



Minutes from General Meeting

September 9, 2025 at 7:45pm
HBT Cafeteria

Thank you to everyone who attended our first PTSA Meeting of the 2025-2026 school year! The meeting began at 7:55 pm.

I. Special Event – BOE & District Administration

For our first meeting, we were joined by the following Trustees of the Syosset Board of Education (“BOE”), as well as the following District Administrators:

BOE: Brian Grieco, Shany Park, Lynn Abramson, and David Ginsburg

Administration: Superintendent Dr. Tom Rogers, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services Erin Goldthwaite, and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary (K-8) Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Dr. Jeanette Wojcik

- The next BOE meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025.
- Contact information is listed in the District calendar. To address issues, generally begin at the building level prior to reaching out to Administration.
- A question was posed about bus stops, and assurances were given that bussing issues are usually resolved within approximately two weeks.

II. June 2025 Minutes

The minutes from the last PTSA meeting in June 2025 were distributed for review via email prior to the meeting, and approved at the meeting.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Sunita Hansraj

As reported at the meeting, the following were our PTSA bank balances as of the dates indicated:

Opening Balance as of 7/23/2025: \$42,208.13

Income/Deposits: \$109.39

Expense/Cash Disbursements: \$0.00

Checking Balance as of 8/22/2025: \$42,317.52

Savings Balance as of 6/30/2025: \$6,254.21

Total Cash on Hand as of 8/30/2025: \$48,571.73



All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Inna Choi.

IV. Presidents' Report – Nina Grieco and Sharmin Panjvani

The Presidents introduced themselves and thanked HBT Principal Kevin Bonanno and Assistant Principals Paul Naraine, Christian Harrigan, and Joey Waters, as well as all of the HBT teachers and staff, for a great start to the school year.

The Principals reported that the PTSA Executive Committee was hard at work over the summer preparing for a great year, including by preparing a budget with Treasurer Sunita Hansraj.

As discussed at the meeting, the PTSA's biggest fundraiser is Membership. As explained, in middle school, the PTSA is a Parent, Teacher, and Student Association, so children/students can sign up and participate in the Committees for school events. In addition, PTSA membership allows for access to Directory Spot, which is up and running now. Paid PTSA members will be sent an email to activate/reactivate their Directory Spot accounts.

As part of their report, the Presidents thanked the Executive Board, Executive Committee, and Administration and noted that they look forward to a great year ahead. There is still time to sign up to volunteer. The PTSA is always looking for new voices and would appreciate any help members can provide.

Speaking of new voices, the Presidents informed everyone of a fun Newcomer's Reception which the Syosset Council of PTAs will be convening on September 29, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the SHS Auditorium. Dr. Rogers and other members of the Administration, along with leaders from the PTA, will have Meet and Greet presentations to welcome new families to the District and families whose child(ren) are just starting their journeys through the Syosset schools.



V. Correspondence Report

The PTSA had no new correspondence.

VI. Principals' Report

Mr. Bonanno began by noting that the 2025-2026 school year was off to a nice start at HBT. Moreover, bus transportation had been running relatively well (even though the start of the school year always brings a little bumpiness).

Parents were encouraged to join Parent Square, which replaces Blackboard and Remind. Likewise, Student Square will be an important component of overall communication, including for athletics.

Mr. Bonnano reported that the implementation of the bell-to-bell phone ban has been implemented fairly seamlessly for the students, and as a result, the cafeteria is a vibrant and loud setting for lunch periods. Currently, sixth and seventh graders may not use their Chromebooks in the cafeteria; eighth graders (who often have more work), may use Chromebooks with staff monitoring.

With the option of free lunch for all students, there has been an uptick in students getting lunch via the meal line. Even so, Mr. Bonnano noted, after the first day of school no one has been waiting past the first bell. (Additionally, a lot of the initial holdup was attributable to sixth graders acclimating themselves to the middle school lunch routine.) For different choices, a parent can check with Food Services or a member of the HBT Administration.

HBT will be ending the option of dropping off a student's lunch during the day. In addition, all drop offs will be in the building (to the security guards), and will no longer occur in the vestibule. These changes are being made with security in mind.

Mr. Bonnano acknowledged the staff PTSA Liaison, and reported on some personal updates for staff.

As a reminder, the HBT Open House will be held on September 18, 2025. During this time, parents/guardians will have time to go through the children's schedules quickly, to learn about the students' days and classes.



A parent asked a question about recess, and Mr. Bonnano noted that the recess area is all fenced in and even with a change in the location of recess, the students still have access to two basketball courts and a large area. Recess will be available on every day for which weather permits.

Ms. Waters spoke next, noting that is the Assistant Principal who works closely with the Guidance department and Special Education team. She reminded parents/guardians that the Administration was looking out for the students, and encouraging outreach to Administration with any issues or questions.

Mr. Narain, the Assistant Principal for sixth and seventh grade students, reflected on a very nice opening day to begin the school year. He spoke of two high school students who returned to HBT to speak on their experiences. These HBT alums focused on the individual connections they had made, which are a driving force at HBT. Like Mr. Bonnano and Ms. Waters, Mr. Narain stated that the Administration is there to help.

Mr. Harrigan, HBT's Assistant Principal for eighth grade students, reminded the PTSA not to let issues sit when there is a problem. He spoke about healthy food options at HBT, and highlighted that there are 30+ clubs for the students to enjoy, and which can enhance their social-emotional wellbeing. Clubs will begin approximately the week of September 22, 2025. One parent asked raised concern about the difficulty of being in the school play and sports. However, the play requires a daily commitment, while other clubs may meet less frequently and can be joined at any point during the school year.

