



SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes Date: June 6, 2013

Call to Order: 9:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 11:25 a.m.; reconvened at 1:20 p.m. to revote on Bylaws Revisions; adjourned 1:21 p.m.

Officers Present: Christy Wepler, Lori Downey, Lisa Belinsky, Michaela Sheridan, Nancy Schlaefer, Liz Tomaselli, Elizabeth Johnson, Deirdre Curtis

Pledge of Allegiance

SCA Executive President's Welcome – Christy Wepler

- Thanks to the departing Executive Board members for their time and dedication.

Approval of Minutes – Deirdre Curtis

- The April 12, 2013 and May 6, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

CASA – Lis Shibley

- Yesterday and today are “red watchband” days at the high school, the purpose of which is to train on CPR. The majority of seniors are participating.
- Due to the budget vote, CASA has lost its funding from the district. CASA is a not-for-profit, like the SCA, but it has costs and expenses and must file returns with the IRS. Any money that CASA receives from the district it gives back to the district.
 - CASA was voted a Manhasset Chamber of Commerce “Member of the Week”
 - CASA’s in-kind donations are significant.
- Lis provided a handout showing all of CASA’s activity for the last five years, including an annual report for 2012-2013.
 - The handout showed the Bach Harrison survey results
 - CASA’s ONDCP grant requires that it survey regarding substance use every two years; this year CASA did so during English classes. Mr. O’Reilly and Mr. Adcroft made in-kind donations for their time – thanks!
- CASA’s future is up in the air. The original grant expires this year and is renewable for an additional five-year term. We have submitted our application and should find out in late August if the grant is renewed.
 - If the grant is not renewed, CASA has enough funds to operate through year-end 2013.
 - Lis is retiring and there are new board members joining CASA.

- The government wants organizations such as CASA to provide “positive alternatives” to substance use.
 - CASA considering going outside the school – maybe to the MWCABC.
 - CASA hasn’t engaged kids the way it wants to /possibly could. For example, the students should run Red Watchband week – not just participate.

Treasurer’s Report – Elizabeth Johnson

- Budget highlights re specific line items:
- Revenues:
 - Interest rate environment not great; SCA is very conservative and needs to be liquid for the majority of their assets.
 - Saturday Series in the fall hired 2 teachers to run program and broke even. in the spring, was run by Sheila Reilly et al who did a great job a managed expenses well improving revenues. Overall, fell short of the budget.
- Expenses:
 - “Student Assist” – SCA works with guidance to identify students who need some financial assistance. This year spent \$9200, so the \$10k budget is appropriate
 - This line item provides scholarships for AP tests, drivers ed, field trips, honor societies, proms, book fairs. Much goes through Project share. This year both elementary schools transferred money to Project Share.
 - This year Elementary School gave funds to Project Share and Project Share raises additional funds through various fundraising activities.
 - Summer Studies line was reduced by \$5k; we did not spend the amount budgeted for this year
 - Health and Wellness: came in at \$1500 this year, so will reduce to that amount for 13-14
 - Planet Manhasset is allocated \$250
 - Middle School: we have consolidated the high school and middle school parent council meetings thus eliminating some expense lines.
 - SCA Executive: eliminating SCA stationery
 - Contingency: Increased by \$10k based on past needs
 - Student Enrichment budget is \$27,000 remains the same.
 - Author presentations/visits, theater programs
 - “Power of One”; Rosalind Wiseman
 - Question posed re whether SCA can use those funds to revive elementary school enrichment programs that were abolished. Christy Weppler noted that this coming year the SCA may step back from those programs and fund to the direct needs of the students.
 - Question posed re using SCA funds for the second budget vote
 - Bylaws provide limit of 5% of the budget (approximately \$4200).
- Deirdre Curtis made a motion to approve the budget. Nancy Schlaefer seconded the motion. The budget passed unanimously.

