



## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 13, 2012

**Call to Order:** 9:35 a.m.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:25 a.m.

**Officers Present:** Lisa Belinsky, Deirdre Curtis, Peggy Gajdjis, Elaine Phillips, Nancy Schlaefer, Laura Tranchina

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **SCA Executive Vice President's Welcome – Elaine Phillips**

### **Approval of Minutes – Deirdre Curtis**

The November 4, 2011 minutes were approved.

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

- Membership dues received are approximately \$26,000 as of today. Last year we received \$28,000 in membership dues, so we are close to that and doing well.
- Fees received from Saturday Series aren't final (we have to pay approximately \$6,000 in custodian charges), but netting that out we expect a \$15,000 profit from the last session of Saturday Series.
- We have received a net profit of approximately \$1,200 from the Family Theatre.
- We received a profit of \$2,600 from Homecoming; the SCA wrote checks to INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) and the schools.
- Peggy spoke with Tim (accountant) at length re Frolic issues. Discussion is tabled until the next meeting, at which Christy Weppler will be present.

### **President's Reports**

#### **Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock**

- Our **Shelter Rock Parent Council** meeting was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. In addition to an update from Robert Geczik, Mr. Sean Adcroft spoke on accessing and utilizing the parent portal. The meeting was timely as some parents experienced some difficulty navigating their way through the new system during reporting time. He also answered many questions such as what other kinds of data will be posted in the future, who will have access to student records, and the duration of the posted grades.

## SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2012

- Shelter Rock also hosted its second annual **Kids Holiday Bazaar** from Tuesday, November 29 through Thursday December 1. Again it was a big success. The children were so excited to shop for family presents. Thanks to the many, many volunteers who spent 3 + hours wrapping or selling without any breaks. Also, thanks to our chairs, Valerie Carillo, Maria Brunetti and Teresa Cozzi for tirelessly working day in and day out all week.
- **Holiday Support Staff Luncheon** was held on December 14. This year, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, Jeanine Ferrone, Lauren Baranello and Bethanne DeMatteis greeted and served our staff. It was a warm and very intimate luncheon and appreciated by those who attended.
- **Holiday Gift Program** – Rosalba LoCurto and Chris Marie Tsavelis once again organized this program for Shelter Rock. They took on a very busy job during a very busy time.
- **Extended Extras** is currently running again this winter. Creative Writing and Spanish for 5&6<sup>th</sup> graders. Art and Chess for grades 2-4.
- **Power of One Assembly** was presented in 2 sessions: grades 4-6 and to grades 1-3 on Tuesday, January 10 ahead of the MLK holiday. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable performance that delivered a strong and very clear message. We received positive feedback from teachers and students and a big thank you was expressed to the SCA for sponsoring this program.
- **Guess Who is Coming to Read** is on January 24 and is being chaired by Gena Scotto and Andrea Girard. We have some new speakers coming to read to our K-3 classrooms including Ms. Marguerite from Outlook, Elaine Phillips from Kwon's martial arts and Steve Gleason, our school piano accompanist. Some repeating notables: Judi Bosworth, legislator Nassau County, Charlie Cardillo, school superintendent and Sean Landeta from the NY Giants.
- **Book Fair** planning is underway with the theme 'Book Fair Luau – it's a Reading Celebration'. It will be held the first week of March and will be chaired by Annie Vetrone and Annette Morrissey.
- Lastly, thanks to our **Enrichment** chairs, Kristin Mulholland and Pam Kenlon and their committee for organizing such wonderful and educational programs for our students. I get many thanks to the SCA from our teachers for sponsoring these enriching performances such as the most recent "We the People" to our 5&6 graders back in November and Freedom Train to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders yesterday.

### Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

Elaine Phillips delivered the Munsey Park President's Report in Tricia Cash's absence.

## SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2012

- Munsey Park concerts took place in December. Once again parents were singing the praises of the Music staff for their ability to put on fabulous concerts that are enjoyed by the children and the parents alike.
- Extended Extras is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> session (January – March 26<sup>th</sup>) and has many classes offered based on the surveys submitted by parents.
  - **Book Club** taught by Mrs. Olwy - **Grade 5 (AM)**
  - **Art Club** taught by Mr. Fay and Ms. Glicksman - **Grades 3&4 (AM)**
  - **Typing** taught by Mrs. Cernuto - **Grades 4, 5 &6 (AM)**
  - **Chess Club** taught by Mr. Katz - **Grades 4, 5 &6 (AM)**
  - **World Languages: (PM)**
  - **Part II Spanish, French, Italian & Latin - Grades 5&6**
  - **Part I Chinese - Grades 5&6**
  - **Drama: Actor's Garage Grades 1-4 (PM)**
- Guess Who's Coming to Read will take Place on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Amy Nass and Kathy Sullivan.
- Kindergarten registration begins this month.
- Joint Parent Council meeting on the 25th is rescheduled to Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 and will take place at the Secondary School Black Box Theater.
  - Elaine Phillips noted that the topic of this meeting will be the Annual Performance Review (APPR) required by New York State. Carlo Prinzo noted that the APPR process is arduous, and that teachers and administrators had been meeting on this since August 2011.
- SCA Family Theatre presents The **Wizard of Oz** performed by Yates Musical Theatre. Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 2:00 pm. Munsey Park School Auditorium.
- The Munsey Park Parent Book fair will kick off on March 5, 2012 from 5:30-8:30. The book fair will take place during the school day the week of March 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>. Gift Certificates are available for purchase.

### **Lisa Belinsky – High School**

- **Homecoming:** finances were finalized and checks were disbursed. The funds raised by the 569 student ticket sales allowed for a contribution to the INN (Interfaith Nutrition Network) of \$2,822. Each class account, which is for proms and dances, was given \$1,410.75. A representative from the INN came to the school to meet with the student council, thank them and tell them a little about what the INN does.

## SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2012

- The Middle School / High School support staff lunch was December 7<sup>th</sup>. There were a couple of kinks but it was a very good experience for all.
- The Holiday Gift Program went very well. It was chaired by Lisa Middleton and Laura Zenobio. Donors showed incredible generosity and the recipients were extremely grateful.
- **Frosh:** the SCA assisted with the kickoff of the 2011 "social season" with the Freshman dance on Saturday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. A large percentage of the class attended -- approximately 180 students -- and the event was very successful. This year a decorating company was used, so the cafeteria became a winter wonderland scene and it was truly magical. 12<sup>th</sup> GLC's Deb Capollarello and Kim Overlander were present for the entire dance and 9<sup>th</sup> GLC's Christine Tatarian and Sue Dunn ran ticket sales for the two days prior to the dance.
- **Soph:** is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, also in the cafeteria. GLC's Mia Hitchcock and Johnna Lombard will run ticket sales for the 2 days prior to the dance.
- **Senior SPA:** if you haven't stopped by, please make it a point to check out the new furniture in the Senior Spa in front of the building. It's been a long, exciting process that a lot of Seniors and their parents have been hoping for for a long time. Although there had been many offers of unwanted furniture in people's homes that could be lent, we didn't want a Frat house atmosphere. Low cost furniture aka IKEA was considered, but we didn't want the custodians on constant call. I contacted a parent in the school in the commercial furniture business hoping to get a good deal on floor models, that we could run fundraisers for. As it turned out, all the furniture was donated by Office Furniture of Long Island. It is a used commercial furniture business that has its own factory to refurbish as needed - they even made custom made blue and orange chairs. Please check them out if you, a spouse or a friend is planning to purchase office furniture, or even a home office situation. If you are a member and mention the SCA, 10% of your purchase price will be donated to SCA's Project Share.
  - We will do a photo op to publicize that the Senior SPA furniture was donated.
- **Returning Graduate Panel:** Twelve current freshmen in college returned to the school on Friday Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> and conducted a panel discussion for current seniors. More than half of the seniors came, the panelists were great and it was well received. Many of the most interesting remarks and questions were related to roommate issues, which is always an interesting topic. The graduates also shared their own war stories about getting deferred, rejected, or both and this is the part that is good for the seniors to hear...basic message.....life will go on and you will likely be very happy wherever it is that you attend school.
- **SCA/CASA Parenting Workshops by Kim Fanter:** This past week at the Manhasset Public Library during the day and the school at night, 7 different parenting

## SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2012

workshops were presented with a packed house every time. Lis Shibley and Cathy Samuels did a great job putting it all together, commandeering the Sign up Genius, and the SCA promoted it through our websites. Topics included building self-esteem in your children, parenting styles, and the Teen topic "You want to go where with whom?"

- **SCA Meeting January 18<sup>TH</sup> 7:30 in the Black Box Theatre:** This is a topic we've taken out of the media headlines. Charlie Cardillo and other administrators will talk about APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review) and what it will mean to Manhasset parents and students. All parents K-12 are invited and the Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> MP/SR meeting will be cancelled because of this.
- **Info Session for MS/HS Private/Parochial Parents:** Thursday night, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the HS lobby. Tell your friends and neighbors if they're currently not our school system, but have an interest.
- **Mock Interview Night:** will be February 29<sup>th</sup>. We may be asked to help the Guidance office recruit parents with experience in interviewing. This was a very successful event for juniors last year and the feedback we got from students and parents was very positive. Let me know if you may be interested in helping to interview, or you know someone who might want to.

### Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- The HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting was on November 19. Following a guidance update by Marcy Tucker, Laurie Marshall-Lauria, District World Languages Coordinator, gave an overview of the district's new license for Rosetta Stone and how students can now access it online.
- The SCA Speaker's Bureau brought in a production of "A Christmas Carol" for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on November 23. This was a different format than past years where students went out to see it. The production received extremely positive feedback from the teachers and administration.
- The MS Holiday dance was held on Friday, December 9. The suggested admission to this dance was three cans of food which was donated Coach Bob Rule's and Frank Bice's Neil's Wheels Program or \$5 which will be donated to Autism Speaks. 322 students attended and more than 1,000 cans of food were collected.
- The MS had its production of 'The Winter's Tale' on December 16 and December 17. The production was wonderful. Congratulations are in order for the Theater Department who was able to get these 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to bring to life a difficult Shakespeare play. It was very impressive.
- The MS also held their Holiday Concerts on December 14 and December 19. They were fabulous. Congratulations to the Music Department. The auditorium looked very festive with lights and the music selections were great.

## SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2012

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent meeting was held on January 4. District coordinators discussed curriculum and possible course selections for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There was a very informative power point presentation which explained the selections. The meeting was well attended. Students will receive the High School Course Catalog, in health classes, on January 19 and January 20. They will have an assembly on January 24 and they will hand in their selections later that day.
- Middle School students are currently taking midterms; the midterm schedule is available on the school website and SCA website. The format is very different than in the past. Students are now taking their midterms in class from January 9 through January 19 with a makeup day on January 20. Middle School students will have regular classes during HS midterm week. I have been getting a lot of feedback from parents which I have been passing on to school administration.
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who are in Middle School math classes have been asked to attend math classes during the High School midterm week. If students cannot attend those classes, they should contact the math coordinator.
- The MS/HS Joint Parent Council meeting is on January 18, at 7:30 pm. Superintendent Charles Cardillo will be there to discuss the Annual Professional Performance Review and what this means to Manhasset parents and students. The elementary parents have been invited to attend as well.
- The MS Friday Night Live is on Friday, January 20. Thanks to CASA's generous sponsorship, it will now be a "Live Above the Influence" Dance with DJ Vic and featuring the "Incredibooth Photo Booth". Children will be able to take unlimited photos with their friends. It will be a fun evening where MS students can celebrate the end of midterms and "live above the influence". The suggested admission is \$5 which will be donated to the MS SCA. Thank you to CASA for partnering with the MS and bringing a fun event to the students with a powerful message.
  - Cindy Cardinal noted that there is strong evidence that attending these activities does help prevent substance abuse, so it's not "just a dance."
- The MS Valentine's Day Dance will be held on Friday, February 4. It hasn't been determined who will receive the proceeds from this dance.

