



SCA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2011

Call to Order: 9:40 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 11:50 a.m.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

SCA Executive President's Welcome – Christy Wepler

Approval of Minutes – Deirdre Curtis

The October 14, 2011 minutes were approved.

President's Reports

Nancy Schlaefer – Shelter Rock

- Our **Student Council** started their monthly collection drives starting with Halloween costumes. Next on their agenda will be a Thanksgiving food drive, and a Holiday Toys-for-Tots collection. Thanks to Rosalba LoCurto for assisting the students with their endeavors.
- **Halloween** was fun and exciting around SR. Our Kindergartners started the day by parading around the school. A 5th grader won the pick-the-costume contest and Mr. Geczik was a chef and Mrs. Williams was a waitress. Finally the 5th & 6th grade Halloween party was the grand finale. There was lots of fun, games, prizes, dancing and of course the Spook walk. Thanks to Ruth Brown and Alice Woo for orchestrating a wonderful night for our kids and to Terri Orlando for be-witching us in the spook walk. Also, thanks to the many, many volunteers who decorated, dressed up, worked game tables, served pizza, cleaned up and secured every door so all our students were safe and accounted for.
- Shelter Rock's next **Parent Council** meeting will be on Tuesday, November 15th (change from the calendar).
- A special Thank you to our **Saturday Series** Chairs, Ruth Brown and Alice Woo, who are finishing up a 2-year term this winter. Ruth and Alice, along with Renee Press will have spent 8 Saturday mornings just this fall at Shelter Rock registering students, and making sure everyone

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was in the right spot. They also created new classes for this year; such as the Hula Hoop Workout that was very popular and sold out quickly.

Upcoming Programs:

- **SR photo Make-up day** will be held on Tuesday, November 15th
- **Kids' Holiday Bazaar** will be held on November 29 thru December 1. This shopping experience is an opportunity for children to shop with their class for inexpensive gifts (ranging in price from \$1-\$5) for the special people in their lives. The bazaar will be held in the recess room and run by parent volunteers to help in sales, and wrapping. We will also have "sales consultants" on hand to help the young ones on their selections. This is not a fundraiser. It is a service for our students where they can learn how to budget and spend wisely. Families will receive budget envelopes shortly that will allow the parent and child to decide together how much can be spent on each gift.
- **The Holiday Luncheon** will be held on December 14th. Our team of Jeanine Ferrone, Lauren Baranello and Bethanne DeMatteis has started planning a special day to show our appreciation for our amazing support staff.

Tricia Cash – Munsey Park

- Red Ribbon Week was a huge success. A big thanks to Rosa Stein and Peggy Gajdjis.
- The Halloween party was enjoyed by the 5th and 6th graders. Thank you to Sarah Beresheim and Maria Aliprantis as well as the 5th grade chairs, Lianne Menke and Katie Saville.
- Munsey Park student Council had a fabulous Pumpkin Sale. The sale raised \$3222 for The Red Cross, the T2K fund and The Manhasset Women's Coalition Against Breast Cancer. These charities were selected by the student council body. A huge thanks for the generosity of the McGoey family. The checks will be presented at the Board meeting on November 17th @ Munsey Park School.
- The Parent Council meeting for Munsey Park will be on Tuesday, November 15th at 9:30 am. The Presenters will be Maria Cordell, Kathleen Murray, Cheryl Smith, Iris Gandler and Karen Murphy. The topic that will be presented is Study skills.
- Student photos have arrived. Generally people are very happy with the photo quality and the customer services. The only complaint has been that there is no discount for a third child at the secondary school. Photo Re-take day is November 18, 2011.
 - Laura Tranchina noted that there has been some resistance to switching vendors for the secondary school because people don't want to take a chance with a new vendor

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for the senior portraits. We can see how the Shelter Rock yearbook photos look – that should give some insight into how the vendor does with portraits.

- Parent Teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday, November 8th and Wednesday, December 7th.
- MP Holiday Concert-Band and Orchestra; December 6 @ 7:30
- MP Holiday Concert/5-6 Chorus; December 13 @7:30
- MP Concert; December 22@ 9:15
- Family Theater will have its presentation of Junie B. Jones performed by Theaterworks USA @ Munsey Park, December 10, 2011 @ 2pm
- Holiday Gift Giving has sent out the flyer for donations. There are many opportunities to spread a little holiday cheer. Donations begin at \$10, no amount is too small!!!! There is no need to sponsor an entire family.
- The Munsey Park Directory has been sent out.

