



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
March 12, 2024

Good Morning everyone.

The meeting will come to order, at 7:49 pm 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. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables if you haven't signed in yet.

I. Approve minutes from the February 2024 meeting:

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in February 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 1/22/2024:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Opening Balance, 1/22/2024 | \$ 57,059.13 |
| Income/Deposits | 0 |
| <u>Expense/Cash Disbursements</u> | <u>488.97</u> |
| Checking Balance | \$ 56,570.16 |
| <u>Saving Balance as of 2/22/2024</u> | <u>\$ 6,250.04</u> |
| TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 2/22/2024 | \$ 62,820.20 |

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

Hi everyone! We hope everyone has recovered from our daylight savings day this past Sunday! I have not At least we can get sun a little later in the day...and can you believe one week from today it is officially spring? I can't but this week is showing us that spring is on the way.

As always, a special thank you to our HBT Administrators, Support Staff who are working tirelessly to ensure a wonderful school environment for our children. We look forward to celebrating all that you do during our staff recognition luncheon on May 20th. Similar to last year it will be held during the school's

lunch periods. If you are interested in participating in the staff recognition a volunteer form will be going out shortly so keep a lookout.

The 8th Grade committee is in full gear and is preparing for their annual breakfast and graduation fundraisers. You will hear more during their committee update.

This evening we will be voting on next year's slate of executive officers, as presented by our Nominating Committee later in this meeting. If you were interested in participating in the HBT PTSA executive board but didn't want to be an officer, remember, you can always chair a committee.

Additionally, as we do every year, we will be having awards given out to those members who have gone above and beyond this year (or in all of their years here). If you know anyone deserving and/or know those who are "graduating out" of HBT, a google form for nominations will be going out this week.

With that, we will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno for the report.

IV. Principal's Report:

Mr. Bonanno – March is a long month all the way up until our break at month's end. We do have a lot of news, mostly good news.

Staff Updates: I want to congratulate Mrs. Villalba, one of our history teachers who had a baby girl, Juliana (so she's out). Mr. Musa was one of our teachers. He's part of he has one class in seventh grade. He's covering four main classes that Mr. Sweeney was helping with workshop. So pretty seamless. We have people here to do that. So that was great. Mr. Kiernan, his mother in law passed away right around the same time so right before the break. I want to welcome Mr. Leno is here in our sixth grade teachers meeting. I also want to welcome Mrs. Clara Vita, who's my secretary. So if you're a Baylis parent, sorry, but we are thrilled to have her back. Claire worked here about 10 years ago with Christian in a starting job, so she is back and started yesterday, so I'm very excited.

School Play - We had the school play this weekend, and as you know, it was really fantastic. This was our first Saturday and I said to the people here Saturday, Watch it and I think it was really great. Like it was nice to have it on a Saturday so that the kids were almost a little more well rested on the second day because they got to sleep in a little I think as opposed to a long school day and then at night. As usual, they were amazing. Mr. Harris did a great job. And so if your child was in it, or behind the scenes or the lights, it just was it was really great.

Community Service/Mural Club - We have another a really kind of cool opportunity right now going on. You Mr. Hill, who's the performing arts coordinator had mentioned to me that we have a connection with an artist in residence, John DiNaro, who I think has worked at South Grove several times they painted the container out there and beautified the content. So he had approached the district about a project and would we have any interest in working with him. We have, as you might know, a huge mural club. I would say 60 days kids if you told me the mural club would be our biggest club I would have never believed it, but we have so many kids. Mr. DiNaro approached Mr. Hill about the VFW, and it was looking for a mural. So I said, well, we have plenty of kids who are doing

the club, so it would be great for them. So he's here for three days today, tomorrow and Thursday. We'll go over the VFW and they're going to put the mural on the outside of the building and obviously cover it so it is protected. So we'll have a lot of pictures at the end of the week. And I think they want to do a public community unveiling so that's really meaningful. We heard the VFW guys cried when they heard that the kids were willing to do it. So hopefully the unveiling will be around Memorial Day and that's really great.

Challenger Basketball - Challenger basketball has been off and running again this year. Our team has competed a couple of times. Two games already. We have a home game Friday here, so all kids are invited. We were trying to get some students here. Our band is going to have about 10 to 15 kids playing at it too. So it's just a nice opportunity to support all the kids. There is a game at four o'clock and it's going to be the earliest starting sports event we have had because nothing starts before five o'clock these days it seems... so this is a four and then done by five so I had to give more good news.

