

**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**

**May 4, 2023**

The meeting came to order, at 7:05pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by a sign in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables. Also, there were many flyers on the tables regarding upcoming events in our district.

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

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in April for review as well as copies on the table today. Does anyone have comments, changes, or questions? **None.** If not, the minutes stand as approved. Thank you.

**II. Treasurer's PTA Funds Report: Danielle Kurtzer: As of 4/21/2023: (Read by Karen Ostrick)**

Opening Balance, 3/23/2023	\$ 53,071.56
Income/Deposits	3,571.75
Expense/Cash Disbursements	<u>260.70</u>
<b>Checking Balance</b>	<b>\$ 56,382.61</b>
Saving Balance as of 3/22/23	<u>6,247.14</u>
<b>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 4/21/2023</b>	<b>\$ 62,629.75</b>

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. No uncleared transactions or deposits in transit. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Liz Wolkoff. Thank you, Liz.

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

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

**Mr. Bonanno** – Tonight started early to accommodate HBT's 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation. A lot of work to do state testing, but it went well. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders are required to take a language test (Checkpoint A), which is part of the FLACS exam (made by educators). The date is June 20<sup>th</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> graders – presentations are done in class (different this year). 10-minute blocks – get pulled

Earth Science & Algebra Regents – Can be stressful, students should be in the process of studying.

Property Outside – Needs to be measured for fence. It would be gated during school and open for walking to/from school.

Retirees – Mrs. Ziccardi & Ms. Mason are retiring.

**Ms. Waters** – Kids are meeting with guidance counselors. Still working out IEP/504's and focused on mental health month.

**Mr. Harrigan** – ELA testing for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders – no need to study.

Year-end Schedule – Review the weekly blast to see the regents and testing schedule.

D.C. Trip – 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip information for next year coming soon (there will be a google meet scheduled to answer questions)

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party – Permission slips were given to kids (slips may not make it to parents) – please ask your kids for them and fill them out so they can attend.

**Ms. Verre** – Teachers are focusing on getting kids ready for their regents' exams. Kids are in a good position.

- Calculation for impact on grade is on the website.

**Parent Questions/Statements:**

- (1) **Emotional Support** – With the tragedy in the other district (or any other local districts), what is being done to ensure emotional support for our children? **Answer** - Guidance counselors and social workers are available for any children who need support (teachers also keeping an eye out for any child that may need support).

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

We had such success with our last meeting waking everyone up with a joke we thought we could continue...so here it goes. What did SPRING say when it was in trouble.... May Day!!!

Welcome everyone to our May meeting...we hope it actually won't be a May Day type of meeting hahaha...we wanted to start off by reminding everyone that Dr. Rogers, and Dr. Curry along with some Board of Education trustees will be visiting us tonight to discuss the 2023/24 budget and answer any questions you may have. We will interrupt our reporting when they do come in so that everyone has time to talk. Again, please feel free to ask them questions you have about the budget or anything else you may be concerned about.

We will continue discussing our updates after they leave, which we do put in our weekly emails. We have sent out the link to order next year's school supplies through "1st Day School Supplies". This is a very successful fundraiser for HBT PTSA (which you can see in our budget sheet) and you also get all your school supplies too! More details will be discussed in the committee report. Thank you so much Irina Sedeghi for organizing this year's program.

Our grade specific HBT Spirit Wear t-shirts have also rolled out and can be purchased through MemberHub. The sizes listed there are the sizes we have. Thank you, Jen Biondo again for all your help this year. She will give an update on another NEW spirit wear fundraiser we are rolling out.

Staff recognition lunch is coming up very soon, May 24th. Thanks to all those who contributed to our fundraiser. We are so excited we reached our goal, and we will be closing it after today. For those that did participate your name will be printed and posted for the staff to see who contributed.

Most importantly its committee sign up time!!! We have distributed the link to the form through our weekly newsletter, our HBT PTSA website has the link, and some email blasts will have it as well. Please don't miss out and sign up for committees today. Feel free to share with people you know who may not be here today but want to get involved. As a reminder, you can click on the link on the form for more details on the committees. We truly appreciate all the volunteers! Thank you in advance.

With that, we will let the central administration team and board members tell us about the budget and trustees as well as answer any questions you may have regarding the budget.

