



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
October 11, 2023

The meeting will come to order, at 10:06 am with a quorum present (14 members - Section 4 of Article 11). Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables. Additionally, there is other material on everyone's table. They include an updated 2023-24 proposed budget, the minutes, our agenda and the membership QR code/links for those who have not signed up yet.

I. Approve minutes from the September 2023 meeting:

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in September 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 9/22/2023: (read by Tara Ginsburg)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Opening Balance, 9/22/2023 | \$ 58,083.99 |
| Income/Deposits | \$ 3,579.00 |
| <u>Expense/Cash Disbursements</u> | <u>\$ 172.30</u> |
| Checking Balance | \$ 53,490.69 |
| <u>Saving Balance as of 9/22/2023</u> | <u>\$ 6,247.93</u> |
| TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 9/22/2023 | \$ 59,738.62 |

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

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

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 and as HBT's motto goes, "Our Hearts Beat Together" Prayers for everyone during this time while such violence is ongoing overseas.

Since we did so well last year meeting our membership goal, this year they upped our target goal from last year and we are looking for more members yayyyyyyy. But in all seriousness, for middle school this is our BIGGEST fundraiser so the more members the better we are. Also, please remember that being a

PTSA member brings benefits – your vote counts, you get access to our directory spot, which is a great resource to find contact information of friends, you can run a committee, you get our weekly email updates 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, our website and social media pages (Facebook and Instagram). If you do not have the link, please feel free to email or text us. Make sure to follow those pages, as we post flyers and any reminders as well. Lastly, REMIND texts will only apply to those who are PTSA members. Thank you to those of you who have already signed up for membership - *Reminder - teachers, staff and assistant principals are really important members of our PTSA. :)*

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 want to thank Mr. Bonanno and his team for their continuous hard work on making this year so far another great one. 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.

IV. Correspondence: April Sontag – None

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

Mr. Bonanno – Welcome and thanks everyone. There is currently an 8th grade CTE class occurring in the other half of the cafeteria, so appreciate the flexibility to move to the other ½ of the cafeteria.

Security Update – Last month, there was a lockout instituted with the car accident. 2 days later, there was a very brief lockout instituted. There was a test with the app with the Nassau County Police at another building and it sent out an alert without indicating it was a drill. 15 seconds later, it was over, but everything went smooth. Director of Security, Shahid Qureshi had a meeting afterward to discuss approach, results, feedback, etc.

Fence – Should be installed and completed prior to the winter. The perimeter will be all fenced-in and where there are gates, they will be locked during the day. The gate entrance by the softball field will be gated and locked – it will be open for kids to walk to school and come in (7:00 am) and will be closed by 8:15 am and stay closed throughout the school day. Same about the gates by the circle.

Parent Question: What about community personnel during the day on school grounds?

Mr. Bonanno - We can't shut down the road that runs from one end to the parking lot to the other connecting the two streets. There is more activity on the back side of the

school where people walk, etc. and have been monitoring with security and cameras. Additionally, we anticipate pushback from the local community, but safety remains our top priority.

D.C. Trip – Mr. Harrigan had a meeting with over 200 parents virtually. The trip is still on in light of the occurrences in the Middle East. There have been no security advisories and some parents have already asked to move/postpone the trip. This cannot be done and we would not be able to shift to another time – the only alternative would be a complete cancellation. Both the tour company and bus company are fully booked.

Hampton Jitney, the preferred coach bus by the District is booked and are looking to book 6 months out. This company has the safest coach company rating and is in high demand after the Farmingdale bus crash.

Bingo – Schedule for Monday with the Student Activity Club – They will have snacks for sale and have almost 100 kids signed up already. Will be a fun time.

Halloween Social – Scheduled for 10/30 – We cannot plan it for Friday, 10/27 due to the DC trip. Tickets go on sale that week. Party begins at 3:30 – You can bring the costume and change at school or get picked up and brought back. Ends at 5:00

Recess Supplies – HBT will reorder to have enough items during recess – soccer, basketballs, etc.

Mr. Naraine – Parent-Teacher conferences are from 8am to 5pm on Tuesday, 11/7 and from 5pm to 8pm on Wed., 11/8. Registration starts on 10/23 at 10am and closes on 11/6 at 12pm. This will be summarized in an email and distributed to all parents.

Ms. Waters – A busy day here today and would like to introduce our 2 teachers leading a new program, Ms. Lauren Rossi & Ms. Kim Leidner.

School Store - Our school store opens at 12:00pm and will be located right outside the cafeteria. Children did physical labor, decorated and chose the merchandise that will be in the store. They will consist of school supplies and boutique items. There are jobs available at all different levels – using money, registers, monitoring inventory, etc. Today, they are having raffles for \$1 coupons. They are using Canva and Cricut, selling bracelets by Amber, etc. They will be open every Wednesday during lunch (periods 6 and 7). Once established and running smoothly, it will open for 6th graders as well. Student feedback is welcomed, cash only and there will be a “discount bin” for items that don’t sell as well. Items start at \$0.50 up to \$8 and will also do custom orders.

