone.

QUESTION: Bathroom Breaks - Can the students use the bathroom at any point during the class period? Answer: Yes, they can use the bathrooms during class periods. The bathrooms are closed during transitions between periods so that they are not overcrowded and it is easier to monitor. There are teachers on duty at most bathrooms to monitor use.

QUESTION: Lunch - How are the desks arranged and will the tent outside be up all year? Answer: Desks are socially distanced, spaced, the students can sit where they like, sneeze guards are on all desks, and their seat is recorded at the start of each lunch period for contact tracing purposes. The tent will remain up.

*Joy D’Anca - Guidance Report

First a huge thank you and kudos to Brittany Longhway for stepping up and doing double her job after the other MS Counselor resigned just before the start of the school year.

Welcome to Gavin Gandulla, who has joined the school as Ms. Longhway’s counterparty in the Middle School Counseling Department.

Welcome to Melissa Virdone, who is the new High School Social Worker. She joins Melanie Paez and Robin Hoffman to round out the Department.

*College Application time is in full swing. Students are relying heavily on virtual visits, A lot of virtual college fairs have been happening. The next big one is coming up on 10/29/20.

*Financial Aid night for seniors was held with a speaker from Siena College.

*There are many virtual college visits that are scheduled to take place that are exclusive to Manhasset High School students. The are all posted online on the Counseling page, and there will be more added.

*Upcoming Zoom Parent Nights: 11/12 - 11th Grade Parent Night; 11/24 - Standardized Testing Overview Night.

*PSAT will be held at MHS Sat 10/17 - The Health Attestation will be in effect at check in and will be sent out in the morning.

*At the Middle School, the Transitions classes will begin with the counselors pushing in two times a month.

*The second part of David Heimowitz’s presentations will be at the end of November, entitled “Now What?”

*Teresa McGrath - New District Coordinator for Science, Technology and Health Education

*She continues to have discussions daily with teachers in the Department about what is working and what is not working with regard to the hybrid model of teaching.

*Presentation of slide show:

*What does the classroom look like in the Covid-19 world?

*Research - students are currently being set up to do their research at home

*Hybrid Model in Classes - overview of what teacher does daily. Canvas Pages - each teacher in the department is required to have one and have it be the main place for info.

*Labs have proven to be a bit more challenging of an issue

*Hand sanitizer is available in each classroom, kids are outside as much as possible, kids who are at home are “brought along” outside via cell phones.

*Virtual lab simulations for full-time remote students.

*Extra help has proven to be the biggest challenge in school.

*QUESTION: My child is full-remote and the teacher has been absent. The substitute does not Zoom. My concern is that my child is missing instruction. Answer: I know which teacher we are speaking about, and they are, in fact, out. The students in class are doing the same as the students at home. No one is missing anything. The Canvas Pages are the “Go-To” for EVERYTHING.

*CASA Update - Jen DeSena

*Trying to set up meaningful virtual presentations for students.

*Tuesday 10/27 - Parent presentation on importance of sleep

*Wed 10/28 in the evening - David Heimowitz speaking regarding substance use, abuse and treatment. Update of the current state of things.

*Hoping to get a presentation for the students, and are currently finalizing details.

*Trying to resume CASA Coffees on a Zoom platform.

*Board of Education Update - Christine Monterosso

Next BOE Meeting Thursday 10/22

REMINDERS

*There will be no SCA Fall Luncheon

*Special SCA Highlight went out regarding the sale of Holiday Greenery Fundraiser

*MS Halloween - cancelled