Bylaws Revision – Debra Arenare

- SCA Charter provides that we refresh the bylaws every five years. The purpose is to review the language of the bylaws and compare to the SCA's actual practice. Among the revisions are:
 - Eliminate some requirements for eligibility to serve on the Executive Board
 - Add provision for vote by proxy
 - Streamline policies
 - Conform expenditure approval process to be consistent with actual practice
- All the revisions are available on the SCA's website. Hard copies of the proposed revised bylaws were provided to all Executive Board members.
- Vote taken and 33 votes in favor, none against.
- Vote is adjourned to the SCA lunch for completion.

Superintendent's Report – Charles Cardillo

Budget review:

- Failure of the budget vote takes attention away from all the good things such as concerts, PoCoHo poetry, girls lacrosse going to the state quarterfinals in Cortland today.
- Three meetings within five days to discuss next steps; difficult because of high emotions.
- Creating a very simple straightforward document to send to the community
 - Sets forth what is in and what is out for all schools
 - Reserves, pension, healthcare – all these put us in a tough position
- Four years ago, the board proposed a 0.5% budget to budget increase, keeping in mind the financial crisis and its effect on Manhasset families
- In the ensuing years we told the community that sooner or later using our reserves instead of increasing the tax levy would catch up with us
 - This year no one seemed to recognize what good came from using reserves in past years
- For the new proposed budget, there are three things that let us keep close to what we currently have:
 - Unions stepped up big time; Charlie asked on May 22 to show tangible proof that we're in this together
- The administrative group took a freeze for the second time in three years; MEA took cuts
- Retirement incentives are in process; early next week we will have final list
- The district's attorney said it couldn't be done so quickly, but we did it on the fly
- Administrative group is doing "herculean" work; it's problematic when there is so much pressure from the community, but they are showing tangible evidence of their cuts
- Based on these concessions we staved off increasing elementary class sizes and we saved middle school sports
- The goal is always to maintain the integrity of academics
- Bottom line of the revised budget is an increase of approximately \$265/year in taxes for appraised value of \$1 million
 - Total budget amount is \$900,000 LESS THAN last year's budget
- Legislation is the issue
- Hopefully in 2014-2015 there won't be such a large gap

Questions for Charlie:

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- How will the high school manage without an assistant principal?
 - Manhasset students operate at high levels and administrators tend not to be bogged down with discipline issues
 - We will redistribute work – for example, responsibility for community service hours will likely go to Mara Steindam
 - We had to consider how to have the least disruption. In the high school, one building principal and one building vice principal will work with the admin team to make it work
- Security?
 - One supervisory aide in the Attendance Office is retiring; we will put in an interior security guard
 - Reducing one security position at the high school campus
 - Reverting to the old security guard protocol at the elementary schools
- Technology is advancing
- Perception re renovation of track and turf?
 - The turf work was done thanks to donations and a legislative grant and an MSG varsity grant.
 - The track upgrade was approved in 2011 and is just now being done.
- Who absorbs the cost of the teachers being let go?
 - The original budget provided for a reduction of 2 teachers; if the June 18 budget vote fails an additional 7 positions will be impacted
 - Tough calls: for example, Coach Sair performs at a very high level and is a person of very high character.
- Have groups that organized against the original budget now endorsed the revised budget?
 - Charlie and Craig Anderson met with one individual who was very vocal against the budget; it was a positive and productive meeting, and the individual later called Charlie to thank him for reaching out
 - It's a delicate line; our intent is to work within the spirit of the tax cap, but we can disagree on the definition
- We are hopeful we won't have bad opposition to the revote
- We can't agree never to exceed the tax cap – it's impossible to guarantee, and in any event the law provides that we can exceed it
- Absentee ballots can be submitted up to 5:00 pm on the day of the vote
 - Can be delivered by anyone
 - Register from 4 – 8 pm on June 11 in Room 210
 - Last day to register to vote is June 17
- Get out the vote ideas:
- Rosanne Massaro: Abrakadoodle in Roslyn doing posters "Why I Love Manhasset"
 - Saturday 2-6pm
 - Will reach out to Manhasset Mothers group
 - Will be posted around town at stores and Sandra Chen will ask Americana for permission to post
- SCA Board approved
 - Backpack Express will include announcement re the poster program