Solar Eclipse - At the board meeting last night, they were talking about the solar eclipse and it is in in about a month. I think it potentially is right around our dismissal time so I will get back with more. Teachers will get on this a little bit (it's about 2:30). So Dr. Rogers may be getting glasses for the elementary schools. Yeah, so we'll get on that in the next month.

8th Grade Trip - We do have an eighth grade trip planned officially. We're not going to do a regular traditional social..... instead, we are going to go to Great Adventure. But there were some challenges internally this year. Targeting the 30th which is the Thursday right after Memorial Day and I don't want to spoil the eighth grade committee report but let's just say they're helping us and we greatly appreciate that they're going to provide some things for the students which they can share. Yearbooks will be a week later. We'll get the yearbooks at probably the end of that week and we're going to do our yearbook event June 7th. So we'll send a lot more out to your eighth grade and of all the things going on because June is crazy. Mr. Naraine was going to touch base on the testing a little bit. I know we sent out an email about opt outs. Again, just send those in by email if you're going to do it.

Mr. Naraine – Time is really flying... so we have the state exams coming up. It's a challenge this year because we have computer-based testing for eighth grade students.

Testing Schedule – So we have sixth graders taking the written portion, then seventh grade. And then the following week, we have eighth graders taking the computer-based part. So the struggle or the challenge is, “How do we now plan for the eighth graders in the building, while we have the sixth and seventh graders taking the exam, and vice versa when we have the eighth graders taking the computer-based testing?”

April 11th & 12th - Sixth and seventh graders are taking the written portion of the exam, which happens to be right after Eid (which is on a Wednesday), testing will take place on Thursday and Friday of that week. They'll be taking it during periods 1, 2 and 3. Our eighth graders will come to the building and they'll have a review for Earth Science and Algebra. So they'll have an hour and 15 minutes of algebra and an hour and 15 minutes of Earth Science during the time. The biggest challenge was what we do the following week, which is on the 17th and we have the computer-

based testing for we're working on a scheduled right now where we have the exam in one of our wings.

April 17th – 8th Grade Testing - So you know we have our three wings. So we've now moved our eighth graders during that exam to a particular wing so they're isolated just from normal traffic around the building. We'll then move the sixth graders to the middle and the end hallways and have them just have a normal day for periods 1,2 and 3, while the eighth graders take their computer based testing. When that's finished, we'll jump right into period four. And then just the rest of the day it will be a regular day for all of our students. What we wanted to do was try to keep business as usual for the sixth and seventh graders so they don't lose instruction. The concern was for the Regents teachers, as they are always worried about lost time since those eighth graders are taking the exam in periods one, two and three. They'll miss their classes and some of those classes happen to be algebra, etc. So we're trying to work with a plan where they do catch up with a period the following day.

April 18th – 8th Grade Regents Classes - The following day, we'll do periods 1, 2, 3 for eighth graders and instead of going to period four, they'll go two periods. So that the lost period two from the previous day, which happens to be a Regents class, they'll get it just to accommodate and help them. They'll get instructions. We'll plan ahead. They'll meet with your children just to let them know what the schedule would be like for the next two days. So this is coming up.

Summary - Just a quick review the dates are the 11th and 12th for sixth and seventh graders. And on the 17 for eighth graders, computer based testing. You ready for the good news? The good news is next year we're hoping that it's all computer-based testing. So now we don't have a separate days we can just get it done. Because the state law and the state won't let us do paper and computer at the same time/window. So the decision was made to do one grade at each level. Next year, just send your kids to school on time and they get picked up at the end of the day. You don't have to worry there'll be here we'll figure out the rest but there's no there's no delayed openings or anything like that.

Ms. Waters – So just to kind of get to do a little bit in the academic realm first.

Scheduling - You know, we're in scheduling mode for everyone. So our eighth to ninth graders are in a good scheduling spot. Our seventh to eighth is now very much underway. So we're scheduling all of our seventh graders. Currently, most of them have been scheduled thus far. We're working our way through the sixth graders and then we're gathering information related to our fifth to sixth transition/schedules as well. So happy to report that from that guidance perspective, scheduling perspective, we're in a very good place for where we need to be this time of year. So we're really pleased about that.