Laura Tranchina – Middle School

- The Secondary School Directory is at the printers and will be mailed soon.
- Spirit Day took place on Friday, October 21. Students followed an X day schedule and participated in a pep rally at the end of the school day. Spirit Day t-shirts were handed out in school the day before and the students wore them to school as part of Spirit Day
- The first Friday Night Live was also held on Friday, October 21. Students were asked to wear their Spirit Day t-shirts to kick off Homecoming.
- CASA representatives, Cathy Samuels and Lisbeth Shibley, attended our Parent Council Meeting on October 28 and gave a recap of the programs they have supported this fall. Dr. Stephen Dewey of the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research of North Shore-LIJ Health System was originally scheduled to speak regarding the effects of alcohol and drugs on the teenage brain unfortunately he was not able to attend but CASA will reschedule this presentation. Possible rescheduled dates are either Wednesday January 18, 2012 at the Parent Council meeting, or at the March evening meeting.
 - Cathy Samuels (CASA) noted that the movie "What's On Your Plate" may be shown during Health & Fitness Week. The movie "Food, Inc." was shown to the Nutrition Club at the high school and over 50 people attended.
- The MS Halloween party was held on Monday, October 31 and the students had a fantastic time. Over 520 students attended and were treated to a haunted maze, music, games, pizza, candy, baked treats and a lot of fun. Thank you to Linda Gurino, Tammy Tam Kelly and Karen Barnes for their tremendous effort in making this party a huge success. Thank you also to all the volunteers who helped transform the MS into a Halloween fright night and a safe place for the

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children to have a great time. One final thanks to the custodial staff who went above and beyond and somehow got the halls and gym cleaned up and ready for school the next morning.

- Deirdre Curtis asked whether the SCA could offer community service hours to secondary school students who assist with decorating and clean up of the Middle School Halloween Party. Elaine Phillips noted that during the Shelter Rock book fair students had provided babysitting services for younger siblings whose parents attended the book fair. Lis Shibley also noted that high school students were present during a SEPTA event at the Manhasset Public Library. Cathy Samuels noted that the SCA should consider participating in the Community Service Fair at the secondary school in September. The SCA can also post community service openings and opportunities on the bulletin board at the secondary school.
- MS Friday Night Live will take place Friday, November 18 from 7:30 – 9:30. There will be various gym activities for the children to participate in.
 - Lis Shibley noted that the CASA games are no longer being held, but proposed that maybe CASA could partner with Friday Night Live, perhaps for a fundraiser where kids could pay and get a T-shirt?
- Online registration for Parent Teacher Conferences starts Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. Parents will be able to schedule conferences online using Teacher Reacher. It is recommended that parents create an account prior to sign up opening. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, December 7.
- MS/HS Joint Parent Council Meeting will take place on Friday, November 18. There will be a discussion given by Laurie Lauria, World Languages Coordinator with regards to the new Rosetta Stone initiative.
- Champions for Charity days are Thursday December 1 through Saturday December 3. By selecting Manhasset SCA as your charity of choice, 25% of your pre-tax purchase will be donated to the Manhasset SCA. The Wheatley Shopping Center and the Americana Shopping Center are participating, and restaurants at both venues are also participating. Register your card at www.championsforcharity.org.
- MS Holiday Dinner Dance is on Friday, December 9, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. The suggested admission is a donation of three cans of food or \$5. The food will be donated to Coach Bob Rule's and Frank Bice's Neil's Wheels Program. Through this program the food will be donated to six homeless shelters in the Huntington Station area.
- MS Holiday Concert, 7th Grade Chorus and String Ensemble, will be held on Wednesday, December 14 and the MS Holiday Concert, 8th Grade Chorus and Band, will be held on Monday, December 19. This does conflict with St. Mary's Religious Education classes. St. Mary's originally advised that there would be no class that day. At this point it is not possible to reschedule.

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- The Middle School production of Shakespeare's "*The Winter's Tale*" will take place on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. auditions for the drama will take place next Monday and Tuesday, November 7 and 8. Students interested in auditioning need to download an audition packet which is available on the school website under 'The Arts' tab and they also need to sign up for an audition slot on the signup sheet located across from the Black Box Theatre.
- The SCA is planning a Barnes & Noble Book Fair to raise funds for the Middle School. It will be a one day in store event and four day online event. Dates are still to be determined but we are looking to have the event during the holiday shopping season. SCA supporters will be given a code to be used at the time of purchase. A percentage of the proceeds will be returned to the SCA. The Middle School Book Fair has not been successful, so it is being dropped. The Middle School Book Fair usually generates about \$1,000 and the funds are used to offset the cost of 8th grade T-shirts (\$1,000 does not cover the entire cost of the shirts).

