

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** March 11, 2011

**Meeting Opened at:** Call to Order 9:31 AM; Meeting adjourned: 11:42 AM

**Officers Present:** Karen Blando, Diane Gershkowitz, Jeanine Toes, Laura Tranchina, Mary Jane Reilly, Tricia Cash, Peggy Gajdjis, Kathleen Kosciusko

### **SCA Executive President's Welcome - Karen Blando**

- The SCA Fair is coming up May 7, 2011. The mailing for sponsorship and support went out last week. Everyone should have received their letter.
- There was discussion about having the Fair open to the Secondary School students on Friday night, May 6. These discussions are still underway and a decision as to the feasibility of this will be made shortly.
- The Board of Education budget meeting documents are available through the SCA.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Approval of Minutes/Board Votes – Kathleen Kosciusko**

- The February 11, 2011 minutes were approved.
- February 2011 – March 2011 Interim Board Votes were reviewed.

### **Guest Speakers – Allison Rushforth (Executive Director of District Special Education Program and Services) and Rosemary Johnson (Deputy Superintendent for Business and Finance)**

- Allison is the District representative for children requiring special services for ages 3-21.
- In order to determine eligibility, the District follows federal regulation IDEA and they follow state laws as well.
- When developing a program, the District provides a scientifically based program to maximize resources.
- There is a team at each school to discuss the needs for each student based on behavior and academic requirements.
- Preschool services are provided in a home or office setting. Once kids enter the elementary school, services are provided at school if feasible.
- There are approximately 22-25 students entering kindergarten in 2011 that will require services (budgeted for 40). There are about 485 classified students budgeted to receive services in 2011-2012. It should be noted that the District is currently reimbursed for services to pre-school children at an 80% rate, however, NYS has suggested that the school districts be mandated to cover these costs and only reimbursed 20%. There is not a budget line item for this potential expense.
- District of Location states that the Manhasset School District goes out of pocket to cover the cost of any student going to school here and then we collect reimbursement from each student's school district. We currently have 48 students receiving services that are not Manhasset residents.
- There are currently a number of items in the governor's proposal that will impact special services. We will have to accommodate these items if the proposal passes.

### **Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis**

- The SCA Executive Board voted on a motion, put forth by Peggy Gajdjis, to discontinue supplying food at any parent volunteer events. The vote passed.
- An overall P&L report was distributed to the Executive Board. If anyone has any questions or feedback on the report, please direct that feedback to Peggy Gajdjis.
- It should be noted that when we pay for services to an individual and/or a company that totals over \$600 in a year (and when that company is not incorporated), we need to obtain a W-9 or proper tax-id information. No reimbursements will be made to cover the cost of services without a W-9 form going forward.
- No parent volunteers should be paying for services and requesting to be reimbursed. Parent volunteers are only allowed to be reimbursed for supplies.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Mary Jane Reilly – Shelter Rock Elementary School**

- The theme of the SR Bookfair this year is Book Fair Carnival ~ Your Ticket to Read! This year's Bookfair was a huge success, with the hit of opening night being the Read-A-Coaster, and "Pose with the Principal". Mr. Geczik acted as though he was going down a roller coaster with the families, and we took pictures and distributed them to the children. It was a great spirit builder.
- Extended Extras surveys are being tallied. We had 172 surveys returned. We had one comment that price would be a factor in whether or not they participated; another commented that this goes against the Race to Nowhere. In tallying the 5th and 6th grades, the three top subjects were fitness (20), public speaking (16), and creative writing (17.)
- Our next Parent Council meeting is on March 17, with the topic "Bringing Balance into your Family". Mrs. Gimondo, Shelter Rock School Counselor, will talk to parents about stress relief, prioritizing, organizing, and what she hears from Shelter Rock students about the stress they feel in their lives.
- Planet Manhasset is planning Earth Week for the week of April 11-15. We are going to get a paper-weighting scale to keep track of the amount of paper we are recycling, and in turn how many trees we are saving. We will have assembly programs about the importance of recycling. They are also doing a Carbon Footprint project for a take home project.

