



SCA Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: June 8, 2012

Call to Order: 9:45 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 a.m.

Officers Present: Christy Wepler, Lisa Belinsky, Laura Tranchina, Nancy Schlaefer, Tricia Cash, Deirdre Curtis, Michaela Sheridan, Liz Tomaselli, Liz Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance

SCA Executive President's Welcome – Christy Wepler

Christy thanked everyone for their hard work and support this year, with a special thank you to the Board of Education and to departing Board Member Cindy Cardinal.

Approval of Minutes – Deirdre Curtis

The March 9, 2012 minutes were approved.

Superintendent's Report – Charlie Cardillo

- Charlie noted that this year has been the best year in many different ways. Just to give a snapshot of activities and achievements in K-12 over the past week or so:
 - The baseball program had a banner year, with the best all-time crowd at a game.
 - The Pops concert was extraordinary.
 - Last Saturday the Dr. Dorman tennis courts were dedicated. This was a community group and the school getting together to accomplish this.
 - The third-grade at Munsey Park held its student presentations, which was on the topic of Chinese culture and music, and it was terrific.
 - The Shelter Rock Science Fair was held in the fifth-grade wing. The format was different from past years, with a specific theme (Rube Goldberg), with different presentations and focused on process.
- We continue to build on our strengths:
 - The budget was approved by a 69% majority – the highest in 11 years.
 - The community is confident that we have good guidance, including a stable administration, and that people are invested in and committed to the leadership team. Going forward, the team is solidified and poised to maximize opportunities.
 - The district is in a good place with labor, having gotten agreements with the teachers and support staff.

- Going in to next year, CACLA will be taking a close look at the overtesting that is going on throughout the US.
 - There was a presentation today by Lorna Lewis, the Superintendent at East Williston.
 - We will also look closely at teacher evaluations. These were intended / targeted to lower-performing districts
 - On the teacher/staff return day in August, all staff will meet together.
 - The district adopted an elementary rubric, and the developer of the rubric is coming in next week and in August to kick off the process. This will also be adopted for principal evaluations.
 - Plans for the teacher return day in August include 1 – ½ days in the building, and then a half day reviewing “Dignity for All Students” plan
- Charlie Leoni is taking a leave of absence from NASA. The position has been posted internally and an internal candidate has been located. We are working through some staff certificate issues. It’s a leave position so it’s difficult to get a candidate to leave a full-time position to fill a leave position.
 - As far as replacements go, the district is 90% finished with replacement staffing. In Shelter Rock, they are working on a kindergarten replacement and have in place two psychologists, one nurse and a math teacher.
 - Charlie noted that Shelter Rock may have to add a 5th grade section in order to meet class size guidelines.
 - Teacher training for the new Math curriculum will be held several days in June, and then an evening meeting in late September will be held to introduce the new curriculum. The new curriculum will be
 - Math in Focus for grades K-2
 - Go Math for grades 3-6
 - Ray Scacalossi, the District Math Coordinator, will spend lots of time in the elementary schools to get the program off to a good start.
 - Cindy Cardinal noted that the math curriculum has been a source of concern, so it’s a good idea to do a program for the parents.
 - Lis Shibley noted that the Dignity for All Students Act requires that children be taught health in class. Pat Aitken noted that the Act is mandated for K-12 students and for staff, and consists of age appropriate information on anti-harassment and civility. •
 - Charlie stated that a big issue this year will be the mandated teacher evaluations. He believes that the issue of tying performance reviews to student assessments will be litigated. Meanwhile, the Manhasset District’s evaluation rubric is good.

Treasurer's Report – Christy Wepler

- Peggy was unable to attend the meeting so Christy provided a brief report. The Executive Board met on May 17 and adopted a budget; it will be posted online. Highlights of the budget are that the SCA is reallocating funds and changing some scholarship funds; putting more funds toward the Middle School Friday evening events. Other highlights include a presentation by Rosalind Wiseman (the author of "Queen Bees and Wannabes") on bullying in character education for 5th through 9th graders. Ms. Wiseman's fee is very high (\$2,000 per presentation) so separate grade presentations will not be possible. Also, Kim Fanter will give presentations for K-4 during Red Ribbon Weeks.

