-Branch of the National

H.B. Thompson Middle School

President and Co-President: Karen Ostrick & Tara Ginsburg

January 10, 2023

The presidents welcomed the membership, and the meeting will come to order, at 7:47pm with a quorum present (majority of the board - 14 members - Section 4 of Article 11). An attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. *Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables. Also, there are many flyers on the tables regarding upcoming events in our district-please review those as well.*

I. Approve minutes from the November 2022 meeting: We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in November for review 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 12/22/2022:

Checking Balance	\$ 54,900.26
Expense/Cash Disbursements	12,678.94
Income/Deposits	\$11,392.97
Opening Balance, 10/22/2022	\$ 56,186.23

Saving Balance as of 12/22/22 <u>6,246.36</u>

TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 12/22/2022 \$ 61,146.62

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

III. Correspondence: Kirsten Zollo (Read by Jen Poitrimol):

HBT email



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

Welcome back everyone! We can't believe we are in 2023 already! We want to personally wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year! December was a very busy and successful month for the PTSA. Starting with the Pie Sale which is always a delicious success. Thank you, Barbara Krilov! Next, we had our Gift Card fundraiser which we love because we are able to save our PTSA members the fees we would normally have to pay. Who doesn't like no fees!? Thank you, April Sontag! And last, we had our Holiday Boutique which is always so much fun for all the kids during their lunch break. This year we allowed credit cards and Apple pay usage which we found to be a HUGE success. The kids came back the next day for more and it allowed kids who didn't have cash to use a different form of payment. Thank you, Jordana Altman and Liz Wolkoff! The last week of school in December was spirit week at HBT. All the students and staff received their PTSA sponsored Spirit Wear T-shirts that they were able to wear during this week. It was also extra special this year because we wanted to give those 8th graders a surprise spirit week "bonus". The PTSA 8th Grade committee did a wonderful job with Art & Education arranging for the Human Board Game to come in. It was AWESOME and we are thrilled we were able to make this happen. Mr. Bonanno will provide more details on spirit week during his portion. Thank you, Shira Zatcoff and Liz Wolkoff! We are always so thankful for our HBT administration for all that they do for us. The HBT PTSA arranged an annual luncheon to give thanks for a wonderful 2022. Big shout out to Sandwich Express in Plainview for their beautiful spread of sandwiches, salads, and dessert. They made everything so easy, effortless and worked within our budget. Nominations! It's that time of year again. We are looking to all our amazing parents to fill our board for next year. The email went out yesterday and Linda will go over more during her committee report. Please see Linda with any questions you may have regarding open positions and what these potions entail if you are not familiar. Also, please review our Bylaws and Procedures which are located on our website for all details regarding these positions as well.

This year we are so excited to be more involved in the Multicultural week at HBT. Between organizing our arts in education event and also participating in the multicultural exposition with hospitality for our hard-working parents and families who are really the stars of the show. Farrah Mozawalla will go into more details on our involvement and how you can get involved if you are interested. We will also be making a motion to create a budget line for this event to create signage supporting multicultural week and provide light refreshments for our families. Reminder to our 8th grade parents – please watch your emails to start preparing for your 8th grader's transition to High School. An email already went out this week. We try to include a summary of items (but not all the information) in our weekly blasts. This information will include valuable resources to facilitate the course selection process, along with information concerning on-line opportunities to preview course offerings and have a clear understanding of programming choices for your rising 9th grader. Also, year books are available for ordering now. Please go to the HBT Website for instructions on how to order your 8th grader a yearbook. As a reminder the yearbooks are handled by the HBT administration and not the PTSA. As a final reminder, we are still working on our HBT awards committee so once again, if you are interested, please reach out to us for details. With that, we will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno and his team for their report.

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

Mr. Bonanno – Hi everyone, Happy New Year. Ms. Pross returned after having a baby. Nancy Nyrene at the front desk, became a grandma and is very excited. Also have some sad news as well. Jack our security guard, his father passed away and Gene's mom passed away closer to Thanksgiving, also from our security staff.

<u>Spirit week</u> – Was a great success – Similar to last year, but this time we ran it through the advisory period. This year is was focused on pure fun in advisory rather than on competitions. The week culminated in 2 big events, which were the Human Gameboard where the kids had a really good time and we finished the last day with 8th graders in the gym with closing events – some of the more traditional activities such as balloon pop, scooter events, etc.

