



SCA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2011

Call to Order: 9:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 11:40 a.m.

Officers Present: Christy Wepler, Elaine Phillips, Peggy Gajdjis, Lisa Belinsky, Laura Tranchina, Nancy Schlaefer, Tricia Cash, Deirdre Curtis

Pledge of Allegiance

SCA Executive President's Welcome – Christy Wepler

- Christy Wepler introduced herself and asked the SCA Executive Board officers to introduce themselves.
- Christy noted that Robert Gezcik and Charles Cardillo were not able to attend the meeting, so there would be no reports from them.

Principal's Report – Jean Kendall

- Current enrollment at Munsey Park is 924 students, down slightly from about 950 last year. The 2011 graduating 6th grade class was 150 students, and 105 new kindergarten students started this year.
- New teachers / staff:
 - the school psychologist Ms. Chappel is on maternity leave, and Bonnie Gutwirth Walsh is the K-1 leave replacement;
 - Nicole Hyman is a new fourth grade teacher (from Goose Hill primary school in Cold Spring Harbor);
 - Maureen Peterson is a third grade leave replacement.
- Current initiatives in Munsey Park:
 - New Wi-Fi (through Tower Foundation);
 - Parent portal;
 - 5th and 6th grade accelerated math and K-3 reading
 - Continued differentiated instruction
 - Great Body Shop module in place
 - 4th grade assessment in ELA is being offered The Northwest Association; this is a computer program that tests for reading levels. Teacher training started yesterday;
 - Training with Charlotte Davidson has started for teachers and administrators
 - The "Community Read" program continues at Munsey Park. Through this program, which was started last year, one book is chosen each month and teachers in each class read the book to the students. This month's book is "One" by Kathleen Atoshi, which

Ms. Kendall read to the meeting attendees. "The Power of One" is the theme of this year's Red Ribbon Week, and rubber bracelets imprinted with "The Power of One" will be distributed. A letter to parents will be sent out shortly.

Principal's Report – Dean Schlanger

- Seven new teachers this year (Katner, Qui, Reilly, Fish, Juarez, Milacci, Leon).
- Two grade level chair meetings were held this week.
- Preparations are underway for Spirit Week; advisors, PE teachers and students are working together.
- The school year is off to a good start; the traffic congestion at morning drop off is getting better.
- Dr. Schlanger is encouraging 7th graders to have hot breakfast in the cafeteria.
- Senior portrait photo days are underway.
- The building looks good, and Theresa and her crew did a great job over the summer.
- Enrollment: 1,525 students in grades 7-12. Enrollment is expected to increase to approximately 1,600 students in 2016, and then to drop off somewhat. Middle School enrollment is approximately 290 per grade; high school enrollment is over 900 students.

Guest Speaker – Sean Adcroft (Coordinator for Instructional Technology)

- Mr. Adcroft and Colleen Leon (District-wide Student Information Specialist) presented information on several new technology initiatives underway in the district:
- Manhasset Parent Portal (MPP): a letter is expected to be sent out today describing the MPP. Each parent will receive a unique login and password in order to access a secure district-wide portal that provides information regarding students. The type of information available varies by grade level, and parents can request updates and changes to certain types of information (e.g., contact info), but not to address information. It is expected that this will reduce the need for district-wide mailings requesting parents to update or change information, which will lead to cost savings.
 - Grades 3-6: parents can access reports cards. Hard copy report cards will continue to be sent to parents via mail.
 - Grades 7-12: parents can access report cards and progress reports.
 - Grades 9-12: parents can also access unofficial transcripts.
 - The Parent Portal Committee is working with Mr. Adcroft on this initiative; more modules will be rolled out, and it is expected that more modules will be activated.
- Mr. Adcroft showed a demonstration of the MPP. Not all data is loaded onto the MPP yet. There will be a booth at the school Open Houses to answer questions about the MPP.
- Mr. Adcroft pointed out that the District e-news is separate from the MPP.