President's Reports

Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock

- Shelter Rock hosted two parent council meetings since our last executive board meeting in March. The first was unscheduled, and was held on April 19th to welcome home Robert Geczik after he underwent heart surgery in January. (On a side note, Mr. Geczik received approximately 800 cards or notes from students during his recuperation.) Our May 10th parent council meeting featured Ray Scacalossi as the main speaker. There were many questions and suggestions directed at the administration regarding the math placement. Thanks to Jill Pullano for organizing the webcast for parents who were unable to attend.
- Go Green Week was held the week of April 23rd and organized by Planet Manhasset. Our Shelter Rock rep, Diane Quinn, oversaw the events. Fran Reid, from the Town of North Hempstead, discussed what, when and where to recycle in a presentation to all grades. We also had all students make a pledge to do just one thing to make a difference in their environment.
- Children's Book Week was held the week of May 7th. This replaced the National Library Week this year. Children's Book Week had the same exciting activities for the students including readers and costumes for grades K-4. The 5th graders played a Pictionary game while the 6th graders played Jeopardy. Thanks to Rosanna Massaro and Sandra Chen, our chairs and as always Mrs. Rowland for planning a fun week.
- Staff Appreciation was held on May 10th. It was an International theme and all staff received gold medals upon entering. Thanks to Terri Orlando, Michaela Sheridan, and Deanna Durso for planning a lovely luncheon for our very special staff.

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- Our Extended Extras 6 week Spring session successfully concluded in May. Once again we offered Art, Chess, Healthy Hearts/Fitness and Creative Writing courses for grades 2-6. Thanks to Laura Zaffiro for handling all 3 sessions this year.
- We are ready for the next Kindergartners...screening began the last week of April, and the new Kindergarten visits took place in early May.
- Our 4th grade Spring concert dedicated a song to retiring Mrs. Ferby-Guy.

Our 5&6th grade concert was upbeat and highly energized.

- 5&6th grade BBQ was held in conjunction with Field Day. The food, the games and even the weather made for a perfect day with great memories for all our children.

Thank you to the many volunteers led by Pam Perulli and Tami Pirrone.

- The 6th grade yearbook will be arriving next week. A big thank you to our chairs Jackie Pracher and Elise Kline for stepping up and taking this on. I am sure this yearbook will be amazing.

Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- Munsey Park had their 4th 5th and 6th grade concert, it was great fun!
- My sincere thanks to Rachael Staab and her team for transporting the Munsey Park Staff to a barbeque picnic. The multipurpose room looked and smelled spectacular and the food tasted even better. Thank you also to all the parents that donated generously of their time and gave the much needed financial support in order to make this fabulous event happen. The teachers really appreciate the day.
- National Library week was a big hit with the children. The theme was Hollywood. Thank you to Nevine Shahine and Christina Whitaker for such a fun event that made reading an elegant affair.
- The Kindergarten walk through was so much fun. The children were given the opportunity to visit a classroom and draw a self-portrait. The parents watched a video of the current Kindergarten experience and heard all about the district from Dr. Kendall and the staff. I received much positive feedback from the incoming parents.
- Field Day took place on Thursday and Friday last week. For the upper grades, some of the classes were countries, and some were colors. The children all had a great time.
- The birthday opt out option was a huge success this year. We had approximately 150 participants, where children handed out pens and pencils or cards instead of cupcakes. That is in

excess of 3000 less cupcakes in the school. It's great for kids with allergies, and is a great equalizer for scholarship kids.

Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- On May 2, a 6th Grade Transition Panel was held in the Munsey Park Auditorium. The panel was made up of seven parents who discussed different aspects of transition to Middle School. Dean Schlanger, Peter Vercessi and Jane Grappone were also on the panel. It was very well attended and after the presentation parents were able to ask questions. Following the meeting, 6th grade parents were also sent a follow up email with contact information of all panel members so if they had additional questions or could not attend, they could contact one of the parents with their questions. The panel received extremely positive feedback and many parents commented on how helpful it was. This is the second year we have held this panel; it has been decided to make it an SCA committee and is on the calendar for next year. Thank you to Kim Haggerty who is on the MP Shared Decision Making Committee for organizing this panel.
- The Middle School hosted a Cinco de Mayo dance on Friday, May 6. It was very well attended. The proceeds from the dance were going to 'The Water Project'. The students of the Outpost want to buy or repair a well in Africa.
- The Secondary School Staff Appreciation Lunch was held on Thursday, May 10. It was a wonderful day and the teachers were extremely appreciative. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the delicious spread of food. Truly a great day. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this day a success and a special thank you to Loretta Abbracciamento (MS Chair) and Tammy Kelly (HS Chair) who coordinated the event and were instrumental in making it as special as it was.
- The HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting was on May 11. Following a guidance update by Veronica Amiratti, CASA representatives Cathy Samuels and Lis Shibley gave an overview of the Red Watch program being implemented for seniors. Thank you to Cathy and Lis who tirelessly give so much of their time and have brought in incredible programs. They truly put so much effort into finding the best programs available, trying to raise the awareness of parents and students with regards to substance abuse and its ill effects. I know I have learned a lot from the programs you have brought in and I thank you.