Mr. Bonnano updated the PTSA that HBT now has two full-time School Psychologists on staff.

A parent asked whether students will be permitted to use their phones during clubs. This will be up to the particular club advisor's discretion. If a parent/guardian cannot reach a child, the security guards can make an announcement.

A question was posed regarding the Library Homework Hub mentoring program. This program (running 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Monday – Thursday) will resume approximately the week of September 15, 2025. In addition to the eighth grade mentors, teachers will be available for homework support. This will be in addition to scheduled extra help periods, also set to launch the week of September 15, 2025.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee: Su Hu, Wendy Chu, and Katerina Fradelakis



On July 29, 2025, the Audit Committee examined the books of the HBT PTSA Treasurer for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 and found them to be in order.

B. Food Related Fundraisers: Jeremy Melnick (presented by the PTSA Presidents)

A Chip City fundraiser will launch on October 3, 2025. More information can be found at this link: [Purchase Chip City Cookies Supporting Syosset HBT middle school!](#)

In addition, set a reminder on your calendar for a fundraiser at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza on November 10, 2025. From 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, dine in, pick up, or take out at the 8063 Jericho Turnpike, Woodbury location, and our PTA will earn a donation of 20% of your meal's price! Just make sure to mention the fundraiser! Please see this link for more information: [Commit to Eat at Syosset HBT middle school's GroupRaise Meal @ Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza](#)

More delicious food related fundraisers which will be launching in the future.

C. Reflections: Sarah Lin

The Reflections program is a national arts contest open to all students in the District. Along with this year's theme of "I Belong!", students may submit up to one entry in each of the arts categories (Dance Choreography, Film Production, Photography, Literature, Music Composition, and Visual Arts), with initial judging at the school level. The deadline for entries is October 27, 2025. For more information, and the program's rules, please email HBTReflections2526@gmail.com.

D. BOE Report: Inna Choi

Prior to the PTSA meeting, the BOE last met on August 25, 2025. At the time, Student Member Nikhil Shah was added to the panel.

Mr. Ginsburg presented on Policy 5300 Code of Character, Conduct, and Support. This sets clear expectations for behaviors and outlines protections against discrimination, bullying, and harassment. It is a good guide to conduct and a framework for building a positive school culture. There was a recent update to Policy 5300 by a policy committee, to represent the changes in



suspension appeals and the BOE's role in the suspension process. Considerations include whether the decision was based on competent and substantial evidence that the student participated in the objectional conduct, and whether the sanction imposed was proportionate to the severity of the offense.

Dr. Rogers provided spoke of the bell to bell phone ban. Middle school students are discouraged from bringing phones to school. If phones are brought, they must be silenced and stored in lockers until dismissal. Phones may not be used during hallway transitions or during lunch. Students in grades 8-12 may receive external emails; students in grades 6-7 may receive internal emails only. Exemptions exist, including for students with diabetes/health needs, students with disabilities who use adaptive technology, and students who have exemptions per their 504 plans. However, the exemptions do not permit scrolling, texting, or the use of games. Parent Square/Student Square provides direct messaging between students/parents and teachers/coaches.

Dr. Rogers also reported on building improvements planned for the summer of 2026. The District will release bids soon for the HBT vestibule and the track and field project. In 2027, there is a plan to fix sidewalks and redo pavements as was done at Southwoods Middle School this summer. The progress report of all building Bond projects is available online.

E. SEPTA: Danielle Sandjaby (presented by the PTSA Presidents)

In addition to joining the HBT PTSA, parents/guardians were encouraged to also consider joining SEPTA. Membership is open to any Syosset School District family and is focused on all students who receive services from the District. Throughout the year, there will be engaging speakers, fun family events, and fundraisers. In addition, SEPTA offers a variety of other resources for parents and siblings. More information is available at syossetsepta.org.

F. Eighth Grade Committee: Adrienne Rutuelo and Rinku Thomas (presented by Inna Choi)

The Committee Chairs are working on sweatshirts for the eighth grade students, for their trip to Washington, D.C. The sweatshirts will be free, but there will be an option to personalize the sweatshirts as a fundraiser.

G. Curriculum Enrichment (Tara Ginsburg)



Weatherman John Marshall will be visiting HBT on October 28, 2025 to present for the eighth graders, in alignment with their Earth Science programming.

I. New Business

- The 2025-2026 Proposed Budget passed, with no discussion.
- A Motion was made for establishment of a Nominating Committee. Per the bylaws of the HBT PTSA, a Nominating Committee consisting of 5 members (3 from the Executive Board, and 2 from the general membership) is to be elected, with a quorum present. As the Presidents explained, the role of the Nominating Committee is vital to the future of the PTSA. The members will meet in February 2026 to present their slate of carefully chosen delegates for next year's Board. All Unit members will be able to vote on this slate. PTSA members who do not serve as a Chair of a Standing Committee were encouraged to consider nominating themselves to serve on the Nominating Committee. The PTSA will vote on all nominations at the next meeting.

II. Dates to Remember (September & October)

September 15: BOE Meeting (8:00 pm at South Woods Middle School)

September 18: HBT Open House (6:30 pm – 7:30 pm)

September 23 & 24: School Closed for Rosh Hashana

September 26: SEPTA Evening Event

September 29: Syosset Council of PTAs Newcomers Reception (7:30 pm at SHS Auditorium)

October 2: School Closed for Yom Kippur

October 13: School Closed for Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples Day

October 14: BOE Meeting (8:00 pm at South Woods Middle School)

October 15: PTSA Meeting (10:00 am in HBT Cafeteria)

October 16 & 17: Book Fair

October 20: School Closed for Diwali

October 30: Sixth Grade Social (3:30 pm – 5:30 pm)



The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.