



NEW YORK STATE CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, INC.  
-Branch of the National  
H.B. Thompson Middle School  
President and Co-President: Tara Ginsburg & Melissa Capie  
April 9, 2024

*Good Morning everyone.*

The meeting will come to order, at 10:07 am with a quorum present (14 members - Section 4 of Article 11). Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet and there are many flyers on the tables regarding upcoming events in our district- please review those as well.

**I. Approve minutes from the March 2024 meeting:**

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in March for review via email as well as copies on the table today. Does anyone have comments, changes, or questions? **None.** If not, minutes stand as approved. Thank you.

**II. Treasurer's PTA Funds Report: Danielle Kurtzer: As of 3/31/2024:**

Opening Balance, 2/22/2024	\$ 56,524.16
Income/Deposits	1,297.57
<u>Expense/Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>304.76</u>
Checking Balance	<b>\$ 57,516.97</b>
<u>Saving Balance as of 3/22/2024</u>	<u>\$ 6,249.79</u>
TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 3/31/2024	<b>\$ 63,766.76</b>

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Nina Grieco. Thank you, Nina.

**III. President's Report- Tara Ginsburg / Melissa Capie**

Why was the flower late to school? It decided to stay in its bed. HAHAHA

We haven't kicked off with a joke in a while so I think we needed a good laugh. ☺ So with that, welcome to our April Meeting. Thank you for attending today, we know daytime meetings can be tough.

In essence of time, we will skip to the vote on the support of the District's budget. The vote is whether or not we will support the 2024-2025 School District Budget. Please note that this is not the actual vote for the budget (that takes place at polling locations on Tuesday, May 16th). This vote is for whether our unit, the HBT PTSA, supports the District's proposed 2024-2025 budget. The results of our vote then get

communicated to the Syosset Council of PTAs and they accumulate the results of all the units in the district to determine whether Council can say its member units support the budget. (see Section IX, New Business of these minutes)

We would like to give a big shout out to our Karen Ostrick for helping to organize From the Fire- Voices of the Holocaust for the 8th Graders. It was a very deep topic touching on the curriculum and was very interesting to see the questions the children had and how engaged they were on the topic.

We are busy planning for the end of year with spring events and planning for our 8th grade events. Thank you to everyone who continues to support our various fundraisers. They go directly to fund our events here at the school.

As we begin to plan for next year, please be on the lookout for committee sign-up sheets. Helping plan these fundraisers and events help create wonderful memories not only for our children but for us as well. You get to meet other wonderful HBT families while working together to plan these events. Please know that our committees are made up of plenty of working parents, so the flexibility and opportunities are there. Although, you do need to be a member to participate or chair a committee.

With that, I will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno and the assistant principals for their report.

#### **IV. Principal's Report:**

***Mr. Bonanno*** –Thanks for coming this morning. Our check-in process is taking a little longer – our ID scanning machine is back, so thanks for your patience.

*Staff Updates:* Our lunch monitor Charlie – Mr. Rex – lost his brother last week. Ms. Cortright lost her mother after a long battle with cancer.

*Recent Events:* Last couple of days have been busy with the earthquake and eclipse. The eclipse wasn't planned with school-wide activities, but some classes went outside with glasses and watched from different parts of the building. There were about 100 early pickups. There was also a hold-in-place yesterday due to a medical situation – primarily done to just keep traffic away from the issue. It was very typical; although, it occurred during a lunch period, which required cancelling extended advisory so that kids can have their lunch period. The District hold in place during the earthquake was due to district inspections. As a result, we postponed our previously scheduled lock-down drill – it will be rescheduled as we had enough excitement this week already.

*Testing* – Scheduled for Thursday and Friday for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. It is paper based. For those not testing, they will be in the cafeteria or can be dropped off later. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will come in on time no matter what and algebra and earth sciences reviews are scheduled.

Next week – 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have -based testing – Mr. Naraine rearranged where classes are located.

*Cell phones* – All classrooms will get cell phone holders – ordered 75 of them. South Woods did 6<sup>th</sup> grade first and was successful. All teachers will have them in the rooms – every teacher will enforce this. Leaving phones in their locker is choice #1 and preferred; however, many kids do not and they

appear during instruction. Enforcement/discipline will start on a teacher level - teacher will contact parents and then if that doesn't work, will then the teachers will involve Mr. Bonanno and team.

