



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  
November 13, 2023

*Good Evening everyone.*

The meeting will come to order, at 7:54 pm with a quorum present (14 members - Section 4 of Article 11). Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables.

**I. Approve minutes from the October 2023 meeting:**

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in October for review via email. 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 10/22/2023:**

Opening Balance, 9/22/2023	\$ 53,490.69
Income/Deposits	\$ 3,382.25
<u>Expense/Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 2,366.08</u>
Checking Balance	<b>\$ 54,506.86</b>
<u>Saving Balance as of 10/22/2023</u>	<u>\$ 6,249.00</u>
<b>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 10/22/2023</b>	<b>\$ 60,755.86</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**

Welcome everyone, and thank you for coming to our last meeting for 2023. But don't worry we'll be back January 11, 2024 at 10am so PLEASE mark your calendars!! This year is really flying by, we can't believe it. We are very excited to report that our book fair was a huge success and held inside in the HBT library like last year. The smiles on everyone's faces, kids and staff really showed us how nice it was for all the students to come from class and shop for books.

A very special thank you to our chairs Jennifer Portimol and Sharmin Panjvani for keeping everything running so smoothly and creating the huge success for our PTSA.

Another special thank you to Barbara Krilov for running to two food fundraisers in October along with our annual Pie Sale. We truly appreciate your time and effort with our food fundraisers. More details will be shared during our committee reports.

Pie Sale - thank you to all those who ordered to support our PTSA. As we know every year our pies are delicious, and we hope everyone will enjoy your thanksgiving feasts with this addition. Barbara will share more during her committee report. Thank you so much Barbara for organizing.

Our Gift Card Fundraiser is back with two deadlines this year based on when you would like to receive them!! More details will be shared by April's report.

Let's not forget a fan favorite, the annual holiday boutique - such a great way for the kids to shop during their lunch period for their friends and family. More details to come from Jordana and Shira.

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.

This month we will be voting on our Nominations committee members.

**Parent Question:** Asked about 8th grade sweatshirts (Southwoods had them)

**Answer** - Followed up and a teacher at South woods sold them - our 8th grade committee is going to look into it.

#### **IV. Correspondence: April Sontag – None**

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

**Mr. Bonanno** – Welcome and thanks everyone for coming, including the two teachers who came tonight. Today they learned about another swastika incident a few weeks ago, students came forward because of the presentations and discussions they have been having. The incident was investigated by the Assistant Principals and an email was sent today - the district and police were notified. We cannot discuss details but it is heartbreaking and unacceptable. The administration at HBT will continue to work with children and families.

- They want kids and families to feel comfortable coming forward if they hear/say anything, they will not take it out on the kids who do come forward, they just want everyone to feel safe
- Wednesday - the district lawyer is doing a Q & A about discipline

**Parent Question:** Does the administration think the kids know what they are doing?

**Mr. Bonanno** - They told kids that if they did not know what a swastika is they would show them so they would be aware and that kids did ask them to show them what it looked like. Hee does not think all kids know what it is and the significance of the symbol.

**Parent Comment:** Suggested that maybe a Holocaust survivor could come in to speak (or something similar), they also asked if maybe the administration should communicate with parents that it would be helpful for them to discuss the significance of drawing it with their children.

**Parent Question:** They know the war is not here but they want to know why it is not being discussed by teachers in class.

**Mr. Bonanno** - They said they did not tell teachers to either discuss or not discuss, adding things to curriculum is a process and takes time, you can't just add a lesson.

Security Fencing - Some good news - they started the gates and fence in the back and they will start locking the gates when everything is installed. They will also consider moving recess once everything is enclosed.

Multicultural Week/expo - Coming up the last week of January, Zu Zhang is the chair, kids can have tables, food is left to parents, week long activities, sponsored by the language department.

Spirit Week - Coming up December 18-22

**Parent Question:** someone asked a question about yearbook and what was in it –

**Mr. Bonanno** - mostly 8th grade - portraits, clubs, sports, play, etc; 6th and 7th graders usually do not purchase

**Follow-up question:** Are there students on the yearbook committee?

**Mr. Bonanno** - Yes there are

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. BOE Report -Inna Choi

President Cheng, Dr Rogers, and all the board members read statements on antisemitism.