### **Principal's Report – Dean Schlanger**

- Thanks to Lisa Belinsky for all her work getting the Senior SPA organized.
- The Wi-Fi initiative is currently in the testing phase. It started with a handful of seniors and the initial feedback is very positive. The Tech Department is looking at several issues, including bandwidth, access and datapoints. Currently about 20-30 students are in the test; when the program expands it will be done by class year (seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, etc.), mostly likely a week at a time.
  - For now, each student is permitted one piece of equipment, which must be the size of a Kindle or larger. Wi-Fi will not be permitted for cell phones.

- Carlo Prinzo noted that the rollout to personal devices is keyed to bandwidth – it very controlled to be sure of ongoing access. Right now we are at 40% bandwidth. If we start using up to 50% of our bandwidth the server slows down. The first priority is to keep the SmartBoards running. Certain sites will be blocked from the school Wi-Fi, as they take up bandwidth. We anticipate there will be a server upgrade at some point.

- The Tournament of Champions is coming up at USTA Center in Flushing.

**Vice Principal's Report – \_\_\_ Vercessi**

- High School midterms will be given January 24 through January 27. Dr. Schlanger's letter regarding midterms will be posted to the district website. Providing information regarding HS midterms is a "green" initiative, so there will be emails sent and calls made.
  - The Middle School has regular classes during this time, so there will be regular drop off and pickup.
  - High School parents can request bus service for their children.
  - The information on the web will include a color-coded schedule with dates, locations and proctors.
- For Master Schedules for the 2012–2013 school year: Current 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students completed their electives requests and assemblies were held. Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will submit their electives choices on January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Teachers of all students grades 8 through 11 will submit their recommendations for the five major subjects between February 8 and February 10. By February 10 students will know the teacher recommendations – this will give students an opportunity to improve their grades if necessary.

**SCA Committee Chairs**

- **Nominating Committee: Kristen Mulholland**
  - The Nominating Committee has its first meeting on January 18. Positions to be filled are Middle School President, Munsey Park President and SCA Treasurer.
- **Enrichment Committee: Kristen Mulholland**
  - The Elementary School programs will be reduced from 3 to 2 programs. The hope is to attract more well-known authors, who often require lodging and an honorarium of up to \$5,000 (for example, Peter Brown, a very well-known author of K-2 books). Reducing the number of programs will enable us to spend more on fewer but more famous presenters.

## **SCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 13, 2012

- **SCA Fair:** Elaine Phillips provided an update on the date of the SCA Fair. The Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 5. This does conflict with the Woodstick Challenge, but there is no better alternative available. There will be a junior varsity lacrosse game at 10:30 a.m., an alumni lacrosse game at noon, and the varsity lacrosse game at 4:30 – all in Garden City. There should be ample time for families to attend and parents to volunteer with that schedule.

### **Christine Whitaker, SCA Historian**

- The SCA Bylaws require that every 5 years the Bylaws have to be reviewed and revised if necessary. This year we will have to appoint a Revisions Committee to review the Bylaws.

### **School Board Reports:**

#### **Pat Aitken:**

- The next Board of Ed meeting will include a presentation on the Science curriculum. District coordinators have been discussing the new core curriculum.
- The Board continues to work on policies, including Health & Wellness and Special Education.
- The Budget Workshop, which is very important, is set for Saturday, March 3, 2012. This is the first time the draft budget will be disclosed and the first public discussion of the budget.
  - There are multiple issues at play this year, including the 2% tax cap. There has been a great deal of press on issues such as the tax cap and the APPR. It is important for the public to be educated on these topics. They are not simple or straightforward, and it will be a challenge to get everyone to understand the issues. In fact, New York State has not yet provided answers to many questions raised by districts and taxpayers.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Deirdre F. Curtis

**SCA Executive Board Secretary**