**Mr. Harrigan** – On 4/2, we had “From the Fires” put on production for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Had a great impact on our students. We had other programs for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders hosted by the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County. 7<sup>th</sup> graders next week will have a program called Deconstructing Symbols of Hate – Students analyze the meaning of swastikas as a symbol of hate, etc. Presented by professional educators who start specific about a swastika but then branch out about other symbols, impacts of hate and what can be done to stop it.

**Question** – Is South Woods doing the same thing? **An** –Yes, they are doing the same thing – they believe they had voices from the fires (not 100% sure), but know they definitely have the “Deconstructing Symbols of Hate”.

**Reflections award recipients:**

Congratulations to our Reflections Award Recipients!

<p><b><u>Literature</u></b>          - Spencer Zhang          - John Gad</p>	<p><b><u>Photography</u></b>          - Amalie Steinberger          - Marieke van Berkel</p>
<p><b><u>Visual Arts</u></b>          - Pai Liu          - Elaine Xia</p>	<p><b><u>Special Arts</u></b>          - Rex Fung (Visual arts)          - Michael Biondo (Visual Arts)          - Kristofer Castillo (Literature)</p>
<p>Three Nassau winners are advancing to the state level.          - Amalie Steinberger (photography)          - Pai Liu (Visual Arts)          - Elaine Xia (Visual arts)</p>	

**V. Correspondence: April Sontag (N/A):**

**VI. Standing Committee Reports:**

**A. Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick**

Our 8th graders had a theater presentation from Theatre Three of From the Fires: Voices of the Holocaust, which traces the life of Rachel Gold, a Berlin teenager and her experiences from 1937-1945. It shows her life through the reign of Hitler and the persecution of the Jewish people. The presentation coincides with their Social Studies classes beginning to study the Holocaust as well as anti-semitism. This presentation was incredibly moving for all of the kids and it is one that is presented all over Long Island at synagogues, churches and community centers and we were lucky to be able to book them into our curriculum in person this year. It is available on YouTube – Plainview played it for all parents and is incredible to watch. From the point of view of a soldier entering the camps. Everyone should take the opportunity to watch it.

**B. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee – Nina Grieco**

Don't forget to order your lawn signs (last day is Friday) and pre order your flowers for Graduation. More information is coming soon on the 8th grade trip to Great Adventure, the PTSA will be providing shirts for the kids to wear that day. We have no control over the choices offered.

**C. School Supplies – Irina Sedighi (Read by Tara Ginsburg)**

The school supplies sale is open. The link to order has been in all of our weekly emails. The kits are available for all students entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Please remember this is a fundraiser as well as an effortless way to get your school supplies.

**D. SEPTA – Jennifer Poitrimol**

**SEPTA Awards Nomination Extension: Deadline to submit nominations extended to 10th April.**

We are excited to honor our exceptional members, educators, and staff who have significantly contributed to our school, children, and families. To ensure all our SEPTA stars are recognized at our Awards Ceremony on May 22nd at HBT Middle School, we invite you to nominate outstanding individuals (parents, teachers, or staff). Nominations can be sent directly via email to Jen Poitrimol at [jenpo3012@gmail.com](mailto:jenpo3012@gmail.com) or Danielle Sandjaby at [daniellesandjaby@gmail.com](mailto:daniellesandjaby@gmail.com) with details about your nominee and why they're being nominated. Feel free to nominate multiple individuals. All nominations will remain confidential. Nominations are open to all, regardless of SEPTA membership.

**Paint Night During SEPTA Meeting:** On April 17th at 6:30 PM, coinciding with our SEPTA meeting, we are hosting a Paint Night at Berry Hill Elementary School. It's a fantastic opportunity for your child to enjoy painting while you attend the SEPTA meeting. The cost is \$20 per child, and it's important to note that this is not a drop-off event. Attendance at the SEPTA meeting or participation in the Paint Event is required for your child's involvement.

**Next SEPTA Meeting - Time Change & Presentation Topic:** Please note a time change for our next SEPTA meeting, now starting at 6:45 PM on April 17th at Berry Hill Elementary School. The meeting will have an informative presentation focusing on Occupational and Physical Therapy and exploring Assistive Technology.

**Follow Syosset SEPTA on Facebook:** For updates, event flyers, and information on SEPTA and community programs, make sure to follow Syosset SEPTA on Facebook.

**Access to Past SEPTA Presentations:** SEPTA collaborates with our school district to provide informative presentations to our community throughout the academic year. If you were unable to attend any of our past meetings, the presentations are available on the district's website.

