



## MANHASSET SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: Friday, November 19, 2021**

Call to order: 9:06 am

Meeting Adjourned: 9:59 am

### Executive President's Welcome – Kim Haggerty

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Executive President's Report:

- Welcome to our Executive Board meeting! Nice to see everyone again. Thank you for continuing to follow our Covid safety protocols and for wearing a mask while at the meeting. Just a few updates from our Executive Committees which have been very busy this last month!
- We recently concluded our **Winter Greenery Fall Fundraiser**. The final numbers aren't in yet but it was a successful fundraiser. We hope all that ordered enjoy their wreaths and centerpieces in the coming weeks! Thank you to Noreen LaBenne and Laura Dworkin for organizing.
- **Family Theater** is back! We are excited to announce that we will have one presentation this Spring! The bestselling children's book Rainbow Fish, is brought to life in this exciting production. It will be held, Saturday, March 12th 2pm at Munsey Park. Contact Chairs Valerie Papain or Lena Tanzi to volunteer or for more information.
- **Project Share** is kicking off their annual Holiday Gift Giving Drive. They are collecting gift cards for local families in need for this holiday season. Be on the look out for the Sign Up Genius to donate.
- **Saturday Series** registration will begin Monday 12/6 online and Musical Theater sign ups will take place Thursday 12/16 at Shelter Rock. Saturday Series will start Jan. 8th and run for 8 weeks.
- **Planet Manhasset** reported that several teachers at MP & SR have gone out to observe the gardens and have helped prepare them for winter. There is an Extended Extras class at Munsey Park, "Seeds for Success" for 3rd & 4th graders. It has been a huge success and they have been planting and weeding the MP garden. Plant Manhasset is participating in the MPWC Shop Around the Block today and will be selling paper white bulb kits, sweatshirts and PM school supplies.

### Executive Treasurer's Report – Tania Kapoor

- The 2019-2020 audit still hasn't been completed. Now we are expecting the audit to be presented by our accountant, Tim O'Keefe during our January Board Meeting.
- We have collected \$30,932 in membership dues which is below the expected target. We need to ramp up membership collection.



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- Project Share received a \$10,000 check from the Munsey Park Women's Club
- The expenses for Munsey Park School, Shelter Rock School and Middle School Halloween Parties have been processed and are all under budget.
- Munsey Park 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook payments have been collected.
- Munsey Park School received \$5,746.43 from Scholastic for their Book Fair last school year.

### FROLIC

- Frolic 2021 Committee still has outstanding expenses such as custodial gratuities and expense reports to be submitted.
- The balance in the 2020 Frolic account will remain in the account and used as determined by the Frolic 2020 Committee.
- The balances in the 2018 and 2019 Frolic accounts are still due to be cleared in accordance with the Bylaws.

### **Executive Secretary's Report – Kristi Wede**

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

Motion made to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2021 SCA Open Executive Board Meeting. Motion approved by the SCA Board.

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

The request for payment to Arena Graphics for Munsey Park 6<sup>th</sup> grade sweatshirts in the amount of \$4318.00 was approved by the SCA board via electronic communications on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

The SCA executive board has approved the updated SCA safety protocols to include that children with a temperature above 100 degrees and adults with a temperature above 100.4 degrees should stay home. This was done via electronic communications on Friday, October 29, 2021.

The request to pay Spectrum Designs in the amount of \$3375.84 for Shelter Rock 6<sup>th</sup> grade sweatshirts was approved by the SCA executive board via electronic communications on Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

### **High School President's Report – Rachel Harley**

The Senior Banquet was held at Leonards on November 1<sup>st</sup> and it was a huge success! Many thanks Laurie Lauria and to Val Bebbler and her team for all of their hard work organizing such a well-attended event for our seniors. A special thank you to all of our junior parents who volunteered that night so our senior parents could enjoy the festivities.



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The English Honor Society Induction took place on November 8<sup>th</sup> in the high school auditorium. It was a beautiful ceremony that was very well attended, and it also highlighted many of our talented musicians with harmonious performances.

Our 11<sup>th</sup> grade parent night took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> and was well attended. Parents who were unable to make the meeting can view all the information on our guidance website.