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- The Middle School held its production of the musical "Once on This Island" on Friday, May 18 and Saturday, May 19. The production was great. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the production.
- The Middle School held its annual 6th Grade Lunch on the Lawn on Friday, May 25. The 6th grade students had an orientation and tour of the Middle School. Unfortunately, due to rain, the lunch on the lawn became lunch in the auditorium. The SCA hoped to treat the 6th graders to Italian ices but once it was moved into the auditorium, that was not possible. The ices were saved for the MS End of Year BBQ.
- The 8th Grade students received a "Class of 2016" t-shirt as a gift from the SCA. The t-shirts were handed out, during lunch, on Friday June 1. The t-shirts look great and had all of the students' names on the back. The 8th graders were very happy to receive them. Thank you to Justine Lennon who coordinated all the orders, helped with the design and made sure that each and every student's name was included on the shirt and spelled properly. She emailed all parents with the way their child's name would appear on the shirt to ensure no errors. Thank you to Trish Kelly, Donna Gillis and Cris-Ann Frisone who helped hand out the t-shirts during the 8th grade lunch periods.
- The Middle School had its annual End of Year BBQ/Dance on Friday, June 1. Of course, what MS outdoor event this year would not have rain involved? There was a lot of discussion with regards to moving it in or keeping it out, and we decided to keep it outdoors. It was a little chilly and at one point it did rain and the students were sent into the gym but that happened towards the end of the evening and did not really take away from the night. It was a really fun night with more than 400 students in attendance. The students were treated to a DJ, hamburgers, hot dogs and Italian ices. They also received glow necklaces and bracelets which were a nice touch as it got dark. All of the students as well as parent volunteers, staff and administration seemed to enjoy themselves. A huge thank you to Lauren Barrett and Cathy McAree for chairing the event which is a big job. It takes a lot of coordination. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out but especially to the dads who worked the grills and those on security duty who had the job of keeping out lacrosse tournament attendees. I'd also like to thank the custodial staff who helped set it up, clean it all up so quickly and who did many other little things to ensure the evening was a success. Students brought in donations of canned goods for Neil's Wheels.
- The Middle School held their spring concerts on Monday, June 4 and Wednesday, June 6. As always, the concerts were wonderful.

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- Tonight the Middle School will be hosting its annual Marie Rogers Friday Night Live for incoming 7th Grade students. It is a nice event for students to make new friends and meet their teachers. Students will take part in activities coordinated by the Guidance Department and they will be treated to pizza and water by the SCA. Let's hope there is no rain when they step outside to eat their pizza.
- Congratulations to all 8th Grade parents whose children are moving on to the High School – Good Luck to them!
- Thank you to all the volunteers who gave so much of their time and talent these past two year. Without the volunteers this organization would not be able to do all the wonderful things it does. My job would not have been as easy as it was without the support of each and every one. Thank you to the entire Board of Ed for all that you do for the students of the Manhasset School District. It has truly been a pleasure to work with all of you and the support you give the SCA just can't be beat.
- Thank you to Charlie Cardillo, Dean Schlanger, Peter Vercessi, Mark Sippin and the entire all staff and administration. Without your support, the SCA could not do all of the things it does for the students. You give us so much of your time and are always open to new ideas that the SCA brings to you. I have said this many times and I will say it again - it truly is a partnership and I am so happy to have had the chance to work with you. We really have such a wonderful school and it is thanks to you.
- Thank you to Christy Weppler; your dedication and energy will never cease to amaze me. You truly have the best interest of the students in your heart and we are luck you have you leading this organization. Thank you to Peggy Gajdjis who has a hard job. There is just so much paper work and requests - I don't know how you keep it all straight. Thanks for making sure the SCA does things the right way. Thank you Dee Curtis for taking our meeting minutes and making sure we remember to do our president's reports. I don't know how many time I have emailed you saying - Again? I apologize for all the times I have been late (as I type this at 8:56 this morning). Thank you to Elaine Phillips who truly adds a new perspective which I so admire. I am so happy to have had the chance to know get to know you better. Nancy Schlaefer, thank you. I did not know you before last year and I am so glad I have gotten to know you. You are such a kind person and so hard working. You get it all done in a really nice way. Tricia Cash, the last two years with you have been great. I love your honesty and tell it like it is attitude. We could all use a little more of that. Cris-Ann, thank you for helping me out these last two years. I have so enjoyed working with

you. You always have a smile on your face and you are always there by my side. Lisa Belinsky, what can I say. You are incredible and I will miss our daily talks. Thank you for keeping us in line and making sure we follow the rules. You are so bright and so much more funnier than I ever realized. I have enjoyed every minute of this last year working with you.