**VI. Administration & Board of Education Visitors**

Lynn Abramson, Brian Grieco, Jack Ostrick, Shany Park, Dr. Rogers/Dr. Curry – spoke about the 2023-2024 budget.

## VII. Standing Committee Reports

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

On May 19, our 6th graders will be meeting Darren Sardelli who not only grew up on Long Island but still lives here with an Assembly on the Power of Words.

He will spend part of his day in small groups in our library with our 6th graders and their English teachers. He is an award-winning poet and author who has written over 25 books. His message is how to empower and educate with poetry. His two most popular books are Galaxy Pizza and Meteor Pie and What If? His poems have been featured on Radio Disney. We look forward to spending the day with him.

On June 1st, our 6th and 7th graders will be having a presentation called Ceed Live Animal Show. It will be an interactive Animal presentation with Live Animals. They will show us how some animals adapt to survive in their native environment. They will discover how adaptations that are physical, behavioral or even social can increase their chances of survival. They will show why certain features of the animals might appear to be strange to us but actually are reasons why they have them. Not sure what animals they are bringing but definitely a new presentation for our children.

We are also making a motion to move to have our last assembly partially paid for by our PTSA funds. We are asking to add \$800 to the budget for Curriculum enrichment.

As many of you know from time to time, we need to vote at our PTA/PTSA meetings. In order to have a vote we will need a quorum of 14 members. Please remember that you may only vote if you have a PTSA membership for this 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 a committee it will not need a second. The person making the motion will explain their motion briefly and then we will ask if there are any questions or discussion. We will restate the motion and conduct the vote accordingly. We will vote by a show of hands.

Since this is coming out of a committee, we do not need a second.

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

The motion has passed unanimously.

### B. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin / Gabby Platz / Liza Oyaga / Adrienne Ashkin

Pick up will be soon, most likely at HBT after school, but we will send an email out with details. More information is coming soon on the date. Lawn Signs Link -> <https://hbt.memberhub.com/store> and the 8th Grade Breakfast will be on 6/21.

### C. Membership – April Sontag

Many thanks again to parents, students, and staff members that supported the HBT PTSA by being a member. Not only are you supporting the many programs and efforts by the PTSA that our children love, but you also gain access to the student directory. It's never too early to sign up. Be on the lookout for the membership specials for the 2023-2024 school year.

### D. School Supplies – Irina Sedighi (Read by Tara Ginsburg)

The school supplies are available for all students entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade with lots of optional items. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we have sold 42 kits. We have 8 more weeks until the end of the sale. Please remember this is a fundraiser as well as an effortless way to get your school supplies.

#### **E. SEPTA - Jennifer Poitrimol (Read by Kirsten Zollo)**

Our next and last meeting will be in person on Wednesday, June 14th at the High School. Come help us celebrate our awards night honoring those who make such a difference in our children's lives.

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, it's never too late - memberships are still good through 9/30 of next year! Plus, as an added bonus, you will receive a discount card for local vendors in the area which is good through October of 2023 - join on MemberHub (see forms on the tables). For those members who haven't received discount cards, reach out to Jen Poitrimol to get yours today! Please note that profits from your memberships help fund SEPTA scholarships for our graduating seniors!! <https://syossetsepta.memberhub.com/store>

**Mr. Ostrick** - SEPTA has very insightful presentations for all kids. SEPTA gives us so much information, and encourages everyone to join – whether your kid is classified as “Special Education” or not.

#### **F. Spirit wear – Jen Biondo**

Incoming students will have HBT specific spirit wear on the MemberHub site available for purchase starting now as mentioned by the presidents. If you purchase a shirt through MemberHub, we will be handing it out at this meeting or in June PTSA meeting. Going forward any MemberHub t-shirt purchases will be handed out to you at the PTSA meetings.

Also, starting now we will also have another spirit wear program that will be extensive and exciting. You will be able to go online with 1st Place Spirit Wear and purchase lots of different styles of clothing and accessories for reasonable prices. Check the newsletters or our HBT website for the link.