New Additions – We welcomed Ms. Jen Sash, who just started and a part-time psychologist, Dr. Jaclyn Rodriguez.

Mr. Harrigan – Clubs started on 9/26 and was a very successful week with over 37 clubs. Students had the opportunity to go through the clubs in Advisory and most clubs are returning from prior years. Some new clubs (teachers propose new ones, etc.). Clubs meet every day after school 3:00-3:40 pm or before school from 7:15 to 8:00 am. One club meets virtually every Thursday night at 6:00pm and that is the Cooking club.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee -(President to talk) Sarah Lin / Sherri Smith / Vicky Pan

The audit committee has examined the books of the treasurer of HB Thompson PTSA for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 and found them to be in order.

B. BOE Report -Inna Choi

October BOE Meeting

October 3, 2023

Superintendent's Report

Instruction – Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) – Loverso & Goldswaithe

A presentation was given on how the District's education program has improved through MTSS which provides targeted support for struggling learners through a tiered system of support. Tier 1 provides universal support for any identified student and takes place in the classroom. Tier 2 is for students who need more support. Instruction is given outside of the classroom and examples include OT, speech, and counseling. Tier 3 focuses on students who continue to show evidence of struggle. The presentation goes into a lot of detail, please watch the segment if you are interested.

Facilities Priorities

Woodbury School

- Creative ways how to make the space useful for the District and community

HBT Conceptual Site Plan

- Creation of track, possibly put in a soccer field. We need to resurface the existing tennis courts in the near future; as that work is being done, possibly add 3 more courts at that time.

For Facilities Priorities layers – the HBT vestibule is at the very top of the list as it is a Health and Safety issue.

Discussion Items

Mascot Selection Process

- A board member asked if there was a chance the District could keep the name Brave in some capacity and wait to see where things go in regard to lawsuits filed by other school districts on LI. An advisory committee will be formed to help further the discussions regarding the mascot and it will be discussed at a special meeting on Oct 18.

C. Book Fair – Jennifer Poitrimol

The Book Fair is taking place today (Wednesday, 10/11) and tomorrow (Thursday, 10/12). It is located in the library and kids will shop during their English classes. Purchases can be made in cash, debit/credit cards and e-wallet. Please note that if you had unused funds from last year's fair in e-wallet, they were automatically turned into an e-Gift card at the end of the book fair. Please make sure you log into your account and you can fund the current year's e-wallet with the gift card so that it can be used at the upcoming book fair. There will also be another pre-sale for the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, "No Brainer", which will go on sale to the public on October 24th. Any purchases of books not on site (like Diary of a Wimpy Kid) will be delivered to your children during class when the books arrive at the school (usually around a week after the fair is over). We also still need volunteers at the book fair and the sign-up sheet link has been distributed in our weekly updates. Please note that only current year HBT PTSA members can volunteer.

D. School & Community - Pooja Mehta (Read by Melissa Capie)

The School and Community committee held its first event of the year on 10/4 - an informational session for new families to the district about PTA and all the wonderful things Syosset has to offer. It was a great success! Stay tuned for updates about our upcoming community wide drives.

I was there and represented HBT and had several newcomers families that I was happy to welcome and also share some useful HBT info.

E. Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick

Currently, we have scheduled a program in December for the 8th graders called Hollyrock. We are also scheduling the weather program with John Marshal in November. We are also working on scheduling a Vaping program with LICADD for the 7th graders.

We are looking to get more 6 & 7 grade programs on the roster as well. If anyone is interested in helping plan the arts in education program at HBT, please contact me at artsanded@hbtpsa.org.

F. Sixth Grade Committee - Nina Grieco, Rinku Thomas, Adrienne Rutuelo (Read by Melissa Capie)

The sixth grade committee will be providing gift cards for the 6th grade social as prizes

G. Fundraising - Pie Sale - Barbara Krilov

The Annual Pie Sale information coming out shortly so please be on the lookout. Thank you so much to everyone who participated in our Taco Tuesday Fundraiser at Chipotle yesterday. It is a great way to raise money for our PTSA while also enjoying some yummy food.

H. Gift Card Fundraiser - April Sontag (Read by Tara Ginsburg)

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 - Nina Grieco (Read by Melissa Capie)

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 –starting November 1st, only members will continue to receive the PTA newsletter and Remind messages. We have 361 members and our goal is 549.

J. Reflections - Xu Zhang & Sarah Lin (Read by Tara Ginsburg)

Friendly reminder, there are 10 more days left to submit for the 2023-2024 Reflections, 10/20 was the initial deadline. Submissions are needed! Any questions, please email the reflections chairs at reflections@hbptsa.org

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. 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. Our next meeting is on Monday, October 23 at 7:45pm at Walt Whitman Elementary School. The presentation Topic- **Executive Functioning presentation by Consulting that Makes A Difference Agency.** This agency supports the Syosset Staff in different professional development opportunities which we are excited to connect parents with. Please join us!