- Good luck to Michaela Sheridan next year in her role as MS president - I know she will be fantastic and I leave you in very capable hands. Good luck to Liz Tomaselli as the new MP President. I have worked with Liz over the years and MP is very lucky to be getting her. Good luck to Elizabeth Johnson who will also do an incredible job.

I will miss you all. Good luck to all of you next year!

Lisa Belinsky – High School

- On Saturday, March 24th the Junior Prom was held at the Village Club of Lake Success. Everyone had a great time, and thanks to GLC's Mia Hitchcock and Johnna Lombard who were the SCA chaperones.
- Next dance came on April 21st, held at the Milleridge Inn—the Senior Prom. Beautiful venue, lots of music and dancing—close to 300 in attendance. I had the pleasure of attending with Laurie Spampinato. The students behaved beautifully – even the staff at the Milleridge commented on it.
- Jane Grappone initiated Career Nights, which was a great resource to students and parents. April 26th was Careers in Engineering and May 2nd was Careers in Business.
- Next year career nights will be listed on the calendar and the topics will be advertised later.
- The Junior Class had its Frolic Fundraiser on May 1st at Las Vinas, Lisa Middleton and Laurie Spampinato did a great job spearheading the event. The next week on May 10th Mia Hitchcock and Johnna Lombard coordinated the Frolic Fundraiser for the current 10th grade at Greens—another success.
- Thank you to Barbara Thermos, our HS rep. for the SCA Fair on May 5th, and Tammy Tam Kelly for spearheading the Staff Appreciation Lunch for the HS.
- Of course we had a record breaking positive Budget Vote on 5/15, thanks to Kajal Kumar, the HS rep for the CEC, putting up balloons, coordinating mailings and information getting out with the budget details.

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- We held our first ever SCA College Admissions Officer Panel night also on May 15. Jane Grappone was very helpful with the whole event and moderated the panel of officers from 7 schools of varying academic levels and interests. Very good feedback from both parents and students, the panelists themselves were very pleased.
- The Summer Studies winners were named and 9 different students will attend different programs throughout the summer. Thank you to Dawn McCormick for Chairing this event.
- The Pops Concert is always looked forward to all year, and again highlighted every different performing group in the HS, where they have a special acknowledgement to graduating seniors. Those who look forward to it most of all perhaps are the Frolic chairs, because the day after that they take over the gym and start to decorate. This year's chairs Karen Blando, Jeannette Riley and Donna Wang are in the serious throws of putting the gala event together, with lots of help. The last Mandatory Frolic meeting for any senior and parent including their guests and parents is this Monday, June 11th. Graduation this year is 5:30, so walk through 6-8pm.
 - In response to a question regarding a live feed for the Pops Concert (done a few years ago), Pat Aitken will investigate for next year.
- Thanks to all those volunteers who helped the HS SCA this year in so many ways.

SCA Committee Chairs

CASA

- Cathy Samuels: For grades 6-12, the book "The Power of Parenting" will be sent home next week. The focus of the book is communicating. A pdf of the book is available.
- Lis Shibley raised a variety of budget / funding issues: The SCA budgets \$10,000 for CASA. The federal DFC (Drug Free Communities) Program does not fund programming. The Visiting Nurse Service of Great Neck dissolved and made a donation to CASA. Red Ribbon weeks supplies are very expensive and use up a big chunk of the budget. It might be a good idea to spend the money on a program instead.
- Because CASA is a federal grant recipient, it is held to the standard of being "culturally competent." The grant expires next year, and Lis will step down as Executive Director after this year. She has not been able to identify her successor, so there is a chance that CASA may not continue to exist after this year. The Executive Director position is a paid position.

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- Lis will provide a job description for the Executive Director position to the Board so that members can try to network to identify a successor.
- Over the last ten years CASA has been very successful in its efforts. For example, while the national average age for initial drinking is 6th-8th grade, in Manhasset the average onset age is 10th grade. (Now the push is to stop the 10th graders from drinking.)
 - Cindy Cardinal noted that CASA also coordinates with Nassau County in such programs as pre-prom education, breathalyzer policies, and The Great Body Shop.
- Ideally Lis would be able to get someone to join CASA's board now and work with her over the next year, and then transition to the Executive Director position at the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

Frolic 2013 Committee Chairs

- Christy Wepler noted that Joann Goldberg and Caroline Kenlon had volunteered as Frolic Committee Chairs for 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre F. Curtis

SCA Executive Board Secretary