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- District Wi-Fi: Thanks to the Tower Foundation, wireless access points have been installed throughout the Secondary School building. This is a mesh network. Current demand for computer time on district-owned PCs exceeds capacity. With the Wi-Fi network, students will be invited to bring in their own wireless devices (such as laptops). The hardware specifications will be provided, and the student-owned devices can be used during open periods, in study halls, and in the cafeteria for homework and non-class projects. The student-owned devices will not be permitted in class. Bringing in a student-owned device is not mandatory, but the use of student-owned devices is expected to alleviate the burden on the school network and equipment.
 - In response to a question from Lis Shibley, Mr. Adcroft stated that students cannot print on district printers using the Wi-Fi network via their own devices. Students can print on district printers using the Wi-Fi network via district devices. However, students can save documents to their home directory and print at home.
 - In response to a question from Regina Rule regarding which sites students can access on their devices using the district Wi-Fi, Mr. Adcroft stated that the Wi-Fi is a filtered network and that the same internet restrictions as are enforced on district-owned devices apply to the Wi-Fi network (i.e., no access to Facebook).
 - For Munsey Park and Shelter Rock schools, students in grades 4-6 will have the use of the Wi-Fi network via computer carts. These will be shared by grade, and are intended to augment computer labs at the elementary schools. Using these computer carts, each classroom can become its own computer lab.
- Point of Sale and luncheon enhancements are coming up.
- With more students than ever before, a big part of the budget is technology-related, both hardware and staffing. There are only 5 technicians in the district to support all the users.
- Email addresses: students in grades 7-12 will receive Manhasset email addresses this year. These email addresses are restricted to send and receive only to and from the school's internet domain. Students will be able to use modified Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and the documents will be saved via cloud. Each student has access to 25 gigs of memory, so flash drives may become unnecessary.
- The District website is being redesigned and will be launched this fall.

Treasurer's Report – Peggy Gajdjis

- August 31, 2011 was the end of the fiscal year
- For 2010-2011, the SCA budget was \$197,000. Peggy thanked everyone for sticking to the budget and noted that Munsey Park had some big expenditures in 2010 – 2011 but managed expenses.

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- For 2011-2012, the SCA budget is \$201,000. Peggy encouraged everyone to spend the money wisely, and noted that the SCA will set aside money for special projects as necessary.
- Christy Wepler noted that the SCA employs an accountant who monitors expenditures, and that everyone should stick to the budget.

Executive President's Report – Christy Wepler

- The SCA is considering a new initiative: "Cool the School." The plan is to install air conditioning in school cafeterias and gyms. Christy noted that Farmingdale had successfully done this. Christy is investigating costs and will report back.
- The SCA Membership letter would be going out this week; it was delayed because Minuteman Press did not meet the requested deadline. Christy noted that Staples could be used for print jobs. The tax exempt forms are on file at Staples under "MSCA."

President's Reports

Lisa Belinsky – High School

- HS SCA Vice President is Beth Miller, Finance Chair is Kathryn Clejan, and Recording Secretary is Donna Gillis.
- SCA Email/Directory Form and Volunteer Form were sent out in late June. We are currently in final stages of compiling the Secondary School Directory. Any last minute additions can go to HS Directory Chair Diana Stefan. All volunteer names have been forwarded to appropriate Committee Chairs. Next year the form will include an instruction that if there are no changes to the information, the parent should not submit the form at all.
- Grade Level Chairs-based on volunteer responses the open GLC positions were filled and we met yesterday for the first time. Names and contact info will be posted on the SCA Website.
- Photo Day is September 20, 21 and 22nd and HS Chair Ellen Coughlin is scheduling volunteers. Students will have photos taken for ID cards as well. Senior Portraits began on Wednesday and continue through today.
- 12th Grade Parent meeting was September 14th. Guidance ran the meeting and reviewed the college application process. Parents were also greeted by Frolic Co-Chairs Karen Blando, Jeannette Reilly and Donna Wang, and received Senior Banquet info from Co-Chairs Margo Coleman, Kathleen Katzmann and Donna Lopez.
- Parent Council Meetings: our first MS/HS Joint Parent Council meeting is Friday, September 23th at 9:30 in the Black Box. We will have a presentation by our Summer Studies Chair, Dawn McCormick, and several award recipients.
- Upcoming dates to remember:
 - 9/19 and 9/26 Mini College Fair