Multicultural week - We have done modified versions the past few years and trying to get back to a more

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traditional format - more info coming in the next few days. In language classes, presenters are coming, and Ms. Verre is doing sign language. High school visitors are also coming to show offerings. Every morning our announcements will be in one of the 5 languages - Spanish, Chinese, Taiwan, French and Italian. Big event is on 1/27 which is a joint deal with parents and the PTSA as well as the language classes and students. Groups of students signed up for presentations with display boards, music, entertainment, etc. Food is eliminated from children presenters. Dance presentations, Indian and Chinese and demonstrations at tables. Only people who are part of the presentations can come. Again, more information to come.

8th grade students – Counselors visited 2 teams today and 1 tomorrow to discuss 9th grade transition.

<u>H.S.</u> – They have prepared an e-book and program guide. Students and parents should review – very important information to understand course selections and be prepared for their conferences.

<u>H.S. Curriculum in Arts Presentation</u> – Happened on Wednesday mornings and all are recorded and available on the HS website.

<u>2 emails about moving up</u> – One with the wrong date – The true date of moving up is Thursday, June 22nd (elementary is June 20th). The 20th is a language test. Also, the Geometry regents is on the 20th. Since the ceremony is outdoors, the rain date is next day. Also looking into 8th grade moving up celebrations – discussing with student government whether it be a social or some other trip.

Mr. Harrigan – Happy New Year everyone! Good turnout today. In the midst of the 3-week NWEA administration until 1/27 – all classes will be finished. Teachers are given autonomy on when they want to administer the tests. Teams coordinate with each other to minimize overlap, so no one is taking English and Math assessments on the same day. Please tell kids to be totally relaxed but try their best. Good to show consistency and capabilities in a window of time.

<u>Phones</u> – Had an issue with students going to bathrooms with phones. Must leave phones in classrooms. We also have monitors and bins by the bathrooms so they can drop their phone if needed to in the bin. With games on their phones, they would take longer breaks from class, etc. We also don't want cameras in the bathrooms. Both middle schools are looking at areas to put phones in a rack within the classroom. Great compliance and cooperation from students so far.

<u>Supervision</u> – 1st period attendance – Used to have advisory first period during covid to assist with extended arrival. Now, we put it a different point in time to ensure kids come in on time. It's gotten better than it was in the past, but prompt arrival time should be better. Ms. Costanzo, our attendance monitor, sees who is late consistently. School starts at 8:06, so need to be in the circle by 7:55 to be on time to class.

Mr. Naraine – Good evening everyone. This week Ms. Waters and I welcomed a 6th and 8th grader from Hicksville. We were about to give them a tour, mom and dad started coming, but we were able to reassure them as we took the kids on their own tour around. One of the lunch aides said there was a group of boys welcoming them to their table. I was happy to provide this update to the parents at the end of the day to let them know of their smooth transition. Also, we had a young lady sitting by herself consistently and yet a boy would keep asking her to join him and his friends daily. It is amazing to see these thoughtful kids in action and these family values are essential to our school culture overall.

<u>Parent Teacher Conferences</u> - Feb 8th (5-7pm) and Feb 16th (5-8pm) - both sessions are virtual. Look for the window on January 30th to schedule through Teacher Reacher. Window closes on Feb 7th for the 8th and on the 15th

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for the 16th schedule.

<u>7th grade Field Trips planned</u> – The Argyle Theatre in Babylon village – Titled Breakfast on Broadway – They will have breakfast at school and then go to the theatre to see West Side Story – fantastic theatre with former Broadway stars – Given the size of the grade, need to have 2 separate dates - 3/15 and 3/29 – emails will be sent out with more information.

Ms. Waters – Happy New year and good to hear Mr. Naraine has spies in the lunchroom. Yes, doing 8-9 transition with counselors in the classrooms. We will also be having a Parent/guardian transition night. Elementary to middle school transitions are also underway. The guidance counselors here complete all schedules for 9th grade.

<u>Question</u> – Teacher makes recommendation, but are we (parents) still having a meeting with guidance counselor?

