

**NEW YORK STATE CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, INC.**

**-Branch of the National**

**H.B. Thompson Middle School**

**President and Co-President: Karen Ostrick & Tara Ginsburg**

**October 13, 2022**

The meeting will come to order, at 10:07am with a quorum present. An attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables.

**I. Approve minutes from the September 2022 meeting:** We had distributed the minutes from our last PTA meeting in September for review. Does anyone have comments, changes, or questions? If not, minutes stand as approved. Thank you. And thank you Jen Poitrimol for writing them up.

**II. Treasurer's PTA Funds Report:** As of 9/22/2022: Submitted by Danielle Kurtzer

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Opening Balance, 8/23/2022                | \$ 48,928.77        |
| Income/Deposits                           | \$5,406.90          |
| Expense/Cash Disbursements                | <u>1,996.48</u>     |
| <b>Checking Balance</b>                   | <b>\$ 52,339.19</b> |
| <br>                                      |                     |
| Saving Balance as of 9/13/22              | <u>6,245.56</u>     |
| <br>                                      |                     |
| <b>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 9/13/2022</b> | <b>\$ 58,584.75</b> |

**III. Correspondence: Kirsten Zollo: None**

**IV. President's Report-** Karen Ostrick / Tara Ginsburg

Thank you everyone for joining us this morning. We know timing can be easier or harder depending on your personal situation. Either way, thank you for taking the time to attend.

First, we want to thank Jen Biondo for running an amazing and successful spirit wear fundraiser. We can't wait to see what our next spirit wear fundraiser looks like in the spring. As well as Barbara Krilov for our successful Chipotle fundraiser earning us about \$500 this year.

Back to Spirit Wear and the spirit week t-shirts - I hope you all heard from your children that spirit wear t-shirt size requests were sent out through their advisory. We have created grade based t-shirts for all the students and our amazing HBT staff members. 6th grade t-shirts will be red and have the HBT logo, 7th grade t-shirts will be gray and have the HBT logo and our 8th grade t-shirts will be black with a special 8th grade logo - designed by your 8th grade committee. So very exciting!!! The school will use these t-shirts for the upcoming events that the kids will be part of such as the DC Trip, Adventureland, the Bronx Zoo, etc.

This month we need to vote on resolutions, which were sent in the email blast. To save time we will be taking a block vote, which means we will read each resolution/bylaw amendment and discuss or answer questions that people may have. Once all resolutions are read/discussed, then we will take a vote on all the retentions first, then all the rescissions, then all the updates, and finally the new resolutions. Please take a few minutes to review and we will vote on the resolutions later this morning. Remember you can only vote if you are a paid member.

We will also be sending out an email later this week with the modified HBT PTSA bylaws which are set to expire in January of 2023. There will be a slight modification that will be regarding our council delegates, and we will also be introducing the new HBT PTSA procedures guide which will also need to be voted on as well.

We want to thank Mr. Bonanno and his team for their continuous hard work on making this another fantastic post covid year. That also leads us to our great parent members and volunteers who have been working hard behind the scenes to bring us some great fundraising events and experiences for our children. Whether it be the book fair, spirit wear or other great things (some of which we will discuss this morning), we can't forget our 8th grade committee who will have a lot in store for your kids this year - thank you to each of you. With that, we will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno for his report.

## V. Principal's Report: Presented by Mr. Bonanno, Mr. Harrigan, Mr. Naraine and Ms. Waters

**Mr. Bonanno** – Unfortunately Ms. Hachadorian's mother passed away. We have a 2<sup>nd</sup> nurse, Ms. Gallo, full-time. Tomorrow is the 2<sup>nd</sup> true extended advisory of the year.

- *Safety & Security* – They continue to do drills, did one recently during the 6<sup>th</sup> grade lunch – they did great (security also watched them). The lists of all drills they do are in the calendar... “hold in place” is the most common (spills, medical emergency, etc.)
- Ms. Waters and the mental health team will speak at the November meeting (in the library)
- Clubs started and are doing great – kids can join any time. Parents can speak to club advisors, if needed. Homework club is back (since COVID) – starting Monday. Kids can stay any time from 3-5 to do homework in the library. Teachers will be there to help and they can go after extra help or clubs
- *Question/Comment* – Parent brought up lack of officials (umpire, etc.) at sporting events and they mix home and away parents where they sometimes can get into disagreements. HBT will speak to athletics and are trying to get security to games.

