

## **Manhasset Secondary School SCA Meeting**

**Date: Friday, April 27, 2012**

**Title of Meeting: MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting**

**Location: Board Room**

### **Welcome and Opening of Meeting**

Lisa Belinsky, High School SCA President, and Laura Tranchina, MS SCA President, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

### **English Curriculum**

Patrick O'Reilly – District Coordinator English Language Arts

The district is updating the common core curriculum. Mr. Koondel is creating a grammar program for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

The ELA is a three-day exam; in previous years it was a two-day exam. The state mandated that all grades must take the test on the same days. The state also mandated a time of 90 minutes to take the test. With the state mandating a longer time to take the test, they may introduce a much more rigorous test in the future. The question of why was the test administered in the gym and not in the classrooms was brought up by the parents. The administration said that it was taken in the gym for logistic reason. If the test overran the scheduled time, the high school students could still proceed to their classes.

### **Guidance Update**

Jane Grappone – Director of Guidance

Of the 117 students who applied for Early Action, 110 were accepted. 94% acceptance rate.

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the final day to commit to most colleges.

56 % of students applied for Early Decision.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be entered into the Naviance system during their health classes.

Career Night organized by the Guidance Department was well attended. The Dean of NYIT presented a program on Engineering and its Trends. Approximately 60-70 people attended. It was mostly fathers with their sons. Long Island is in need of Transportation Engineers and Emission Technicians.

Trends in College Admissions will be presented on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Admission Officers from Stony Brook, Marist, NYU, etc. will be present.

Counselor Interviews are currently going on for current three openings. Down to the last round of interviews. The incoming 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes will be shifted to accommodate the two new positions. There will be no changes in counselors for the incoming 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

## **Principal's Report**

Dean Schlanger – Principal

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes were exemplary during the ELA exams

The AP exams will be held during May 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. A total of 1100 copies of the different exams were ordered. The test will be taken at the Unitarian Church on Shelter Rock Road. Approximately 470 students will be taking the exam. Scott McMullen, AP coordinator for the district, spends 6 – 8 months organizing the exam. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation Meeting was successful with a large attendance from parents.

Senior Prom was successful with no problems. The Milleridge Inn commented on how well behaved our students were that evening

The Middle School Cinco de Mayo dance will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The school district is looking at changing the grading system from alpha to numerical system.

With the possible change of the grading system, the picking of the Valedictorian and Salutatorian for future classes may change. In the past these honors were based on a student's first 6 semesters and unweighted average. In the future, this honor will be based on student's first 7 semesters and weighted averages. Before this change can happen, it must be approved by the Board of Ed and implemented into the district by-laws

## **SCA News**

SCA Fair needs volunteers especially the afternoon shifts 2-4 pm and 4-6 pm.

Please contact Santina Petruso.

There are volunteer hours available to high school students especially those seniors that need the hours for graduation. See Assistant Principal Mrs. Sippin.

Pre-sale of fair tickets have exceeded last year's numbers. Tickets will be for sale at Raindew on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

SCA Educational Grants are available to those graduating seniors going on to college who have financial need. Letters will be mailed out shortly.

SCA Scholarship Award for \$1000 is available to a graduating boy as well as a graduating girl. Selection is based on a "blind read" essay.

Summer Studies interviews are currently going on.

The next SCA Secondary School meeting will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup> in the board room.