<u>Answer (Ms. Waters)</u> – We will have general transition nights – What is the recommendation, what holistically should the family be discussing at home, etc. We don't want the students overwhelmed, but appropriately challenged. We are encouraging them to have conversations at home with parents/guardians, what are you interested in, etc. Guidance counselor and student should have the bulk of the discussions. You can join by phone and are always open to discussion. However, we want the kids to have a connection with the guidance counselors, etc. Again, parents are always welcomed to join, but also want kids to take on some ownership/independence.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. 8th Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin / Liz Wolkoff

The 8th Grade Committee chairs will be meeting to go over ideas that we have for our 8th graders and how to celebrate them this spring. Our first meeting will be at Liz Wolkoff's house on January 18 at 7:30. Feel free to reach out to the Committee Chairs for more information - they are Dana Kuropatkin, Gabby Platz, Liza Oyaga and Adrienne Ashkin. Please come and join us that evening. We need ideas — in lieu of the traditional breakfast, can we do lunch, etc. *Mr. Bonanno* - The Adventureland feedback last year was not good from parents. We didn't have many options since we had to plan things so late with the uncertainty of COVID, etc. We have been having discussions with the student government — the debate right now is great adventure vs. having a social. Also balancing fair price points, etc. The Yearbook breakfast was before the social, so the flexibility in planning something different by the PTSA is there — doesn't have to be tied to the yearbook and social.

B. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff / Shira Zatcoff

Curriculum Enrichment has finally begun to have in person events again and the kids are really enjoying them. On 12/22, we had the Human Board Game for our 8th graders. They thoroughly enjoyed playing the game while promoting teamwork and learning how to work together as a team on games such as "Name that Tune" and who can wrap their friend up in toilet paper better just to name a few. Coming soon...on January 12th we have the Weatherman Tour with John Marshall for our current 8th graders which coordinates with their Earth Science Studies curriculum. Some kids will be chosen to come up and learn how to use the green screen and project the weather. 2 sessions – 1 at 9:00am and 1 at 10:10am. On January 23rd we have Music of the Earth visiting for the whole school in conjunction with Multicultural Week. Will be taking 2 hours to set up. We are working on

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finalizing a date for the 7th graders for Mr. Halligan (Ryan's father) for Ryan's Story for some time in early spring. This will be a 7th grade district-wide presentation - the South Woods children will have the same presentation too. On March 24th, we have "From the Fires, Voices of the Holocaust" for our 8th graders. We feel this is an important show particularly with the rise in antisemitism.

C. HBT Multicultural Exposition – Farrah Mozawalla

For the multicultural event – We are helping organize parents for each country and parents representing countries. We need a list of ingredients of foods for allergies. Helping find entertainment – music celebration, poetry, etc. Do not need to be from that country to participate. Great way for parents and children to work together. Any questions, please contact me, Farrah Mozawalla or Karen or Tara. *Farrah* - I would also like to make a motion to approve an increase in the budget for the HBT Multicultural exposition. We would like to make this line item \$750. This will be to purchase the items for our multicultural event welcome signage and to provide limited hospitality for the families during the event." (This would include coffee and tea, etc.) *Presidents asked* "Is there any discussion? The motion seconded by Jessica Goldberg. Presidents informed the group that we will vote later in the meeting. *A question was asked of the administration regarding the multicultural expo:* Are we allowed to have music of our own? *Answer:* Yes, electric and tables will be available. As discussed, we will have 2 large scale presentations that everyone will stop and watch (Indian and Chinese) but encouraging smaller presentations at each table as well.

- D. **Fundraising Update April Sontag (Read by Tara Ginsburg)** Thank you to everyone who participated in the Gift Card fundraiser. Your support is so appreciated, and we hope that it made your gift-giving a little easier this year.
- E. **Nominating Committee Linda DiGeronimo -** Our Nominating Committee is working to help identify and propose our slate of officers for next year. Anyone who would like to be considered should fill out the form that was sent out via email yesterday. Be sure to check off all the positions that you are interested in. Current members also need to fill out the form. Any questions, feel free to ask me, Karen or Tara at <a href="https://h
- F. Membership April Sontag (Read by Nina Greico) Thank you to those of you who have already signed up for membership. Please remember that being a PTSA member brings benefits your vote counts, you get access to our directory spot, you can run a committee, you get our weekly email blasts and reminders, and you get to be involved making a difference for our children. The link to become a member is always in the weekly emails and social media pages (Facebook and Instagram). If you do not have the link, please feel free to email us. Please check our Facebook page (HBT PTSA) and Instagram pages (also HBTPTSA) to stay updated on the latest happenings at HBT. Make sure to follow those pages, as we post flyers and any reminders as well. Another valuable resource of membership is the ability to hold a position on our Executive Committee. Thank you to all of you who became members. It's never too late to join! Please let your friends and family know and become a member! Membership is one of our largest fundraisers and brings substantial benefits like voting, getting our email blasts, becoming a board member, etc.
- G. Holiday Boutique Jordana Altman / Liz Wolkoff We had a successful holiday boutique in December and made \$1,249 in profit for the school. The kids thoroughly enjoyed shopping, especially now that we took credit cards. We had several best sellers including the dog toys which we had to reorder for the second day now that everyone has a Covid dog as well as the crumb picker which everyone was buying for their cars!
- H. Reflections Liza Oyaga (Read by Tara Ginsburg) All winners were notified, and their entries were sent to the Nassau Region PTA. As of now, the reception will be held in February. Check your emails from <u>National PTA</u> so you can join the 2023 Reflections Student Arts Showcase. Get ready to celebrate with them at their Virtual Reflections Student Arts Showcase! The celebration will take place January 25 at 7 p.m. EST on