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- 9/21 Open House
- *9/27 9th Grade Parent meeting has been rescheduled to Tues. Oct. 11th, also 7:30 in HS Auditorium
- 10/22 Homecoming

Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- Middle School Vice President is Cris-Ann Frisone, MS Finance Chair is Victoria Parisi, and MS Secretary is Donna Cullinan-Gillis.
- Student Directory and Volunteer Forms went out in June. These forms are still being accepted. For 7th Grade parents, if you want your child to be included in the directory, please return your signed permission to me as soon as possible. For 8th Grade parents, if any information has changed since last year, please let me know. We have had over 100 parents volunteer to participate in various MS committees.
- Based on our large volunteer response, the four open 7th Grade Level Chair positions were filled. On September 9th, we had our first Grade Level Chair meeting with all 7th and 8th Grade Level Chairs in attendance. The names and contact information of the MS Grade Level Chairs will be posted on the SCA website.

Recent Events:

- Summer School Supply Orders – Fifty children participated in this SCA fundraiser. Total raised was \$250. Thank you to Khea Glynn for organizing this fundraiser for us once again.
- Superintendent's Conference Day was held on August 31st and September 1st. The SCA provided a welcome back breakfast for teachers and staff of the Secondary School on these two days.
- Opening Day Picnic for 7th Graders – We welcomed our new 7th grade students with an Opening Day picnic on the first day of school, Tuesday, September 6th. Although the rainy weather moved the picnic indoors, the students still enjoyed the pizza and flying saucers that were provided by the SCA. Thank you to Kim Haggerty for helping to make this event a success.
- Middle School Open House was held on Tuesday, September 13 and was a success with parent feedback being very positive. Parents were able to meet with specials teachers from 6:30 – 7:30. This was followed by opening remarks from Dr. Schlanger in the auditorium and then the teams broke up and went either to the auditorium, Black Box Theatre or the gym. Parent feedback had been very positive. Thank you to Trish Hallet for purchasing the refreshments and to Maria DeSanctis for helping to set up and clean up.

Upcoming Events:

- MS/HS Photo Days are on September 20th and 21st. Photos are taken during the students' gym period. Students will have photos taken for ID cards as well. A big thank you to Karen Barnes for organizing the volunteers for these days.

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- Our first MS/HS Joint SCA Meeting will take place on Thursday, September 23 from 9:30 – 11:00 am.
- The MS Welcome Back dance will be held on Friday, September 23 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. Admission is \$10. The money raised will be used to purchase Spirit Day T-shirts for the MS students. Donations of 1 gallon bottles of water would be appreciated and can be dropped off to Mr. Shapiro.

Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock

- Ambassador Program - parent volunteers reached out to new families to personally welcome them to Shelter Rock and answer any questions that they might have. Tours were also given on the last week of August. There were 59 new families to Shelter Rock over the summer. Thanks to Robin Held and Alexandra Colombos for coordinating this program.
- School Supply sales – 53 families participated; \$559 profit to the SCA. Thanks to Maria Brunetti.
- SCA provided a welcome back breakfast to all teachers and staff at the 2-day Superintendent conference.
- Committee Formation – we collected 120 volunteer forms to date. Thanks to Kathy Tiliakos for compiling the data and providing the info to the committee chairs. The parent council list will be on the website next week.
- Welcome Back banner –this school year, we unveiled a new banner to welcome back our students. This banner was 4x10 and big and bright enough to see from Shelter Rock Road. It will be displayed for many school years to come. Thanks to Connie Feiner for designing the graphics.
- New Parent Welcome was held on Monday night, September 12th. Ten 6th graders wrote essays on life at Shelter Rock. Our specialists also were introduced and available for questions
- Heroes Week commemorates the tremendous acts of heroism on September 11th. It was held this year on September 12th thru September 14th. Children were greeted by visits from the Plandome and Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Dept and the 6th Precinct. Peter Spampinato, a 6th grader, read the pledge of allegiance over the system followed by a moment of silence. Grades 4-6 prepared a link naming their personal hero and formed a chain calling it the “chain of heroes”. They also signed “thank you heroes ” posters and decorated the hallways with them.
- A Room Rep meeting for K-1 was held on Monday, September 12th and one for Grades 2-6 on Wednesday, September 14th.
- Our Directory chair has collected close to 400 directory forms so far. Our goal is to collect the information, and eliminate this form for the future similar to the Middle School/High School format. Only changes to the information in the directory need to be submitted in the future.