#### **Tricia Cash – Munsey Park**

- The 6th grade students at Munsey Park recently heard "Ryan's Story" from John Halligan. The staff was present at Mr. Halligan's emotional presentation about his son Ryan's dealings with bullies and his subsequent suicide. The children were moved and in response wrote thank you letters to Mr. Halligan and some even apologized to each other for bullying unknowingly.
- The Safety Committee at Munsey Park has been meeting regularly. We have been focusing on the drop off and pick up procedures in an effort to make it safe for all children. A police officer visited on 3/7 in an effort to remind parents to slow down and be safe.
- The Book Fair Carnival...Your Ticket to Read was launched on Monday with much excitement. The decorating committee did a fabulous job of setting the scene to make the children feel like they were at an actual carnival. The many volunteers that showed up not only dressed the part but they worked tirelessly to make the book fair a memorable experience for the children and I am certain it will prove to be a successful fundraiser for Munsey Park.
- March 16 is the next Munsey Park Parent Council Meeting. The speakers are Karen Murphy, Maria Cordell, Iris Gandler, Mrs. C. Smith and Kathleen Murray. The teachers will be

presenting their five favorite tips on studying. The presentation will be applicable to children of every grade.

### **Laura Tranchina – Middle School**

- The MS Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) SUPERDANCE was held on Friday, March 4. The dance was a huge success. Students asked for sponsor donations and raised \$12,300 which will all be donated to the MDA. The dance was attended by 220 students.
- The Middle School hosted a 6th Grade Parent Night last night, February 10. Parents were taken on a guided tour of the school starting at 7:30 pm. The tour was followed by a presentation in the Auditorium. Parents had the opportunity to hear from each of the building administrators, district coordinators, and directors. The Power Point presentation will be available on the school website. The 6th Grade students will have an orientation Friday, May 27.
- The SCA Speaker's Bureau will be presenting Shakespeare, Live! on Tuesday, March 29. The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey will bring a live performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to the 8th grade students. The performance will be followed by an open discussion with the actors.
- The next Joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting will be held next Friday, March 18 at 9:30 am in the Board Room. See above bullet point for details.

### **Jeanine Toes – High School**

- A successful junior semi-formal was held March 5 at the Village Club in Lake Success. The SCA sponsored the Junior Promenade at the HS gym prior to the students boarding the luxury buses.
- The forms for the 1st Annual SCA Scholarship are now available. They have been sent via email to the seniors, and will be available in guidance and the office.
- We are working with the administration and class officers to plan a memorable Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2011. Our next meeting is March 24.
- Frolic co-chairs will meet with parents on March 15 to plan and go over architectural drawings. Each committee chair will receive a packet of forms with instructions and guidelines.
- The next joint MS/HS Parent Council Meeting will be held next Friday, March 18 at 9:30 am in the Board Room. Theresa Curry, District Science Coordinator, will present an overview of the Science Curriculum.

### **Superintendent's Report – Charles Cardillo**

- The budget discussions are underway. The Board of Education will be updating its website to include a blog about the budget. The Board is encouraging feedback from the community/public. They are doing everything they can to make good decisions but feedback is critical to the process.
- The SCA budget review is March 22 in the MHS Black Box Theatre. The board is hoping for a strong turnout to this meeting.

**Executive Vice President's Report – Diane Gershkowitz**

- The Champions for Charities results are in and we raised approximately \$5100. Diane Gershkowitz suggests we focus on the Lord and Taylor benefit again in the fall and possibly in the spring of 2012 as well.
- Project Share is collecting craft supplies and senior prom dresses. Munsey Park Women's Club is helping to collect dresses. Filene's basement and Macy's are contributing as well.
- Project Share will be the recipient of the Munsey Park Fun Run this year. Diane Gershkowitz is asking all presidents to announce this at their meeting next week.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Kathleen Kosciusko  
SCA Executive Board Secretary