**Mr. Naraine** – Cold Spring Harbor Trips for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will start next week. There are 2 trips planned for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade will have the Bronx Zoo and trying to plan another. 6<sup>th</sup> grade social is next Friday – trying to find accommodations for those staying. Buses are going smoothly – all buses have been getting out by 3

**Mr. Harrigan** – NWEA's will be completed this week. Reports should go out in 2 or 3 weeks. *Someone asked what NWEAs are used for* – It flags students whose scores have gone down to take action for them, also for teachers if kids need enrichment

*Question – What about trends since COVID?* – No changes noted

- *Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>* – DC trip for 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Will mail home more paperwork to fill out next week (medical, permission slips, code of conduct, etc.). Papers will be returned to Social Studies teachers by next Friday. 11/1 – There is a parent meeting (7pm virtually) for the DC trip – will have a presentation and will take questions. 11/9 – Students going to DC will meet together
  - o *Question – How is DC trip handled for general studies children* – They take extra TAs and LPNs (if necessary) to help with them. Ms. Verre usually travels with them, they bring staff members they are comfortable with and adult rooms nearby.
- Kids will find out their room assignments for DC probably around the 10<sup>th</sup> (and info about COVID testing)
- *Book Fair* – Currently going on

## VI. Standing Committee Reports

### A. Board of Education - Presidents

Quick summary - at last week's BOE meeting a presentation was made on changes to the district's code of conduct. The approved changes are outlined below:

The district code of conduct was reviewed and modified at the end of the last school year. The revisions include:

- General edits to phrasing.
- Removed language specific to the pandemic generally related to mask-wearing.
- Updated list of protected classes -the law sets forth classes of individuals, by type, concerning discrimination, which were added to our code in order to remain in conformance with the law.
- Wherever we referenced tobacco, we also included cannabinoid products.  
We added two layers of appeal for suspensions of less than 5 days - in addition to the principal. This now includes the Superintendent, and then BOE.

### B. Bylaws - Linda DiGeronimo

We will be making a change to our bylaws that will modify the amount of council delegates from 7 and increasing it to 10. This will be the only change to our bylaws. You will have 30 days to provide any feedback on this change and we will vote at our next meeting in November to approve them. Once they are approved by the membership, we will enter them into the NYS PTA system for their approval. Just so you know, once they are approved, the new bylaws will be posted on the HBT PTSA website replacing the expired By-laws.

### C. Cultural Unity - Buddy Program - Farah Mozawalla

Syosset Council of PTAs Cultural Unity committee represents the many cultural communities within the district. The committee works together to bridge and support cultural differences while also encouraging and facilitating participation in PTA and school programs. The committee's Buddy Program is looking for both volunteers who can serve as a Buddy and families who may benefit from having a Buddy. Please see the attached flyers to learn more. Please visit the Syosset Council of PTAs website to participate – <https://syossetcouncilofptas.org/buddy-program-main>

### D. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff / Shira Zatzoff

Some upcoming events include the following:

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Rohan Murphy – A motivational speaker who is a wrestler who has no legs – great story to share
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade** – Ryan's Story
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Voices of the Holocaust** – March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Working on other things for the year, including author visits.

### E. Eighth Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin / Liza Oyaga / Gabby Platz / Adrienne Ashkin

No Report

### F. Clothing Sale Fundraiser / Spirit Wear - Jen Biondo

Thank you to everyone who ordered – we raised over \$600. The HBT t-shirts are being ordered this week. Thank you to the teachers for all your help.

#### **G. Pie Sale Fundraiser - Barbara Krilov – *Read by Tara Ginsburg***

Barbara said, we did fantastic with our Chipotle fundraiser and raised over \$500! Thank you to everyone who participated.

We will be having a white post farm pie (and more!) sale on Wednesday November 23, 2022 from 3pm- 5pm at HBT to raise funds for the HBT PTSA. Orders will need to be placed by Monday, November 7th. Keep an eye out for the flyers which will be coming out soon. Enjoy some delicious white post farm goodies for thanksgiving while supporting our PTSA!

#### **H. Gift Card Fundraiser – April Sontag**

The holidays will be here before you know it! The HBT PTSA will be running the gift card fundraising program again. It's a one-stop shopping site that features many of your favorite stores. Some of the gift cards that are available are Amazon, Apple, Best Buy, etc. And of course, we will again offer everyone's favorite – Visa gift cards with no activation fee. Shopping for the holidays is made a little easier AND with every gift card purchase a percentage is donated to the HBT PTSA. More information to come!

#### **I. Membership – April Sontag**

April said - Hi everyone! Membership is one of the easiest and most effective ways that you can show your support of the HBT PTSA. As a member, you are supporting the PTSA, and allowing it to continue with many of the programs and activities to benefit the community and students. Membership is open to parents, staff members, students, and community members. Membership costs as little as \$15. You can sign up through the Memberhub store and pay by credit card - or you can pay by check by printing out a copy of the form from the newsletter and send it in with your child to school. If you still need convincing – by being a member you gain access to the HBT directory. AND – as of this Sunday, the 15th, only members will continue to receive the PTA newsletter and Remind messages. We are almost at our goal. As of this afternoon, we have 475 members!