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- Open House for K-1 went smoothly. Spirit wear, Septa, Pase, Lord & Taylor, SCA membership were all present. Grades 2-3 Open House will be on Thursday, September 22nd and Grades 4-6 will be on Tuesday, September 27th.
- Shelter Rock Parent Council Meeting was held on Thursday, September 15th. Many of the new families attended, asked questions and signed on as volunteers. The new Shelter Rock officers were introduced. Acknowledgements were also given to the committee chairs, room reps and grade level chairs. Tara LaSalle collected SCA membership dues, and Erica Kinloch previewed Red Ribbon Week. Carlo Prinzo and Regina Rule were in attendance and answered questions.
- Spirit wear sales have been very successful so far. We have sold over \$6,000 worth of merchandise from the K-1 Open House, New Parent Welcome and our first Parent Council meeting. Thank you to Janice Rohlfing.

Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- SCA provided a welcome back breakfast for Teachers and Staff on Superintendents day at Munsey Park School.
- New students were welcomed with an ice cream social on the Wednesday before school began. New students were paired up with Munsey Park buddies from their new classes and were given a tour of the school. Thank you to Lucy Choy Puma and all the volunteers for a wonderful event
- Thanks to Victoria Hagobian the school was able to pre-order school supplies. We are very pleased with the outcome; Munsey Park made more than \$1000 from that program. Raindeew went above and beyond in their efforts as did Victoria.
- Over the summer, over 100 parents signed up to work on various committees and the committee chairs are all in place.
- New Parents were invited to Munsey Park on Monday night to give them the ins and outs of the Munsey Park School. Students wrote small pieces to share their experiences at Munsey Park.
- Munsey Park's first Open House for K-1 was a success. It was set up so that all the class representatives were in the dining room with sign-up sheets for parties and trips. Spirit Wear, Planet Manhasset, Family Theater, Tower and Septa lined the hallways with a variety of things to sell. Lord and Taylor coupons were sold at the Membership table, so a big thanks to Heidi Franchetti, Elene Farrell and Lisa Fanuka. On September 22nd Munsey Park will hold its Open House for grades 2 and 3. On September 27th Munsey park will hold its Open House for grades 4, 5 and 6.
- We met the New room representatives on Monday, September 12th and they are off and running.
- Munsey Park's first SCA meeting will be on Wednesday, September 21st. The new teachers will be introduced by Dr. Kendall. Pat Aitken will also be in attendance to welcome parents and

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encourage them to attend Board of Education meetings. Mary Ann Jones has volunteered to do a 5 minute quick tips on nutrition for back to school.

- In addition, Munsey Park's finance chair Jill Pullano will speak about the procedures to follow and by laws for spending. We will also have on hand various committee chairs and an opportunity to sign up for committees.
- Thanks to Jen DeSena and Kristen Ryan, Spirit Wear is off to a great start. They sold spirit wear at both the new parent meeting and the K-1 open house and so far have sold more than \$2500 of merchandise. They plan on ordering different items for the Holiday season.
- Thanks to Colleen Bock, the safety backpacks are already in K and 1 classrooms. The plan is to have them in every classroom by September 29th.
- Extended Extras will continue this year. We will have the World Languages as we did in previous years and we have added other courses as well. Munsey Park will be offering Drama taught by Ann Graf from Actors Garage, Typing taught by Deborah Cernuto and Book Club taught by Kathleen Olwy.
- Munsey Park will have the Power of One Assembly for all children on Monday September 19, 2011. Thank you to the SCA for supporting this anti-bullying campaign.
- Photo day will be on October 4th and 5th. Thank You to Amy Keogh and Cathy McAree for all of their hard work.
- Munsey Park is adopting "Choice Non-Food Birthday Celebrations. A student who chooses to have a non-food birthday celebration will receive a Munsey Park-themed birthday card that classmates will sign. The student will be permitted to walk to former teachers to have the card signed. The SCA will provide small giveaways (pencils or rubber bracelets).
 - Diane Gershkowitz noted that the Non-Food Birthday Celebration is a great idea for Project Share families.