The Math Honor Society Induction was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Shelter Rock auditorium, another well attended event celebrating our talented mathematicians!

Varsity and Junior Varsity Sports began on November 15<sup>th</sup> -- basketball, fencing, wrestling, competitive cheer, swimming and diving, winter track and bowling – lots of great sport options and I think it is just nice to have a sense of normalcy to the year for our students.

Finally, Senior Yearbook poses were due today!

### **Looking Ahead...**

Social Studies Honor Society Induction on Tuesday, 11/23 at 7PM.

Thanksgiving Recess—woo hoo!

Science Honor Society Induction on Tuesday, 11/30 at 7 PM.

Parent – Teacher Conferences on the evening of December 2 and all day Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

National Honor Society Induction on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.

Holiday concerts! Holiday concert I at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, 12/15, holiday concert II at 7:30 PM on 12/21.

Holiday recess – yippee – beginning on December 24<sup>th</sup>!

Frosh/Soph – previously scheduled for January 7<sup>th</sup>, being moved to the Spring

Our next Parent Council meeting will be on **Friday, January 14, 2022 at 10AM** and we hope to see everyone there!

### **Middle School President's Report – Markella Maliagros**

#### **Directory**

Michele Longobardi and Tanya Karcic have been collecting parent information for the Directory. An email went out to all incoming 7th Graders to fill out the form. Deadline is in November 20<sup>th</sup>. We will send out one final reminder. So far we have 268 responses. Waiting to hear back about how many of those responses are for 7th grade.

#### **Fall Decorations**



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We used funds from the HS Budget to buy Fall Decorations for our Middle School and High School entrances. Thank you to Paula Chiarucci who helped me purchase everything at Hicks and set it up by the entrances.

### **Halloween Celebration; Chaired by Blanca McKenna and Albena Zaffuto**

Our MS Halloween Celebration was held on Friday, October 29th from 8-10 pm in the middle school and high school gyms. We had to move the party indoors because of the rain and we had to push the time back due to Volley Ball Playoffs. Overall we had very good attendance- over 300 students. We had pizza, waters, chips and candy donated. We have volunteers to help with DJ, inflatables, Arcade games, Ping Pong, and more. Costumes were optional for the students. Thank you to our Chairs.

### **Parent Teacher Conference Days**

Teacher Reacher will be open on 11/17. Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday 12/2 in the evening and all day on Friday 12/3.

### **Middle School Sports**

We wrapped up Middle School Sports in early November. Tryouts for Middle School sports began 11/8/21.

### **Middle School Holiday Concert Monday December 13th**

Need to Start Figuring out who to invite for February Guest Speaker. We have used Terrence Houlihan last few years. We have a connection to him through Dr. D'Anca. Last year he spoke about "Timely Tips for Parenting your Teenager; Its all in their heads

### **Munsey Park President's Report – Cathy Croce**

**Overview:** This past month has been positive and productive. The children's social- emotional well- being was elevated during the week leading up to Halloween. Families are still thanking the SCA, our Principals, and the District Office for making that week so uplifting.

**Happenings: Red Ribbon Week** in collaboration with CASA, took place the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>. Munsey Park focused on raising awareness and sharing the original message of living drug-free. Serious consideration was given to ensure all discussions were age appropriate for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The school was decorated with red ribbons, posters were hung around Manhasset with a QR code link to RRW's history, and red ribbons were handed out to students to tie on their backpacks. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders attended an assembly presented by Adam Birkenstock, Director of Programming, Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. The presentation discussed the importance of making smart and healthy life choices, and included the dangers of vaping. Munsey Park also hosted parents on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> for an assembly on "Marijuana – what's changed?" presented by John M. Venza. Mr. Venza is a NY state licensed clinical social worker and a licensed mental health counselor. The SCA would like to thank Connie Bruno for her attention to detail and for making this grassroots RRW so meaningful. I am also extremely grateful to our chair, Jamie Dowd, who has been a tremendous help in the revamping of RRW and its successful execution at Munsey Park.

Our **pumpkin decorating contest** was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. With over 200 decorated pumpkins, the judging was challenging but fun. One winner from each grade was selected for scariest, funniest, and most creative. Thanks to Maria Herrington for founding this fun event 5 years ago and for continuing to volunteer.