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National PTA's YouTube channel. Enjoy special performances from select national winners from the 2021-2022 I Will Change the World By... Reflections program. RSVP today!

1. **SEPTA - Jennifer Poitrimol** - SEPTA's next meeting is virtually via zoom on **January 26** - SEPTA Meeting @7:45pm. A list of all meeting dates, locations and topics are on some of the tables. The presentation for the meeting will be *Communication.... What is it? The speech pathologist's role, and a guide for parents on how to best support their child's speech and language skills. By Atara Simpson, Speech and Language Therapist (Prompt certified).* Be on the lookout for the google form to sign up for the meeting. All existing members will be getting it in their email. If you are not a SEPTA member and would like to attend the meeting, please email syossetnysepta@gmail.com to have your name included in the SEPTA meeting invite. Better yet, become a member!! It's never too early – see the membership forms and QR codes on the table or see me after the meeting. SEPTA is also hosting virtual Yoga sessions on certain evenings. There are separate sessions for adults (\$10 each) and children (free). The next session is January 20th for grades k-6. See the flyers on the table for more information or sign up directly on Memberhub. https://syossetsepta.memberhub.com/store

VII. Council Committee Updates:

a. Budget - Jessica Goldberg

Budget Information Sessions are taking place on February 6, March 13 and April 18. All information sessions take place at 8 pm, right before the Board of Ed meetings. These information sessions are really very helpful to understanding the upcoming District budget. Detailed information about the upcoming budget vote (including budget presentations from information sessions) are posted to the District website - 2022-2023 Budget Information. As a reminder, the Annual District Election and Budget Vote takes place on Tuesday, May 16, 2023.

b. Communications Conference – Pam Bahiri (read by Tara Ginsburg)

The communications conference committee met in November with the district administration. Topics included an elementary report card update, college admissions process, SEPTA, overcrowding in schools, fairness and equity amongst schools, high school start time and mercy first. The district will be posting their responses soon and we will send a link out once it is available. If anyone has any questions or would like more information about any of these topics please contact Pam Bahiri.

c. Scholarship Fund - Jessica Goldberg

Thank you to everyone who supported the Mario's fundraiser – best one ever for their fundraising event. Another dining fundraiser for the fund may be coming next month at Kashii – stay tuned! Donations can **still** be made to the Fund, members can advertise their business by taking an ad in the musical playbill or you can congratulate their child, friend of family or neighbor who may be participating in the musical by purchasing an ad. Legally Blonde (March 9-March 12). Check your emails or see the attached flyer. The link will also be in the weekly newsletter information on how to place ads.

d. Ways and means - Linda DiGeronimo

The Harlem Wizards are back for the first time since 2018! Please save the date - Saturday, March 18. We will have two shows - 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm. Tickets will go on sale on February 15. Tickets sell out quickly! If you had a ticket from either of the March 2020 games and elected to hold the ticket you will receive an email from the Harlem Wizards on Monday with instructions. Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you on March 18! We need PTA Volunteers for the event! We need teachers and staff – no one from HBT has signed up yet, and a reminder that no athletic abilities are needed. School board members too!!! Need parents to sell snacks, merchandise, etc. Volunteers get a free ticket and t-shirt.

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VIII. New Business - Budget Modification - Karen Ostrick

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. We would like to vote on the motion to amend the 2022-23 HBT PTSA budget by adding a new budget line of \$750 called the "Multicultural Expo" Budget line. This budget will be utilized for signage annually for the event and to increase our participation in the multicultural exposition which was discussed during the committee report. All those in favor please raise your hand. *More than 14 members raised their hand in favor.* Opposed? *None.* The motion is passed unanimously.

IX. Dates to Remember - Tara Ginsburg

Keep an eye on our dates to remember in our weekly updates for additional dates between now and our next meeting.