SCA Committee Chairs

- Christy Wepler introduced the Committee chairs.
 - Marybeth Accurso is running the SCA luncheon, to be held November 16 at North Hempstead Country Club.
 - Diane Gershowitz (Project Share):
 - Project Share just delivered over 125 backpacks with supplies.
 - Modells is partnering with Project Share to buy sneakers for children in Project Share; when you use the Project Share / SCA coupon, the SCA gets 5% of the purchase price back.

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- Breakfast is not currently being provided at the elementary schools; the SCA should think about how to address this. Christy Weppler suggested "The Breakfast Club", which would provide any child with breakfast. Timing could be before school but not super early.
- Cathy Samuels (CASA): Upcoming events for CASA are Red Ribbon Week; Meds Take Back Event; Kim Fanter from the Great Body Shop; a presentation on brain development in teenagers.
 - CASA's first sector meeting will take place on September 22. The featured speaker will present on local trends in marijuana use.
 - All parents of K-6 children will receive the manual re how to speak to your kids. CASA is also starting its outreach to local nursery and preschools.
 - Lis Shibley noted that CASA does not have a liaison to the SCA, and that CASA welcomes more coordination with the SCA. CASA is funded by the SCA.
- Debbie Bowman (PASE):
 - PASE Open Membership meeting will be on September 20.
 - Second meeting 10/18 will focus on reading programs for special education students and mainstream students (who participate in academic intervention). Reading specialists will attend the meeting to describe various programs being offered. These include "Read 180", which began as a middle school program and is being developed for grades 4-6, and the Jump Start reading program, which is for summer reading.

School Board Reports:

Cindy Cardinal:

- The School Board had a reorganizational meeting in July. Carlo Prinzo is the President and Regina Rule the Vice President.
- The board met during the summer, with a focus on facilities issues.
- There is a new teacher evaluation system required by New York State.
- The Board is developing its calendar and upcoming agenda, and hopes to disseminate that to the community soon.
- Cindy encouraged attendance at Board meetings; she noted that they are thinly attended and that the presentations are very good.
- Now that Dr. Schine is no longer with the district, Mara Steinman is taking on Social Studies and Personnel. Dr. Ambrosio will continue to be District Coordinator for the Arts, but will focus more on instruction.

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Carlo Prinzo:

- This year the district will be renegotiating its contract with teachers. The contract expires at the end of this year.
- APPR is the state-mandated evaluation of teachers, and the district is working on that.
- With respect to the budget: for the 2011 budget of \$80 million, about half was for payroll. \$43 million is for contractual obligations for retirement and health; retirement expenses increased from 6.6% to 8.3% over the last year, and are projected to increase 11.1% this year. It will be difficult to reconcile those figures with the tax cap of 2% max.

Regina Rule:

- The board is looking for volunteers for the various CACs. They are looking at policies now.
- Lisbeth Shibley commented that she hopes that the Board recognizes the importance of curriculum, and noted that there is no CAC for curriculum and that there should be one. Dr. Schine's departure is a big loss. Carlo Prinzo noted that the Board recognizes Dr. Schine's contributions, and that this year the Board would award the "Dr. Schine Award" to a student. Carlo also stated that Dr. Ambrosio will continue to work on curriculum and is very qualified. Lisbeth Shibley agreed, but noted that Dr. Ambrosio is very stretched. Cindy Cardinal noted that the curriculum person isn't so much a 'creator' as a 'quarterback', working with district specialists and district coordinators.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre F. Curtis

SCA Executive Board Secretary