Lisa Belinsky – High School

- Spirit Day was October 21 and things got a bit chaotic. Seniors were running down the halls and the traditional "chicken fights" took place. Dr. Schlanger is looking at alternatives to the raucous activities. There was a pep rally on Friday, and by all accounts the DJ was really great.
- Homecoming Dance- Sat. Oct. 22nd- 569 tickets were sold, the dance was a big success. Homecoming Dance Chair was Monica Zenobio, who did a great job with Lisa Middleton and a host of volunteers to make it a great night. The gym was decorated, there were sandwiches, food and snacks and a great DJ to keep all the students on the dance floor. Next year, more water....
 - Thank you to Dr. Schlanger, Mr. Sippin, Mr. Vercessi and teachers and staff who attended the dance and supervised a smooth and safe event for all.
 - Thank you to the Grade Level Chairs for organizing ticket sales leading up to the dance and check-in for the night of.
- Senior Banquet: Chairs Kathleen Katzmann, Margo Coleman and Donna Lopez have been very busy organizing this event. They've been collecting photos for a senior slide show and putting together a journal. It will be held at Leonard's to accommodate the more than 450 responses they've already received. As always trying to get auction items are a tough sell—anything is appreciated. This event is both a major fundraiser and an opportunity to celebrate seniors' accomplishments.
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- Lis Shibley pointed out that this issue of Indian Ink contains the results of a survey done regarding Homecoming activities. That may be a good place to start when considering how to shift the activities.
- Directory: Diana Stefan, HS Chair did an amazing job getting and confirming information for the HS directory. Getting emails that we hadn't had in the past, so that's great news. We should be going to print today or Monday at the latest.
- Project Share's Coat Drive is in full swing, Donna Gilles is chair. Box is by the front entrance by the check in desk. Keep in mind all sizes are needed, including size Adult XL, some high school students are big!
 - Holiday Gift Program is now underway. Dynamic duo Monica Zenobio and Lisa Middleton are together again, coordinating this for the High School. Keep in mind if you're part of a group or organization, *i.e.*, girl scouts or a women's club and can adopt a child or family, that would be terrific. A mailing is going out to secondary school students.

Upcoming Events:

- 11/9 Senior Banquet
- 11/16 SCA Luncheon
- 11/18 Joint MS/HS Parent Council meeting
- 11/17-11/20 High School Musical, The Music Man, tickets on sale online, next week
- 11/19 Booster Club Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with Manhasset's own Mr. Bob Rule being inducted along with others. 5-7 pm in HS Gym. New definition of dinner and a movie: stop by Booster club hall of fame, and then attend HS Musical!

Report from SCA Historian, Christina Whitaker

- Prefacing Christina Whitaker's presentation, Christy Weppler noted that tipping custodians has become an issue. It arises most frequently in connection with Halloween parties, the SCA Fair, book fairs and other events that take place at the schools. Traditionally the custodians have been tipped – even though they are paid for their time, the people who chair the events have almost always given a tip. However, we now understand that there are state-mandated limits on the amount of any tips.

Chris Whitaker:

- We have to be clear on the guidelines for tipping. The current SCA Bylaws provide for a maximum gratuity of \$75 per person, per year. This limit follows New York state law,

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and both District and Board policy. [Lis Shibley noted that we can also give an additional \$25 holiday gift; Elaine Phillips noted that the \$75 maximum includes the value of holiday lunches if the custodians are invited.]

- The SCA will arrange for tips for custodians. Everyone who runs or is connected with an SCA event must be instructed not to tip the custodians. There are serious consequences to violating the New York state-mandated limits on tipping – most importantly that the SCA could lose its not-for-profit status.
- A general discussion relating to tipping ensued. Christy Wepler noted that the SCA Fair is a huge event, and that the SCA (not the school district) pays the custodians. Tricia Cash noted that last year the more senior custodial staff worked at the fair, so the cost was higher than usual. Caroline Kenlon asked whether the value of any food provided to the custodians would be included in the \$75 limit, and Chris Whitaker said it would be included.
- As to how the state-mandated tipping limit would be communicated to the custodians, it was noted that the Homecoming chairs spoke with Theresa, the head custodian, and that she was very gracious and understanding.
- Chris Whitaker has a draft policy ready, and we will wait for Tim O'Keefe to review and comment.

