



## Munsey Park SCA Meeting Minutes

**Date: September 21, 2011, 9:30 am**

**Subject of Meeting: Back to School**

**Location: Auditorium, Munsey Park School**

**Presenters: Tricia Cash, Dr. Kendall, Pat Aiken, Committee Chairs**

### **Tricia Cash, SCA President**

Ms. Cash opened the meeting with welcome statements, and provided a brief overview of the agenda.

### **Dr. Kendall, Principal**

- Dr. Kendall thanked those in attendance for the efforts of the SCA in the past, and welcomed everyone to a new school year.
- Munsey Park School has 925 students at the current time. All grade levels are taught with six classroom sections, except for the Third Grade which has seven classroom sections. All class sizes are within guidelines.
- New and leave replacement teachers and faculty were introduced, including Dr. Gutwirth-Walsh (Guidance), Mrs. Heimann (4th Grade), Mrs. Pederson (3rd Grade), and Mrs. Worsdale (4th Grade)
- The Community Read Program was introduced and explained. All children in the school will share a common reading experience each month, with themes developed appropriately for the different grade levels. Dr. Kendall read the book "One", by Kathryn Otoshi, which is the selection for the month of September. This program is a result of work by the Shared Decision Making Team.
- An overview of testing and assessments for the upcoming year was provided. Dibbles will be used as an assessment tool for the primary grades. Fourth grade will use the NWEA as an assessment for reading ELA preparation.
- Accelerated Math will continue for the 5th and 6th grades.
- Wifi will soon be made available throughout the school.
- Parents will soon get information about the "Parent Portal" provided by the district. Electronic report cards will be provided for students in the 3rd through 6th grades using the Parent Portal.

### **Pat Aiken, Board of Education**

- Ms. Aiken spoke to inform SCA members about upcoming Board of Education Meetings. All community members are encouraged to attend meetings.
- Detailed agendas are available through the Board of Education website, including approximate times for agenda items. Ms. Aiken stressed that community members, even



with limited availability, should feel free to attend only part of the meeting if that is what interests them.

- Curriculum updates will regularly be provided at these meetings.
- Anyone can subscribe to the Manhasset “E-News” for updates and information directly to your email.

### **Jill Pullano, Finance Chair**

- All committee chairs will have their committee expenses tracked against their budget.
- All finance and reimbursement forms are available through the SCA website, [www.manhassetzca.org](http://www.manhassetzca.org)
- When purchasing for a committee, a tax-exempt form must be used. Sales tax will not be reimbursed.
- Any checks received must be made out to “Manhasset SCA”, “MSCA”, or some derivative. Checks received CAN NOT be made out to committee chairs.
- Email approvals for expenditures are permitted, when Tricia Cash and/or Christy Weppler are not available to sign in person.

### **MaryAnn Jones, Health Coach**

- Maryann Jones provided helpful, real-world tips for providing our children with a strong start to their day.
- The importance of a healthy breakfast, free from artificial colors and additives was discussed.
- Healthy snacks were discussed. Cheese, granola bars (with low sugar contents), fruit, and nuts (unless there are allergy issues) are good choices for most children.

### **Committee Updates**

- The Nutrition Committee is exploring “No Food Birthday Parties”, with special celebration opportunities, as an option for families that want to participate. Children will get a special, oversized card designed by Mr. Fay, and possibly a small favor provided by the SCA. More details are coming soon.
- The Book Fair theme this year is “A Book Luau”. Dates will be March 5-9, 2012. Volunteers are needed for setup, cleanup, and throughout the week. New this year, parents will be able to make purchases online for up to two weeks after the event. A sub-committee chair is needed for art.
- The Character Education Committee is now an executive level committee. An assembly titled “The Power of One” was held and was very well received.
- Extended Extras will begin soon. Because of teacher availability, right now Actor’s Garage is offered for 5th and 6th grades, and Foreign Language is offered to the 3rd and 4th grade. Next term the offerings will change, and it is anticipated that 5th and 6th grade will be offered language and 3rd and 4th grade will have the opportunity for Actor’s Garage.



- Health and Wellness Committee needs volunteers for “Health and Wellness Week” (formerly Fitness Week). The committee is also working closely with Whitman’s to maintain the high quality of our school lunches. Parents are urged to encourage students to buy lunch.
- “Jump for the Cure” is now a committee, to organize the efforts around this annual event.
- “National Library Week” will be held in the spring. Volunteers are needed.
- Publicity committee encourages SCA members to forward their photos.
- Munsey Park will have an SCA Fair Representative, to coordinate volunteer efforts for our school. This is a new position. Dianne Tolentino will be taking on this responsibility!

### **Tricia Cash, SCA President**

- The meeting ended with reminders from Tricia Cash about committee procedures.
- For committee information to be included in the SCA highlights, it must be received by Wednesday at noon.
- For email “blasts”, the deadline is Friday, noon.
- Only Christy Wepler, Executive President, can sign contracts.
- If room reservations are required, please give Reba Ruthenberg at least one week notice- she is part-time at our school and needs ample notice to schedule a meeting space.
- Committee Chairs must keep minutes of their meetings and maintain files that will allow their successors to continue committee work easily.
- Any fliers that will be distributed must be approved by both Tricia Cash and Dr. Kendall.