- Yesterday Rosanne hosted an event for her child's kindergarten class at Abrakadoodle; both teachers attended, even though both had been notified that they were possibly losing their jobs
- If kids can't come to the studio, can submit 11 x 10 posters
- Limitations:
 - SCA can't say "vote yes"
 - Can say "what I love about Manhasset"
- Deadline is June 21
- Ribbon campaign
 - Provide blue and orange ribbons to voters to display at home

Presidents' Reports: Note: to expedite the meeting, Presidents' reports were provided in writing to the Executive Secretary and not discussed during the meeting.

Lisa Belinsky – High School

- Since our last Exec. Meeting we had the Senior Prom at the North Hempstead Country Club. Connie Parsons and Donna Gilles attended as SCA chaperones and reported it was a wonderful evening with the students having a great time, and all went smoothly. That same evening the Senior parents had a very successful final Frolic fundraiser at the home of Andy and Elaine Phillips, that was a great fundraiser and helpful in the home stretch.
- The 9th grade class had their fundraiser on Wed. April 24th, run by GLC's Monica Zenobio and Lauren Barrett. It was held locally at La Coquille, they did a few other raffles that night and had a successful event.
- The SCA fair was held on Saturday, May 4th, it was a beautiful day. Melinda Smotkin was the HS volunteer chair and coordinated both parents and students who turned out to help. There was a lot of participation.
- On Tuesday, May 21st we hosted a college admissions speaker, Gwyeth Smith Jr, who spoke about "Demystifying the College Admissions Process" It was very well attended. Thank you to Laurie Herbert and Argy Mantikas who coordinated refreshments.
- The first Mandatory Frolic meeting was held on May 22nd, the second was on May 28th. Between the two nights, approximately 300 tickets were sold. The final night will be June 10th, but no guest tickets will be sold that night. Thank you to Jeanine Toes for coordinating those meetings.
- Once the Pops Concert occurred on Wed. May 29th, the Frolic moved into the gym the next day. Chairs Joanne Goldberg, Caroline Kenlon and Judy Pegno are working tirelessly with a group of volunteers to make that special evening come together.
- The Frolic is Friday, June 21st, the same day as graduation. The SCA has purchased a banner congratulating the graduates and a logo photo back drop which will be used at the ceremony this year, and for years to come. Again, we will be providing water for the guaranteed hot day it will be, and the Jr. Class officers will hand it out, so they get to witness a ceremony for themselves.

Michaela Sheridan – Middle School

- Monday June 3: Middle School Concert 1 --Orchestra and 7th grade Chorus at 7:30 pm.
- Wednesday June 5: 8th Grade awards in the High School Auditorium at 7:30am.
- Wednesday June 5: MS Concert 2, Band, 8th Grade Chorus, and Chamber Singers at 7:30 PM.
- Thursday June 6: 3:15 MS/HS Sports Physicals
- Friday June 7th -MS BBQ/Dance. We have changed the time from 7-9 to 5-7 pm.
- Monday June 10th is the last day of MS/HS classes and the end of the 4th marking period. Regents and final exams are Tuesday June 11-Friday June 14th and Tuesday June 18-Thursday June 20th.
- Monday June 17th- HS orientation for 8th graders at 9:45 am.

Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock

- Shelter Rock hosted a well-attended new incoming SR/MP Kindergarten parent meeting on Wednesday, April 17. This was followed by a week of Kindergarten screening April 29 through May 3.
- Thank you to the Daniela Buchholz and Dianne Tolentino for another successful fair on May 4.
- 6th grade transition panel was held at SR on Wednesday, May 1 –
- Thank you to all the panelists, Dean Schlanger, Peter Vercessi and Jane Grappone who spoke and assured all parents everything will be fine. Thanks to Mary Jane Reilly and Susan Powers for organizing such a helpful and informative meeting.
- Children’s Book Week was held the week of May 13th We had readers and costumes for grades K-4. The 5th graders played a Pictionary game while the 6th graders played Jeopardy. Thanks to Theresa Huber and Zari Ginsburg, our chairs and as always Mrs. Rowland for planning a fun week.
- Staff Appreciation was held on May 9^h. It was a nautical theme this year – stating “I’m on Board with SR”. Thanks to Whitney Godfrey and Robin Lytle for planning a lovely luncheon for our very special staff.
- Our Extended Extras 6 week Spring session successfully concluded in May. Once again we offered Art, Chess, Physics, Book Club and Creative Writing courses for grades 2-6. We offered Conversational Mandarin to grades 1-2. Thanks to Liz Miller our efficient registrar.
- Our 4th grade Spring concert took place on May 10.

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- Our 5&6th grade concerts were upbeat and highly energized...tunes from Grease "We go Together" and "Home" from Philip Phillips.
- Our 6th grade chamber chorus presented at NYSSMA on May 21 – a great experience for all and accompanied with an amazing teacher – Mrs. Duke.
- 5&6th grade BBQ was held in conjunction with Field Day. Even with the heat, the food, the games made for a perfect day with great memories for all our children. Thank you to the many volunteers led by Pam Perulli and Lynne Sims.
- The 6th grade yearbook will be arriving next week. A big Thank you to our chairs Janice Rohlfing and Pam Perulli for taking this on. I am sure this yearbook will be amazing. Our 6th grade promo party plans are underway – thanks to Terri Orlando and Carol DiAndrea. The annual Splish splash trip will take place on June 17.
- Since I have a 6th grader I greatly appreciate all the 6th grade parents who have worked all year to make this year memorable for my son Jay and all the students in 6th grade.
- And since this is my last presidents' report – I would like to thank my fellow executive board members for their constant support and encouragement over the years. It has truly been a pleasure to work with all of you.
- Being president has also allowed me to meet so many talented and dedicated parents in the SCA who give up so much of their time and seem to manage it all. A lot of smart, efficient supermoms here in the SCA!
- Please welcome Kristin Mulholland and know that she will do a great job as president of SR and is already a huge asset to the SCA.

Liz Tomaselli – Munsey Park

- April 16-18: NYS ELA testing was held for grades 3-8.
- April 24-26: NYS Math testing was held for grades 3-8
- April 29-May 7: Kindergarten Screening. We are anticipating enrollment for September to be approximately 100 new students.
- May 7: Spring Concert Band and Orchestra, 5th and 6th graders. The performance was impressive and it was wonderful to see how many students participated in NYSSMA and All County.
- May 8: New Kindergarten visits were held. The visits went well. The children were all smiles.
- May 9: Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Chairs Cathy Conniff and Noreen LaBenne. Thank you to both of the chairs for organizing a fabulous luncheon for our wonderful staff. Cathy and Noreen covered every detail and made sure our teachers knew how much they are appreciated.

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The teachers and staff were so happy and they talked about the luncheon for several days to follow.

- May 16: Chorus Concert: Again, Mrs. DePeppe did a wonderful job with the children. The grand finale included all of the 5th and 6th graders singing "Lean on Me".
- May 28-31: NYS science testing for 4th grade and 8th grade, written portion administered on Monday June 3rd.
- June 6/7: Field Days for all grades are scheduled between the 2 days. Field Day is always a hit with the children.
- June 19: Our 6th graders will be officially promoted! Their journey into Middle School begins!

Have a great Summer everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre F. Curtis

SCA Executive Board Secretary