Wellness Week - We had Wellness week just last week and it was terrific. Our social worker Melody Chan and one of our guidance counselors. Deborah Faust, spearheaded that with help from honestly everyone. They have a number of guidance counselors and teachers and support staff who come together. And throughout the course of the week, we run various events. So we had a day of yoga. I always want to say goat yoga but there were no goats. I just sort of saved that. That'd be really cool. So but they're wonderful. They were during the lunchtime kids getting up and participating in yoga

in the library and that was certainly a big hit. Some teachers who do some different drumming circles that the kids really get into that and honestly the staff as well and do a wellness breakfast, to kick off for all teachers at the very end of the week, which is a nice opportunity just to kind of continue that sort of community building feel. And honestly it's a time that both the staff and the kids really enjoy.

Mr. Harrigan – Just a little one plug...I will send an email tomorrow, but if you have a seventh grade child, just please make sure you do the math and science selection and the elective selection on Infinite Campus. We'll send a reminder tomorrow, but we are going to try to close that down Friday.

Ryan's Story - Last Monday, John Halligan came in to present his "Ryan's Story" presentation. You know, it's a heart-wrenching story of a man who lost one of his children. His son was in seventh grade when he died by suicide as a result of some middle school bullying that he was experiencing. So John Halligan worked for IBM and after several years, he's actually transitioned to be a full time presenter, and has been doing this for almost 20 years now. Actually, going on and spent full time presenting to schools throughout the country and actually all over the world. We had a Ryan's story challenge - tell someone you are sorry. If you need help, ask for it... you're loved beyond belief. He's helping people through his own personal tragedy. And I think you know, this we have a say something anonymous reporting app. And, you know, as not as a result, but you know, reaction maybe as a result of that talk that that we did have a couple of reports to say something. We were able to help some students that were in conflict and obviously that that system is out there. So whether in conflict or having a hard time, having challenges, that we can investigate and that was for seventh grade.

Anti-Semitism & Gordon Korman Visit - So, you know, obviously, we had a very challenging event that occurred earlier this year, where there was a swastika found during school. And this particular book, by Gordon Korman, has an event in middle school where a swastika is drawn, and then it goes through how this community came together to turn something very negative into maybe more of a unifying experience. So our teachers did a remarkable job really, in short order of, you know, selecting this book, and creating a curriculum around it. And this is a joint effort between both middle schools, both South Woods and HBT teachers wrote it and then actually carried out the unit prior to his visit today. Gordon Korman has also written over 100 teen and youth books, and many of our students have read several of them, including Restart, which is a really prominent anti-bullying book. And he talks about the writing process the whole thing was really well received by the teachers and of course the students today.

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

VI. Standing Committee Reports:

A. 8th Grade Committee – Nina Grieco

Lawn sign fundraiser will be going this week as well. All 8th grade families please show your school spirit and order a lawn sign. This will help raise funds to cover the yearbook breakfast

and any added expenses to make the commencement and the yearbook signing special. We will not be able to order extra signs so please make sure you order right away.

We are also working on organizing the commencement flowers with South Woods. More information will be coming out shortly.

B. Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick

I'm going to read curriculum enrichment for Karen... last week Ryan's Story, an anti-bullying presentation came for our 7th graders through Council. Gordon Korman came today to meet with the 6th graders- he has written popular books like "Restart" the kids have been reading for the last few years. Coming up also on April 2nd, 8th grade students will be seeing From the Fires: Voices from the Holocaust.

C. SEPTA – Jennifer Poitrimol

SEPTA is a district-wide PTA that focuses on the needs of all students, especially those who receive services such as OT, PT, Speech, etc., in addition to those with a formalized IEP or 504 educational plan. We are still accepting memberships as this is our primary fundraiser for scholarships to deserving graduating high school seniors.

Syosset SEPTA is having a Popcorn Fundraiser in collaboration with Double Good Popcorn. 50% of each sale will be donated to SEPTA. The fundraiser begins on Monday, March 18 and ends on Thursday, March 21 (be on the lookout for the link when the sale goes live). For any questions, contact Committee Chair Katerina at kathy.fradelakis@gmail.com

We need your help to make sure all of our SEPTA superstars get the recognition they deserve at our Awards Ceremony on May 22nd at HBT Middle School. If you would like to recommend someone for an award (Parent, Teacher or Staff), please take a minute to fill out the form and email it to Jen Poitrimol (jenpo3012@gmail.com) or Danielle Sandjaby (daniellesandjaby@gmail.com). You can also simply send an email with your nominee and some reasons why you are nominating them for an award (we love to see all kinds of supporters of special education and champions of inclusion). You may submit multiple forms for multiple nominees. All nominations will be kept confidential.

