

**MEETING MINUTES  
SCA HS/MS JOINT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021 - 10AM VIA ZOOM**

**1. Welcome**

**A. Markella Maliagros, MS SCA President** - Introduction of Rachel Harley as the new Manhasset High School President.

- MS Welcome back dance is today, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021 from 7:30pm-9:30pm on the girl's turf. There will be food and a DJ.
- MS Open house will be virtual on Tuesday, Sept. 28 by Zoom.
- Please remind parents to look for the directory update.

**B. Rachel Harley, HS SCA President**

- Collection of SCA membership dues by the Grade level chairs.
- Senior Portraits were taken last week - retakes are Oct. 8, 2021 by appointment only.
- Grades 7-11 photo days are coming up on 9/23-9/24, retakes are 10/14/21.
- Pep rally today and homecoming tomorrow, Sat., 9/18/21. The parade begins at 1:30pm and the football game is at 2pm.
- High School open house on 9/22 at 7pm via Zoom.
- 12th Grade student/Parent night on 9/23 at 7pm via Zoom.
- Guidance Financial Aid Night on 9/29 at 7pm.
- 9th Grade Student Parent Night on 10/6 at 7pm.

**2. Superintendent's Report**

**A. Dr. Passi, Acting Superintendent** - Welcome, today is the ninth day of school. We are looking forward to the pep rally this afternoon and homecoming tomorrow. The goal is to return to pre-pandemic normal by connecting the students and the community. All extracurricular and co-curricular activities are back. In the classroom there is social distancing of 3ft. In the cafeteria there is 6 ft. social distancing. Dean Schlanger is maximizing outdoor spaces.

**B. Summer Construction** - The construction has been substantially completed on time. Many thanks to the Deputy Superintendent for overseeing the work on the creation of the Wellness and Learning Center, the Middle School Commons, Broadcast Journalism Room, Technology Space, Secondary School traffic redesign and new asphalt and the water main project. The walkway redesign is much safer for pedestrians. On the first day of school, there were traffic delays due to rain. By Friday, traffic flowed smoothly and all was clear by 8:05am.

**C. COVID !9 mitigation** - Two primary objectives - The first is to return the district to pre-pandemic normal with in person learning. Secondly, Manhasset is implementing layered mitigation efforts as per the CDC guidelines. In the classrooms, there is social distancing of 3ft. In the cafeteria, there is social distancing of 6ft. Dean Schlanger is maximizing outdoor spaces. Students are able to use lockers. All athletics and extracurricular activities are back.

**D. Computer Network Disruption on September 14, 2021.** There is an ongoing investigation about the problem. The district is working methodically and diligently for answers and to restore service. IT is on it. Instruction is still happening. Dr. Passi has visited classrooms in all three schools. The teachers have adapted to traditional methods of teaching as done in the past when we were students. Hot spots are working for all of the departments so that teachers have access during prep periods. On Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, Google drive and copier machines will be up and running.

**E. Christine Monterosso, Vice President of the school board,** noted that the students are all safe. The teachers and administrators have Emergency APPS on their phones for fire alarms, safety evacuations and other safety precautions. Phone service has been restored.

**3. Principal's Report - Dean Schlanger, Principal of the secondary school**

- Welcomed everyone back and assured everyone that the building is safe.
- There was an evacuation drill on Wednesday and everything went smoothly.
- Spirit week has been festive. Participation has been great.
- Senior portraits are just about complete.
- The traffic pattern is being monitored and tweaked. Dean Schlanger, Marc Oppenheimer and security are directing traffic every morning. The walkways and bike paths are being reviewed as well. The kids have been very cooperative.
- Thank you for the Social Emotional Learning Center. After lunch, students are able to use the Center or go outside.
- The Homecoming parade is tomorrow. This year instead of floats, students and parents are decorating cars to drive in the parade.
- The Class of 1966 will be touring the building and have breakfast.

**4. Secondary School Assistant Principal Presentation - Marc Oppenheimer**

- Originally from Ohio, the Buckeye state where he worked as a band leader for 17 years.
- Currently in his seventh year as an administrator, he is replacing Kelly Ramsey as the new assistant principal.
- He is focused on working with Mr. Vercessi on managing attendance and working with Joy Anne D'Anca in guidance.
- Proud father of three daughters, he is a sports and health fanatic that plays the classical and jazz trumpet.

**5. Joy Anne D'Anca, Director of Guidance/Counseling Grades 7-12**

- As Dr. Passi discussed the students are resilient and adapting well. The computer network disruption has been eased by the hot spots.
- School has opened smoothly with minimal schedule changes.
- The middle school wellness team led by Mr. Vercessi has helped the 7th graders transition smoothly.
- The social emotional wellness wing, grass benches and seats are an asset to the campus.
- Guidance is pushing into 12th grade English classes to help the seniors with the applications process. They will be fine tuning essays and applications.

- Teacher recommendations will be submitted through Naviance. The grade 12 parent meeting will review the process.
- Secondary School open house on September 22, 2021
- 12th grade parent meeting on September 23, 2021

**Question #1** from Chris Whittaker: Will the 12th grade meeting be recorded?

Reply from Joy Anne D'Anca: Yes

**Question #2** from Rachel Harley: Many 12th grade students use their MUFSD emails for college applications. Did the data breach affect the students?

Reply from Dr. Passi: No, the student emails were not breached.

**Questions #3** from Jill Pulliano: Could the parent meeting need to be held in person?

Reply from Joy Anne D'Anca: Yes, the power point presentation needs to be done in person. She noted that the meeting with the 12th grade students was seamless.

## 6. **CASA Update**

### A. **Connie Bruno, Project Director**

- The goal is to empower kids to make the right choices.
- Ribbon Week began as a mission to bring the community together and honor a DEA agent was murdered in Mexico in the late 1980's murdered by drug traffickers.
- CASA is working on getting speakers. The survey showed a need to for substance abuse prevention and the issues of mental health and social media.
- Partner Project Health: Today's Marijuana and the introduction of Fentanyl. This mix has led to an increase of overdoses.
- 10/23/21 Drug take back event.

### B. **Jen Desena, Executive Director**

- We need to have conversations to educate our kids because time runs out quick. They grow up quick.
- Thank you to the SCA for all of the amazing progress.

## 7. **Board of Education Update - Pat Aiken, President**

- Welcome back! Thank you to the SCA for it's continued partnership of 18 years.
- We will continue to be resilient and return to the prepandemic normal.
- Meetings are every other Thursday in person in the community room. They will be live streamed, recorded and put on YouTube. Zoom links will be available as well.
- The current focus is on goals for the upcoming year. Please reach out and communicate.

## 8. **Close of the Meeting - Rachel Harley**

- The next meeting will be in person on 10/22/21.
- Wishing everyone a great weekend and month!