The **5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Halloween party** returned this year after a one year hiatus due to covid. The SCA and Munsey Park families are extremely grateful to District Office for supporting this festive event. The SCA is also appreciative of Principal Altman for his ongoing efforts to ensure our students have a positive well-rounded experience. This was our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders first school dance and first party since Covid. It meant so much to everyone's mental health. The SCA would also



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like to acknowledge the hard work of our chairs: Jenna Post, Teri Ann Quinlan, Colleen Sharkey, and Margaret Nicklas. They did an outstanding job to create a memorable event.

**Book Week** also returned this year to Munsey Park. It took place earlier this week and the theme was “Super Readers!” Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade enjoyed read alongs with surprise family guests who dressed up as literary characters and came to read to their child’s class. This year’s costumes were: Cat in the Hat & Thing 1 for Kindergarten, Red Crayon and Blue Crayon for 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Tiger and Lion for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Magician and rabbit for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Harry Potter robes for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The SCA would also like to thank our librarian Mrs Olwy who coordinated the whole event. I would also like to acknowledge our chairs Teri Ann Quinlan and Jennifer Lippman.

**Fifth grade enrichment** brought back its all-time favorite field trip: **Project Adventure**. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders had incredible weather for this event and enjoyed the team building exercises. I would like to welcome our enrichment chair, Lucia Del Monaco and thank her for taking on this important program that, by design, supports and compliments each grades’ curriculum throughout the year.

**Extended extras** continued this month and will run through December. Thank you again to Claudine Fini and Melissa Napolitano for all their hard work.

### Looking ahead:

the student directory is on track for delivery to families and teachers next week. Big thanks to Laura Dworkin for taking on this huge project.

SCA MP/SR joint parent council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 1

3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrichment -author visit is scheduled for December 17

### Shelter Rock President’s Report – Susan Siris

#### Happenings:

**Extended Extras** has been up and running with much success. We’ve had approximately 185 students enrolled in 13 classes before and after school. Thank you again to our chair Priyanka Puri and other volunteers for all of their hard work.

**Red Ribbon Week** ran from October 23-31. The theme this year was “drug free looks like me.”

Red ribbons were tied to the trees at Shelter Rock ahead of the “Shed The Meds” drive through drop event that happened at the school on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> at the joint MP/SR Parent Council meeting at MP social worker and mental health counselor John Venza spoke about how marijuana has changed and why it is more dangerous than ever. The event was not well attended but that morning was incredibly rainy.

On October 28<sup>th</sup> students were asked to wear red. Teachers read to their students about the meaning of Red Ribbon Week and gave them red ribbons to tie on their backpacks.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders attended an assembly by Adam Birkenstock, Director of Programming at the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Mr. Birkenstock focused on the dangers of vaping and the importance of making healthy decisions. The students seemed engaged and responsive and Mr. Roder and SR staff had very positive feedback.



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Thank you to our Red Ribbon Week chair Whitney Godfrey and Connie Bruno at CASA for all of their planning and hard work.

The outside of the school was decorated for **Halloween Week**. The SCA held it's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual pumpkin decorating contest, inviting children to bring in non-carved, decorated pumpkins. Prizes were given out at the end of the week in each grade. All of the students were invited to wear costumes to school on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

The **5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Halloween Party** was Friday evening. For social distancing purposes the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades parties were held at different times. Each grade was divided in half between games in the gym and food and a DJ in the cafeteria and halfway through the party the groups switched rooms. The decorations and parent participation were spectacular and all of the children seemed to have a great time. Thank you to Umbertos restaurant for sponsoring pizza and to our chairs Annie Yeung and Cheryl Ng for making this event a big success.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders had their **Enrichment** presentation zoom by Author Suzy Klein on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you again to our Enrichment Chair Elena Vases.

**Book Week** ran from November 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in the SR Library for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. The theme this year was "Reading is a Super Power." Children were encouraged to draw a picture of a book cover or character that is "super" to help decorate the halls and prizes were given in each grade. Parent volunteers dressed up in costumes and read a selected book to each class. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being able to participate in this fun event again. Thank you to our chairs Laura Matina and Kate Naismith and our librarian Mrs. Rowland for all of their planning and hard work.