Please return the form/send your nominations NO LATER THAN APRIL 1st.

Please note the time and location change for our next meeting on Thursday, March 21st. It will be VIRTUAL and start at 8:15. The previously scheduled topic (Occupational & Physical Therapy in the Schools) will be presented at the April meeting.

D. School Supplies – Irina Sedighi

School supplies sale is now beginning, we will be sending out a separate email tomorrow with the link to purchase your supplies. The kits are delivered directly to your home. All proceeds from the school supplies sale benefit the HBT PTSA. Super easy and convenient!

VII. Council Committee Updates:

A. Annual Budget Vote & Trustee Elections – Gabby Platz

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.

To vote you'll need to register in person on Friday March 8, 2024 between 4-8pm. Fill form out, bring ID and drop off at HBT. Note: if you're voted in last 4 years you are already registered.

In addition: Our committee will meet with Administration March 15 at 11AM. If you have any questions please email them to me so we can get them answered when we meet with Administration.

B. Council Committee – Communications Conference – Pam Bahiri

The Syosset Council of PTAs' Communication Conference Committee presents and discusses issues with Syosset administrators during each school year. The committee is composed of Council Delegates from every school in the district. If you have questions for the administration that are general in nature (i.e., not something specific to your child or your specific school) to be discussed at our spring meeting, please email your unit rep, Pam Bahiri at pambahiri@gmail.com, no later than today, March 12th. Thanks!

C. Cultural Unity – Xu Zhang

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.

D. Health, Nutrition & Safety – Gabby Platz

On Feb 28 the HNS committee had the LICADD presentation to discuss New Trends in Substance Abuse. On Monday, March 4th both Middle Schools 7th grade classes had a presentation on Ryan's Story. They are going to begin work on a Spring/Summer flyer.

VIII. Old Business: None

IX. New Business: Officer Elections

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 will now hear an update from the nominations committee chair Beatrice Yung.

Co-Presidents: Melissa Capie/Nina Grieco

1st VP: Tara Ginsburg

2nd VP: Aebeer Millick

3rd VP: Randi Shapiro

Treasurer: Sunita Hansraj

Recording Secretary: Jaime Daggett

Corresponding Secretary: Beatrice Yung

Delegates (7): Sarah Lin, Adrienne Ashkin, Krista Harris, Theresa Morale, Inna Choi, Pooja Mehta, Trupti Bah

Thank you Beatrice, **We will now vote on the H.B. Thompson PTSA proposed Slate for the 2023-24 school year.**

According to our bylaws anyone not nominated by the nominating committee, but wishing to be nominated from the floor, must have submitted their intent and qualifications to the chairperson of the nominating committee no less than two (2) business days prior to our election meeting. No names have been submitted.

Since there is one nominee for each position, the vote will be for the entire slate.

Is there any discussion? **None** All those in favor? **Unanimous** Opposed? **None** Abstain? **None**

The Slate has been approved. Congratulations everyone.

Thank you to all those who voted. A special thank you to Beatrice Yung for chairing our Nominating Committee as well as our Nominating Committee chair and members, Danielle Kurtzer, Sherri Smith, Inna Choi, Cindy Ho & Trupti Bahl. And a special congratulations to our new executive board for next year. Please support our new officers and attend our swearing in ceremony and meeting in June.

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.

There isn't much time between now and our next meeting, so our list is short tonight.

- **March 21 - SEPTA Meeting 7:45pm - Willits**
- **March 25 - HBT Chamber Concert**
- **March 25- HBT Spring Sports Begin**
- **March 26- BOE Special Meeting 7:30pm**
- **March 28-29- School Closed**
- **April 9- HBT PTSA Meeting 10am**


If there is no further business ***None***, the meeting will stand adjourned. **Congratulations again to our new Officers, thank you all and have a wonderful night!**

Meeting is adjourned at 8:26 pm

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary, with assistance from Jaime Daggett

Attendees:

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Tara Ginsburg | Jaime Daggett | Jordana Altman |
| Melissa Capie | Nina Grieco | Xu Zhang |
| Mr. Bonanno | Sarah Lin | April Sontag |
| Mr. Harrigan | Dana Kralstein | Theresa Morale |
| Mr. Naraine | April Sontag | Liza Oyaga |
| Ms. Waters | Inna Choi | David Ginsburg |
| Pooja Mehta | Min An | Danielle Kurtzer |
| Angela Yun | Gillian Tepper | |



Jennifer Poitrimol

Recording Secretary