Report from Christy Wepler re SCA Highlights and Web Policy

- Christy noted that the "SCA Highlights" sent via email have become very lengthy. The SCA Bylaws provide that the purpose is to share information regarding issues of concern to the school district and the community at large.
 - The Highlights should focus on students and schools; for example, if the Manhasset Public Library offers a program on colleges. Recently, the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast was posted on the SCA Highlights; when Christy asked how the Kiwanis benefited the schools, she was given a long list of items.
 - Policy Thirty-Three of the Bylaws are clear that no commercial advertising will be accepted, and that the SCA Executive President authorizes all information before posting on the SCA website.
- Christy Wepler and Chris Whitaker will follow up about the length of the SCA Highlights and what is included and will report back.

Superintendent's Report: Charles Cardillo

- Following up on the report given at the last SCA Executive Board meeting, he has met with the Grade Level Chairs at the schools. Again, the district is faced with challenges:
 - The tax cap;

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- Contract negotiations with three groups: the administration, the support staff, and the teachers. The district is restricted re what it can do financially and what the community would or might like it to do.
- The distinction between what we can do under the 2% tax cap and what we need to do to keep our current programs.
 - The Board will go out to the community early, because it needs to get the information out to the community.
 - School districts, including Manhasset, have received NO guidance from New York State regarding how to operate under the tax cap.
 - Regina Rule pointed out that the Board maintains information at its website; Christy Wepler suggested that presenting the information in "bullet" format might make it easier to understand.
- Mr. Cardillo noted that the Board does not want to disseminate any information to the community until it can do so using specific figures that apply to and are meaningful to the community. Since the Board has not been given any guidance by New York state, it's waiting. Mr. Cardillo also noted that with respect to the budget, if the proposed budget does not receive 60% or more approval, the Board can opt for a revote on the budget.
 - Elaine Philips stated that she called Senator Jack Martins office to ask about what he intends to do to address mandate relief; she called several times but did not learn anything substantive.
 - Cindy Cardinal noted that with respect to renegotiating contracts, when a contract has expired and a new one has not been renegotiated, all of the terms and benefits of the expired contract apply and remain in force. As a result, especially in difficult economic times, there is no incentive to renegotiate the contract that might result in less favorable terms.
- Mr. Cardillo noted that the APPR (teacher evaluations) went into effect in July 2011. He believes that while the requirement was enacted with good intentions, it is a 'one size fits all' approach. Of the total score for teachers, 40% is based on the results of student assessment tests (performance), with 60% based on other factors. The highest rating of "highly effective" is for scores from 91 – 100. Federal funding is a stake, and luckily Manhasset has its own evaluation process already in place. Addressing a principals' letter that was sent out to the Commissioner of Education, Mr. Cardillo noted that the principals do not object to teacher evaluations generally, but to the arbitrariness of this particular evaluation.
 - Cindy Cardinal noted that Manhasset does not have to participate in the APPR for this year, because there is already an evaluation process in place, but we do have to negotiate the APPR with Manhasset teachers for next year.

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- Mr. Cardillo noted that Charlotte Danielson is widely thought of as a "guru" of teacher evaluations, and that three of the five NY State Education models have her models embedded in them. Mr. Cardillo also noted that Manhasset teachers and administrators did several days of training on evaluations together in September and October 2011.

SCA Committee Chairs

- **SCA Nominating Committee:** Kristin Mulholland reported that the Nominating Committee consists of Kristin, Cathy McAree, Pam Perulli, Lauren Barrett, Christine Tatarian, Eileen Cuneo, Ruth Geismar, Amy Keogh, Karen Blando and Elaine Phillips. The positions that must be filled are:
 - Munsey Park President
 - Middle School President
 - SCA Executive Treasurer
- **SCA Luncheon:** Preparations for the SCA Luncheon, to be held Wednesday, November 16, are in process.
- **Project Share:** The Coat Drive is underway.
- **Planet Manhasset:** A flyer is going out for an 11/20/11 event – "Clean Up Plandome Road"
- **Champions for Charity:** Information is in the mail and on the SCA website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deirdre F. Curtis

SCA Executive Board Secretary