#### **J. Reflections - Liza Oyaga**

The Reflections program is in full swing. We have registered with the Nassau PTA and Mr. Harrigan sent out the flyer and theme to teachers in all grades. Teachers are including the SHOW YOUR VOICE theme into some of their assignments. Please urge your child to join. You can send an email to [HBTReflections@gmail.com](mailto:HBTReflections@gmail.com) to get the interest form and submission guidelines. The deadline for student entries is November 4th and the categories are Film, Literature, Dance, Music, Photography and Visual Arts. There is also a category for Special Artists which is an option for students with disabilities.

Reflections Theme Search 2024-2025: Each year, National PTA challenges students from across the country to submit theme ideas for the Reflections program. The student who submits the winning entry receives a cash award, and their theme is used as the foundation of the Reflections program in the following year! One theme idea will be selected by National PTA to spark fun and creativity during the 2024—2025 Reflections program. The student who submits the winning entry will receive a \$100 prize from National PTA

<https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/national-pta-reflections-program-theme-search/>

#### **K. SEPTA - Jennifer Poitrimol**

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 by filling out the form on the table or scanning the QR code to go directly to our Memberhub store. We also run virtual parent group nights to help connect parents across the district to discuss concerns, best practices, and ideas to help our Syosset SEPTA families. Our next one is Tuesday, 11/1 and is open to all SEPTA members. If you have not received the invite, please reach out to me and I will get it forwarded to you.

Our next meeting is on October 25th at 7:45 at the Village Elementary School. We are pleased to announce that our SEPTA meetings this year will be hosted at different schools throughout the district. Meeting presentation will be "Promoting Communication, Advocacy, and Independence K-12." The presenters are Ms. Jennifer Connolly, Social Worker, South Woods MS and Ms. Taii Foster, School Psychologist, South Woods MS.

Although membership is by far our largest fundraiser, we are conducting fundraisers this fall to help supplement our activities this year. There is a fall clothing sale with the message of "Be Kind", hosted by Woodbury Sports. See the flyer on the tables and the link to order is <https://sytsept2022.itemorder.com/>. Store closes on October 28th.

#### **L. Legislation – Jessica Goldberg**

Voting information provided

#### **VII. New Business – Karen Ostrick**

*I would like to ask for a motion to use block voting for the proposed resolutions and amendments:*

*1 - maker of the motion*

*2 - seconds the motion*

*Any objections? **None***

*There being no objections, the motion to vote on proposed resolutions and amendments by block vote passes by acclamation.*

**The Leg Chair: "I hope everyone had time to look over the resolutions. As a reminder, only paid members can vote. The vote will be taken to the NYS PTA convention which will be on November 4th-6th. I would like to make a motion to forego the reading of the resolutions. You should have received the resolutions in the email blast."**

President - Asked for a second. After getting a second to the motion, president asked if there were any objections. *There being no objections, the motion to forego the reading of the resolutions and amendments passed by acclamation.*

**The Leg Chair: "Let's start with retentions. A retention is something that NYS PTA would like to keep as is. The resolution is relevant and should remain the same."** The legislation chair read the title of each retention and asks for questions or discussion at the end.

**The president:** *If there are no questions, then are there any objections to supporting the retentions? As there are no objections, the vote on retentions passed by acclamation.*

**The Leg Chair: Moving on to rescissions. A rescission is a resolution that is obsolete, for reasons described in the**

**resolution's statement"** The title of each retention was read and asked for questions or discussion.

**The president:** *At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the new updates? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.*

**The Leg Chair: Moving on to updates. An update is something that is still relevant but needs to be updated in a small way, for example words are changed or deleted from resolution.** The legislation chair read the title of each retention and asks for questions or discussion.

**The president:** *At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the new updates? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.*

There are no new resolutions this year, and you're done with voting on the resolutions.

#### Amendments to the NYS bylaws

**The president states:**

*At this time, we would like to take a block vote on the proposed bylaw amendments for NYS PTA. There are two proposed amendments. Are there any objections to the proposed amendments? **None.** As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation. Thank you all for voting. The resolutions have been accepted and now we will ask for a vote of confidence for our voting delegates to bring our vote to council and to NYS PTA. **Vote of confidence passed***

#### **IX. Dates to Remember – Tara Ginsburg**

October 12 -13 - Bookfair

**October 15 - Early Bird Special Ends**

October 19 - SHS Cabaret deadline

October 21 - HBT 6th Grade Social

October 24 - School Closed

October 24 - Pie Sale Begins!

October 25 - SEPTA Mtg, 7:45pm, Village

November 4 - Picture retake day

November 4 - Reflections submission due

November 7 - BOE meeting 8pm, SW

November 7 - Pie Sale Deadline

November 8 - School Closed

November 11- School Closed

**November 14 - HBT PTSA Meeting, 10am HBT Library**

**Meeting is adjourned at 10:55am.**

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary with assistance by Nina Greico