#### Superintendent's Report

- Facilities Report

HBT Vestibule	1.3 mil
HBT Track	1.9 mil
Total	99.87 mil
- Dr Rogers recommends postponing rehabilitation of the Woodbury School b/c it is not cost effective, money would be better invested elsewhere
  - Considering air conditioning for elementary/MS gyms (\$10 mil)
  - Whether to use \$8 mil capital reserve to offset borrowing costs
- Student Residency Requirements – Mr Adam Kuranishi, Asst Superintendent for Human Resources
  - Re-verify residency at 5th and 8th grade transitions or expiration of lease or upon purchase w/in District
  - Residency is determined by where the child sleeps each night aka pillow test
  - Over last 6 months, District excluded 20 students and is currently in the process of investigating another 35 students

- BOE appointed an Executive Director for financial services, reporting, and student registration

#### **Audience to the Public**

- 2 parents spoke on student residency requirements make birth certificates mandatory; spot check houses; fine treble taxes if found unlawful
- Many students and parents came to speak out against antisemitism and the need to fight it. Please watch the meeting to see; it is available on the District website.

#### **B. Book Fair – Sharmin Panjavi**

Jennifer and I, on behalf of the PTSA, wanted to thank the administration and staff here for helping to support the book fair by scheduling the children during English class. A special thank you to Mr. Harrigan and Ms. Emily Zehnder for coordinating the schedules. Of course, we also want to thank all the parents for sending in kids with money, cards and e-wallet to help support the book fair. We raised over \$2,100 for the PTA and \$200 in Scholastic Dollars for the school (which will be available for them to spend in a few weeks).

#### **C. Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick**

Weatherman- John Marshall will be coming this Thursday for our 8th Graders as part of their curriculum.

HollyRock is next.

#### **D. Fundraising - Pie Sale - Barbara Krilov**

Chipotle Update- For the Chipotle fundraiser, we made \$182.37

***Pie Sale - Barbara Rudner*** - This year's Thanksgiving Pie sale is from Jericho Cider Mill. Orders were due 11/10. Pickup will be on Tuesday 11/21/23 from 3 to 5PM at HBT. Thanks to all who ordered!

#### **E. Gift Card Fundraiser - April Sontag (Read by Tara Ginsburg)**

The holidays will be here before you know it! Support the HBT PTSA, and cross off a few gifts from your list. The Raise Right gift card program is now open. This is your opportunity to get a head start on holiday shopping. Purchase great gift cards, including American Express and Visa gift cards - with no fee!

There are two deadlines for orders: to receive cards by 12/7, please place your orders by 11/21. To receive your cards by Christmas, please place your orders by 12/8.

Payment will only be accepted by bank account or credit card (small fee applies). Save on shipping by having them shipped to the coordinator. Please be careful when choosing physical or e-gift cards. All orders are final, and can NOT be changed once the order is placed. Any

questions, please contact April Sontag at [giftcard@hbptsa.org](mailto:giftcard@hbptsa.org).

**F. Holiday Boutique - Jordana Altman and Shira Zatcoff**

The HBT Holiday Boutique will take place Thursday November 30 and Friday December 1 in the hallway outside the cafeteria during student lunch periods. Cash or charge will be accepted and the prices of items will range from \$1 to \$15

**G. Sixth Grade Committee - Nina Grieco**

The 6th grade committee helped at this year's 6th grade social. They bought gift cards for prizes, set up a photo booth and had a guess jar table. The kids loved taking pictures in front of the spooky backdrop and guessing how much candy was in each jar. The closest guess for each jar was the winner and the kids were happy for all those that won. I want to thank the chairs, Adrienne Rutuelo and Rinku Thomas, and committee member, Sharmin Panjvani, for all of your help and ideas. The committee is looking forward to helping with another event in the future.

**H. Spiritwear**

Sale Date: Nov 6 - Dec 8th. 20% off sitewide. All orders placed by December 8th are guaranteed to arrive by 12/23.