#### **G. Staff Recognition - Adrienne Ashkin, Linda DiGeronimo, or Susan Suriel (Read by Karen Ostrick)**

Our outdoor "Appreciation Luncheon" to our teachers and staff will be held on May 24th and we are asking for your help via donations! Thank you to everyone who has already donated. We want to ensure our staff of 175 people can get the best lunch and gifts possible. Please share the contribution link that we have sent out via email with all your HBT friends so that no one misses out. Thank you so much for all your donations. We beat our goal - if you would still like to donate, please use the following link to donate: <https://hbtmsdonations.memberhub.gives/staffrec23> Our theme this year is Beach!

#### **H. Council Committee Updates:**

##### **1. Annual Budget Vote & Trustee Elections - Jessica Goldberg**

The candidates for the Board of Education and their ballot numbers are as follows: #1 - Anna Levitan, #2 - Carol C. Cheng, #3 - Susan Falkove, #4- Jeevan George. The Annual Trustee Election and Budget VOTE is Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 6am - 9pm.

To register to vote in the Syosset Central School District Budget and Trustee election on May 16, 2023, complete the [linked form](#) and attest to the qualifications. Forms need to be personally

delivered to the Board of Registration during voter registration. Below is the list of scheduled voter registration dates. Please note that if you have voted in school district elections within the past four years, or you are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections for the regular November election day, you do not need to re-register to vote in the school election. Monday, May 8, 2023, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. South Woods Middle School.

2. **Communications Conference – Pam Bahiri – None**
3. **Cultural Unity – Farrah Mozawalla - None**
4. **Health, Nutrition & Safety – Gabby Platz – None**
5. **Parent Resource Group – Xu Zhang – None**
6. **School & Community – Shany Park – None**
7. **Scholarship Fund - Jessica Goldberg – None**
8. **Ways and means - Linda DiGeronimo – None**

#### **VIII. Old Business – Security Update – Tara Ginsburg**

Last meeting, we discussed security at the school; specifically, the fence, bordering the main road, the HBT vestibule update, and issues we have been seeing on the property like people walking dogs or random people entering our property from the road while school is in session or during after school activities when the kids are using the fields. Mr. Bonnano will update us on the progress of getting our property fenced where there are gaps and anything else there is to share. This topic will remain on our agenda as old business until it is resolved.

#### **IX. New Business – None**

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

Finally, we are up to our dates to remember. 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.

- **May 8** - Budget and Board of Education Meeting, 8pm SW
- **May 16** - Annual SCSD Trustee Election and Budget Vote (6a-9p)
- **May 17**- Committee volunteer sign up deadline.
- **May 24** - HBT Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- **May 25-29** - School Closed
- **May 31** - General Council Meeting. SW
- **June 12** - Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 8pm SW
- **June 14** - SEPTA Mtg Awards, SHS, 7:45pm
- **June 15** - Schedule change - See emails from HBT
- **June 15** - **HBT PTSA Meeting - 7:45pm at HBT**

If there is no further business (*none*), the meeting will stand adjourned.

**Meeting is adjourned at 7:55 pm**

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary, with assistance from  
Kirsten Zollo (Corresponding Secretary)

Attendees:

Karen Ostrick	Jessica Goldberg	Melissa Capie
Tara Ginsburg	Nina Grieco	Kirsten Zollo
Mr. Bonanno	April Sontag	Liz Wolkoff
Mr. Harrigan	Dana Kuropatkin	Shany Park
Mr. Naraine	Samantha Newman	Michelle Verre
Ms. Waters	Jen Biondo	Jack Ostrick
Rosanne Ruppel	Jennifer Palaganas	Brian Greico
Lynn Abramson		



### HBT PTSA's General Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

Name	Student Grade	Contact Email
Jen Biondo	6	jted@hotmail.com
Nina Grieco	7	ninagrieco@gmail.com
Melissa Capie	7	Melissa.Capie@gmail.com
April Sontag	7	april.sontag@portfolio
Liz Wolkoff	8	lizkprinc@aol.com
Samantha Newman	8	sambudnick4@gmail.com
Jennifer Palaganas	8	jennykp922@gmail.com
Dana Kuropatkin	8	DanaKuropatkin@jchss.com
Kirsten Zollo	7	Kirsten@Raptednap@aol.com
Shany Park	7	shanyparkdmd@yahoo.ca
Michelle Verre		mverre@syossetschools.org

  



### HBT PTSA's General Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

Name	Student Grade	Contact Email
Rosanne Ruppel	8	RosandPaul@aol.com
Jessica Goldberg	8	jessgold@hotmail.com