**Membership:** SEPTA is a district wide PTA whose primary role is to promote acceptance and inclusion of all by providing resources and support to parents, teachers and children who receive special education services through an IEP, 504 Plan, related support services such as resource room, counseling, speech, occupational or physical therapy and students who are twice

exceptional or gifted. Please join! SEPTA number one fundraiser is our membership anyone can join.

**E. Staff Recognition – Nina Grieco**

The donation link has been sent out, please donate so that we can make this a successful event thanking the HBT faculty and staff for everything they do for our children.

**VII. Council Committee Updates:**

**A. Annual Budget Vote & Trustee Elections - Gabby Platz (Read by Melissa Capie)**

We have been sending out information in our weekly emails. Please refer to them.

**Question** - How do we know who is running? **Answer** -They have until 4/22 to submit their intention to run (slate will be finalized after this date)

The second Budget Information Session was on Monday, March 11 at 8pm @ South Woods Middle School. If you missed the February 12 Budget Information Session or yesterday's session you can find the presentation on the District website under the Board of Education/Budget Information tabs.

Some future dates to be aware of: Budget Information Session #3 will take place on Tuesday, April 16 and the Budget Hearing will take place on Monday, May 13.

Tuesday, May 21 is The Annual District Election & Budget Vote.

**B. Cultural Unity – Xu Zhang (Read by Tara Ginsburg)**

The Cultural Unity Committee is accepting entries for the Celebration of Culture showcase which will take place on May 30th at 7pm at SHS. We invite students to submit a piece of literature, art, digital art, photography or dance/music composition that answers one or all of the following: What does culture mean to you? How is culture celebrated in your home? What has culture taught you? Or anything that defines culture to you! Entries will be divided into the following categories: K-2, 3-5, Middle School, and High School. Each participant will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$50 gift card. Multiple winners will be picked randomly from each category. All submissions should be sent to [syocouncilcultural@gmail.com](mailto:syocouncilcultural@gmail.com) by email. The deadline for submission is May 3rd, 2024.

**VIII. Old Business: None**

## IX. New Business: HBT PTSA Support of the Annual District Budget:

As many of you know, from time to time, we need to vote at our PTSA meetings. In order to vote we will need a quorum of 14 members. Please remember that you may only vote if you have a PTSA membership for this school year. As Co-Presidents, we can only vote together as one vote. Traditionally presidents do not vote unless there is a need to break a vote that is tied. When we conduct a vote, a motion will be made. If the motion is coming out of committee it will not need a second. The person making the motion will explain their motion briefly and then we will ask if there are any questions or discussion. We will restate the motion and conduct the vote accordingly. *We will vote by a show of hands.*

### **VOTE: HBT PTSA Support of the Annual District Budget:**

In order for a council to take a position on the district budget in the name of the council, an instructed vote is required. Each unit's general membership takes a vote and each unit then has one vote on the council. If there is a dissenting unit their vote can be listed as such.

We need to take a vote now on whether our unit supports the proposed Syosset District 2023-2024 budget. ***Please note this does not ask for nor does it need to indicate how you will personally vote on May 21.***

All those in favor of the HBT PTSA supporting the proposed Syosset District 2024-2025 budget? ***Approved...*** All those opposed? ***None*** Thank you. The HBT PTSA votes to ***support*** the proposed Syosset District 2024-2025 budget.

We will report our unit's ***support*** at the April Syosset Council of PTAs meeting.

## X. Dates to Remember – Melissa Capie

Please keep an eye on our dates to remember in our weekly updates, facebook and instagram for any additional date changes between now and our next meeting.

- 4/10/24- School Closed
- 4/16/24- BOE Meeting at 8pm
- 4/17/24- SEPTA Meeting at BH, 7:45pm
- 4/22-4/30/24- School Closed
- 5/2- HBT PTSA MEETING @7PM – Please come to our next meeting to support awards night – directly afterward is the 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation

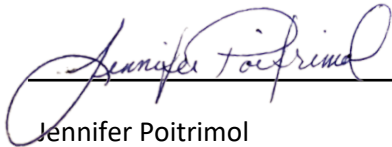
If there is no further business (***None***), the meeting will stand adjourned.

**Meeting is adjourned at 10:40 am**

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

Tara Ginsburg	Jennifer Poitrimol	Amanda Schlan
Melissa Capie	Nina Grieco	Dana Holzer
Mr. Bonanno	Karen Ostrick	Jen Biondo
Mr. Harrigan	Dana Kralstein	Sarah Lin
Mr. Naraine	Inna Choi	Min An
Ms. Waters	Tina Chuck	Jenny Lee
Michelle Verre		



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Jennifer Poitrimol

Recording Secretary