We also have several events coming up in the next few months... Family Movie Night is this

Friday, October 13th at 6:30pm at Robbins Lane featuring Elemental as well as fun activities and sharing of friendship bracelets. The family fee for SEPTA members is \$15 and \$20 for non-members. We will also be having a raffle, so please participate and help our fundraising efforts!! Any questions, please reach out to Committee Chair Katerina Fradelakis kathy.fradelakis@gmail.com. You can sign up for all of this at our memberhub store!

<https://syossetsepta.memberhub.com/store>

Take the night off from cooking on Tuesday, 10/17 and order from Mario's Pizza - 15% of the proceeds will go to SEPTA! We will also be having our first ever Resource Fair in November. Save the date for that event on Tuesday, 11/21 from 7:45 to 9:15 at Robbins Lane Elementary School. Any questions, please reach out to Committee Chairs Danielle Sandjaby daniellesandjaby@gmail.com & Daisy Wong kdwongfung@gmail.com

L. School & Community - Krista Harris (Tara Ginsburg)

The Parent Resource Group (PRG) organizes district-wide presentations and/or parent roundtables to discuss relevant topics on education, parenting, and district resources.

The first three presentations will be made by SCSD administrators. They will be virtual presentations and will take place at 7:30 p.m. The dates and topics are as follows:

Monday, October 30: Elementary Report Cards (explaining the report card and its changes)

Monday, November 27: DASA and Code of Conduct (including the procedure a parent should use if there is an incident)

Monday, January 29: How to Navigate the District Website

M. Legislation - Theresa Morale - We will be taking a vote. (Read by Melissa Capie)

See voting in "New Business", below.

VII. New Business

1. Legislation Vote:

Tara - I would like to ask for a motion to use block voting for the proposed resolutions and amendments. Motion Seconded. Any objections? **None**. There being no objections, the motion to vote on proposed resolutions and amendments by block vote passes by acclamation.

Melissa Capie - I hope everyone had time to look over the resolutions. As a reminder, only paid members can vote. The vote this evening 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. Motion Seconded.

Tara - Any objections? **None.** There being no objections, the motion to forgo the reading of the resolutions and amendments passes by acclamation.

Melissa - 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.

1. LABELING OF MILK PRODUCTS
2. PENALTIES FOR PASSING A STOPPED SCHOOL BUS

Any questions or discussions? **None.**

Tara - If there are no questions, then are there any objections to supporting the retentions? **None.** As there are no objections, the vote on retentions passes by acclamation.

Melissa - Moving on to rescissions. A rescission is a resolution that is obsolete, for reasons described in the resolution's statement.

1. SALE OF TOBACCO TO MINORS
2. SPECIAL EDUCATION
3. EDUCATION ON THE SAFE USE OF DEET
4. REFORM OF STATE AID TO EDUCATION
5. HAZING

Any questions or discussions? **None.**

Tara -At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the rescissions? **None.** As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.

Melissa - 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.

1. DETOXIFICATION OF MINORS
2. POINT OF SALE ACCESSIBILITY AND ADVERTISING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS
3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION
4. PARENT PARTICIPATION
5. COMMUNICATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REGULATIONS (Part 200)
6. THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
7. AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
8. MERCURY REDUCTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT
9. GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs), GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) FOODS, AND BIOENGINEERED FOODS
10. SCHOOL NURSES
11. UNBIASED, CURRENT, AND ACCESSIBLE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
12. TV/VIDEO VIEWING IN SCHOOLS
13. IRS MILEAGE DEDUCTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS
14. SCHOOL BUS STOP VULNERABILITY
15. ADULT SUPERVISION

16. HORSEBACK RIDING SAFETY

Any questions or discussions? **None.**

*Tara - At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the new updates? **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. **Unanimous vote of confidence.***

2. Awards Committee:

We would like to propose our current slate for the awards committee: General membership – Cindy Ho, Beatrice Young and Alternate Trupti Bahl along with Executive Board member Sherri Smith.

VIII. Dates to Remember – Melissa Capie

Finally, we are up to our dates to remember. Please keep an eye on our dates to remember in our weekly updates which will be on hiatus during the summer but check our Facebook, and Instagram for any additional date changes between now and our September meeting.

October 11 -12 – Book Fair

October 13 - SEPTA Movie night @ RL

October 18- BOE Special Meeting 8pm

October 23 - SEPTA Meeting @ WW

October 30 - HBT 6th Grade Social

November 3 - Picture retake day

November 6 - BOE meeting 8pm, SW

November 7 - School Closed

November 10- School Closed

November 13 - HBT PTSA Meeting 7:45pm

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

Meeting is adjourned at 10:54 am

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary



Attendees:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Tara Ginsburg | Inna Choi | Sherri Smith |
| Melissa Capie | Michelle Verre | Dana Holzer |
| Mr. Bonanno | Shira Zatcoff | Sarah Lin |
| Mr. Harrigan | Barabara Krilov | Dana Kralstein |
| Mr. Naraine | Pam Bahiri | Randi Shapiro |
| Ms. Waters | Cindy Ho | Min An |
| Jennifer Poitrimol | | |
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