**Photo retakes** and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade photo with matching SR class sweatshirts happened on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders were treated to hot chocolate and cookies and the yearbook staff took candid photos in addition to the group photo for the yearbook spread. Thank you again to our Photo Chairs Rita Gigante and Roula Tsoumas.

The **SR Directory** is in its final stages and should be printed soon. Thank you to our Directory Chair Phara Han for this very big task.

### Looking Ahead:

In person **Parent Teacher Conferences** will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Joint **MP/SR Parent Council Meeting** will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> at MP and a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting may be held at SR the following week.

All **holiday concerts** will take at Munsey Park this year. Each family will be allowed to reserve 3 assigned seats.

Wednesday, December 8

6:00 - Shelter Rock 4th grade Chorus @ Munsey Park

7:30 - Shelter Rock 5th grade Chorus @ Munsey Park

Thursday, December 9

7:30 - Shelter Rock 6th grade Chorus/Chamber Choir @ Munsey Park

Wednesday, December 22

6:00 - Shelter Rock Concert Orchestra @ Munsey Park

7:30 - Shelter Rock Concert Band @ Munsey Park

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade **Enrichment** visit with author Shana Corey will be on December 17<sup>th</sup>.



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### **Champions for Charity – Amy Keogh**

Designate the SCA before shopping at the Americana

First shopping day is this Sunday, 11/21/21

Blue Mercury event on 12/2 from 6:15-8 pm – make overs, drinks, snacks, free gift with purchase over \$50

### **Superintendent's Report – Dr Gurav Passi, Superintendent of Schools**

Hamlet production - AP literature students are reading Hamlet now so they watched the dress rehearsal

Friday and Saturday nights – Hamlet performance

Student state level swim and dive competition today and tomorrow

There has been a request to move the graduation date on 6/24/22 to earlier date due to military academy report date.

There are 2 major regents exams on 6/17/22 (the Friday before) so possibly look at 6/18/22

Graduation and frolic would move together.

15 seniors would still need to take the physics regents the following week. 7 students would need to meet general graduation requirements the following week.

Graduation in Manhasset has always been the culminating event- the last thing we do on campus

If graduation happens before the last day of school, some will have to take the physics exam and other exams after graduation. Honor designations won't be on the diplomas and students won't get physical diplomas.

6/19/21 is Father's Day and Juneteenth. The rain date for graduation would be Father's Day. This may impact the availability of staff. Junior parents usually take down the frolic the day after – this would be Father's Day.

### **BOE update – Pat Aiken, BOE President**

Continuing with Dr Passi's discussion on changing graduation and frolic, having one less week to prepare for Frolic is also something to consider. 30-40 teachers walk with the class or are in the audience. Staff and administrators also chaperone the frolic. This can be a challenge because its Father's Day weekend. Logistically – the rain date could push the frolic to before graduation and then have to come to school the following week. The student senate wanted to help out their friend, but when they found out all the details and the ramifications -they thought of other ways to do something for Hunter. They threw out some other ideas including a parade to honor him. This is a community decision and we have to balance everyone's needs.

### **CASA Update – Connie Bruno, Project Director**

Red Ribbon Week – Drug Free Looks Like Me

We engaged the community this time and had a girl scout troop from Shelter Rock hang posters in town with a QR code so that you could scan the code and learn about the history of Red Ribbon Week. The girls also handed out red ribbons.

They were featured in the Manhasset Press this week in a picture at Mary Jane Davies Park.

The take back event took place on Saturday and the police had to take 2 trip with bags full of medications.

We need to iron out the epi pens and needles – we can't take them. A lot of people show up with them. We would like to provide that service as well in the future.

The biggest disappointment of the week was the lack of parent involvement in the Nov 26th Marijuana presentation. We don't get a great turn out for any events that have to do with the older ( high school ) kids. We are seeing better turn out for the elementary aged kids. For the Sullivan's presentation, we had 31 adults there ( coaches and parents ) and 135



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students were there - and they received community service hours. We had an amazing study skills seminar on Election Day – we had 71 students on the afternoon call and 41 parents on the evening call.

### **Executive President's closing remarks – Kim Haggerty**

Motion to adjourn the 9am executive board meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi Wede  
SCA Executive Board Secretary