**I. Membership - Nina Grieco**

Reminder membership is our biggest fundraiser and we strive for 100% membership! We still are about 150 members short. So please tell your friends, family, and students to sign up. It's never too late to support the HBT PTSA!

**J. 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. Membership is our primary fundraiser, which provides scholarships for graduating Syosset High School seniors and helps us bring in informative programming including parent/sibling support groups and guest speakers. SEPTA focuses on providing information about various issues that can aid parents in helping their children achieve their personal best. There are membership forms on the tables (if you'd like to pay by check or cash) as well as the QR codes that will bring you directly to our online store to join.

Thank you to everyone who attended our fun family movie night! It was a blast! In lieu of a November meeting, we will be having our first Annual Resource Fair on Tuesday November 21st from 7:45-9:15pm at Robbins Lane Elementary School. We are still compiling a Resource Directory and welcome your input on beneficial resources like therapists, playgroups, and

programs. Any questions please reach out to Committee Chairs Danielle Sandjaby [daniellesandjaby@gmail.com](mailto:daniellesandjaby@gmail.com) & Daisy Wong [kdwongfung@gmail.com](mailto:kdwongfung@gmail.com)

Don't forget.... RAFFLES are still on sale and the winners will be announced live at our 1st annual Resource Fair. They can be purchased online at our memberhub store. Any question please reach out to Committee Chair Katerina Fradelakis [kathy.fradelakis@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.fradelakis@gmail.com)

Important Update –

Lastly, the District has entered into a partnership with Northwell Health. As a result, many of Northwell Health's resources are available to the Syosset parents. Northwell offers many online programs that require registration but are free for parents. These programs range from "How to Set Up For A Successful School Year" and "Sibling Relationships" to "Raising Confident, Emotionally Healthy Kids" as well as various mental health workshops. Links to come shortly in our newsletters!

## **VII. Council Committee Updates:**

### **A. Reflections**

HBT students have done an excellent job of flexing their creativity with their interpretations of the theme "I Am Hopeful Because....". The following is a summary of the HBT middle school Reflections entries submitted by our school: 4 entries to Literature, 4 entries to Photography, 7 entries to Visual Arts, and 3 entries to Special Arts. All the submissions are currently under review by judges, which is expected to be completed by November 17, 2023. Thanks to Mr. Harrigan for his support as well as all the teachers who helped encourage the students to participate.

## **VIII. New Business:**

### **1. Nominating Committee Vote:**

We will now take a vote on the nominations committee (read the slate below). All those in favor please raise your hand. Opposed? **None. The motion passed by unanimous vote.**

1. Danielle Kurtzer (Exec)
2. Sherri Smith (Exec)
3. Inna Choi (Exec)
4. Cindy Ho (General)
5. Beatrix Young (General)

Trupti Bahl (Alternate General)

## IX. Dates to Remember – Melissa Capie (No meeting in December)

### November

- 20- BOE Special Meeting @ SW
- 21- GC Deadline for 12/7
- 21- Pie Sale Pickup
- 21- SEPTA @ RL 7:45pm
- 23-24 School Closed

### December

- 4 - BOE Meeting @SW 8pm
- 7- GC Deadline for Christmas time
- 13 - 8th Grade Winter Concert
- 15 - Gift Card Pick Up
- 18-22 - HBT Spirit Week
- 25-29 - School Closed

### January

- 1 - School Closed
- 8 - BOE Meeting @SW 8pm
- **11 - HBT PTSA Meeting, 10:00am**
- 17- 7th Grade Winter Concert
- 24- 6th Grade Winter Concert

*Thank you everyone! Hope you all have a very happy thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.*

**Meeting is adjourned at 8:33 pm**

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary, with assistance from Nina Grieco

#### Attendees:

Tara Ginsburg	Dana Holzer	Tina Chuck
Melissa Capie	Shira Zatcoff	Xu Zhang
Mr. Bonanno	Bailey Springer	Birva Shih
Mr. Harrigan	Michelle Verre	Daniella Baglivo
Mr. Naraine	Theresa Morale	Sharmin Panjavi
Ms. Waters	Nina Grieco	Inna Choi
Shany Park		



Jennifer Poitrimol

Recording Secretary