- January 11 SHS Curriculum Committee
- January 16 School Closed
- January 19 Concert 7th grade.
- January 20 Yoga & Meditation for students (zoom)
- January 23-27 Multicultural Week
- January 25 Concert 6th grade.
- January 26 SEPTA Meeting @7:45pm (Zoom)
- January 27 Multicultural Exposition
- February 6 PTA Reflections program Awards
- **February 7** PTA Council General mtg at Walt Whitman
- February 9 PTSA Meeting, 7:45pm HBT Cafeteria

Question: What time do the concerts start? Answer: Concerts start at 7:30pm

Parent Commentary (Member of Friends of the Syosset Public Library) – Please write a comment/suggestion to the library to have the book sale again (had cancelled the event since COVID). We had the first Chinese book discussion at the library last week and had some great attendance. We also have a mental health counselor and parents were very happy. If you have concerns or needs, they can do for you, please let them know. Lastly, we are looking for Library Board members – The President is approximately 86 years old and would love to get some parental involvement from those across the district. Syosset High School – We have a "We Chat" Group at the High School and have over 500 members in it. Zoe Lang, Mental health counselor, offered in the group to have a parenting boot camp on-line. Due to the high demand, she opened up 2 "We-Chat" parent groups to share with each other. It has been amazing to see the issues, address them and help many parents at the same time. Also hoping the library can do some things to help Mental Health issues with parents.

Question: What are the dates next year (2023) for the DC trip? Answer: October 25 through the 27th.

If there is no further business, the meeting will stand adjourned. Thank you everyone for joining tonight. **Meeting is adjourned at 8:57pm.**

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Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

Karen Ostrick	Melani Heller	Jessica Goldberg
Tara Ginsburg	Heidi Newman	Sara Azizollahoff
Mr. Bonanno	Linda DeGeronimo	Shulian Liang
Mr. Harrigan	Vicky Pan	Brian Grieco
Mr. Naraine	Liz Wolkoff	Shany Park
Ms. Waters	Shira Zatcoff	Samantha Newman
Jennifer Poitrimol	Farrah Mozawalla	Dana Holzer
Nina Grieco	Shelly Huang	Tess Hudak
Min An	Miranda Tang	Roseanne Ruppel
Michelle Verre	Birva Shith	Irina Sedighi

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HBT PTSA	HBT PTSA's General Meeting Sign-In Sheet Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 7:45pm, HBT Cafeteria		
Name	Student Grade	Contact Email	
Vinda Diberonimo	8,6	Idiproperzio egmail con	
Liz Wolkoff	8	Li2Kprine Daolcan	
Shira Zatroft	816	Shirazatzoff @ Smailion	
Min An.	7	anminta@gracil.com	
Bosanne Ruppel	8	Roand Paul Raol. Com	
HBT PTSA Name	meeting Date: Tues	eral Meeting Sign-In Sheet day, January 10, 2023, 7:45pm, HBT Cafeteria	
	Student Grade	Contact Email	
Shulian Liang	84	SL-Zheng@yahoo.com	
Bina Shelh	yth	birvasi Egmail Com	
Jennifer Poitrimol	75	jerpo 30 12 @ gmail. com	

HBT PTSA's General Meeting Sign-In Sheet Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 7:45pm, HBT Cafeteria

Name	Student Grade	Contract Fr. II
Michelle Verre	Januarie Grade	Contact Email
		mverre@synssetschools are
Tran Sedigni Forrah Mozawalla	17	mverre@sypssetschools.org
En (cala Mazza 11)		wha sedigli (2) grad. co
- Farran Mozawaya		7

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ame	Student Grade	cral Meeting Jight Har Cafeteria day, January 10, 2023, 7:45pm, HBT Cafeteria
Melani Heller	6	melaniheller@gmail.com
Heidi Newman	6	HMDNYC & YAHOO. COM
Vicky Pan	7	VIPANNY @ gmas (.com
Jessica Galley	8	iess gold @ hotmad cy
Vina Gricco	7	Ninagriew agmail com
Sara frizollahoff	7	Sara · azizollahoff Egmail u
Blay Grao	7	bran Ocasim capital.com
Shany Park	7	Shanypancolmd@yakoo.com
Samantha Neuman	8	Sambadnick Lagniais. con
Dana Holzer	1	Kirschky@aol.com
Tess Hudak	6	Teressatludakeamail.com
Shelly Huang	8	vchen 17 @ hotmail. com
Miranda Tang	8	Mirantan Egmastica