

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

September 14, 2022

The meeting came to order at 7:57pm with a quorum present. The attendance was taken by sign in sheet. Sign in sheets were on the tables.

Additionally, there was other material on everyone's table. They included an updated 2022-23 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 June 2022 meeting: We had distributed the minutes from our last PTA meeting in June via email for review. Does anyone of comments, changes, or questions? Since there are no comments/changes, minutes stand as approved. Thank you.

II. Treasurer's PTA Funds Report: As of 9/13/2022: Submitted by Danielle Kurtzer

Opening Balance, 6/23/2022	\$ 52,505.41
Income/Deposits	\$1,254.08
Expense/Cash Disbursements	<u>4,830.72</u>
Checking Balance	\$ 48,928.77
Saving Balance as of 9/13/22	<u>6,245.30</u>
TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 9/13/2022	\$ 55,147.07

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

III. President's Report- Karen Ostrick / [Tara Ginsburg](#)

Welcome back to HBT! We are so glad to see all of you here tonight. I am Karen Ostrick and this is Tara Ginsburg and we are the co-presidents for the HBT PTSA this school year. We wanted to start off by thanking Mr. Bonanno and the administration for a fantastic open house this past week, what a turn out. The 6th grade parents stole the show - well actually the food. As well as an amazing newcomer's reception this evening. So thank you. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead and working hand in hand with the administration.

To give you an update since we last met, we had a few meetings over the summer with the administration and the new executive committee. We worked on our new budget with Danielle Kurtzer who will go over the budget with you all later during new business. For those that are new, as you saw, our funding comes primarily through our membership - as it's our largest fundraiser. This enables us to provide the level of activities and events that our children enjoy. With that said, we ask that everyone here tonight joins the PTSA. We have forms on the table so you can now pay by check or cash but going online through Memberhub is the best and easiest way to join. Also, this is a parent teacher and student association. Students can participate on the committees and be part of our events - they are no longer only bystanders. So don't forget to sign up your student too. Which is included in the family bundle.

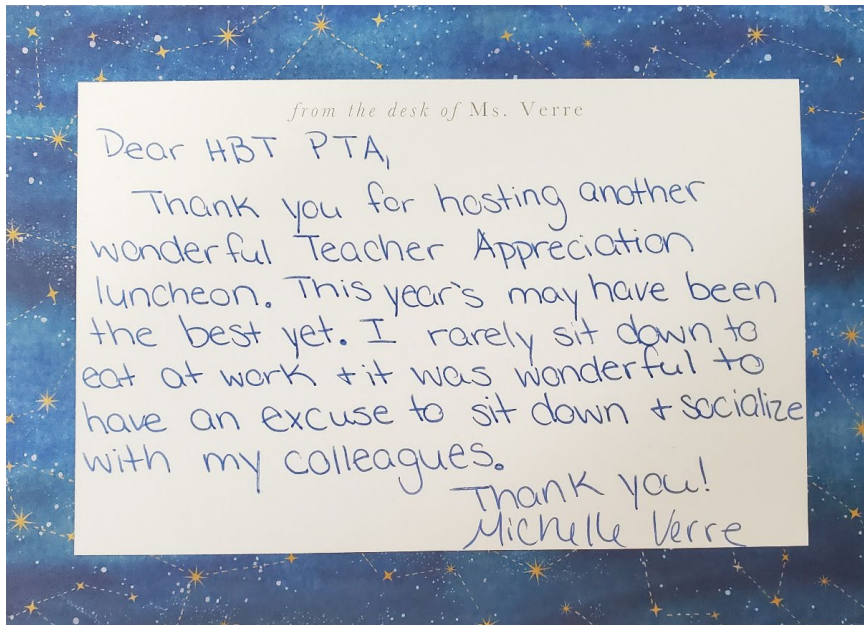
We are changing some of the committees and programs for this year to allow us more access to the building with some extra special events. Our committee chairs will be able to update you throughout the meeting with those

details. Also, something new this year, we will be providing T-shirts for all the students and staff members of HBT in honor of HBT Spirit Week. Each grade will have a differently designed T-shirt. We will be sending out information over the next few weeks with more details regarding sizing and delivery dates.

Karen and I appreciate you all coming and supporting the PTSA tonight. We are always so thankful for your confidence in us. Please know, this couldn't be done without you all!!

IV. Correspondence: Kirsten Zollo:

Correspondence from Michelle Verre:



Correspondence from Ms. Herbold:

Dear HBT PTSA,

Thank you so much for the beautiful luncheon 5/25. It was such a treat and truly made me feel appreciated as a teacher at H. B. Thompson.

Have a wonderful remainder of the school year and a fantastic summer!

Sincerely,
Meg Herbold

Correspondence from Mr. Bonanno:



From the Desk of...

Kevin Bonanno

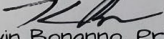
To the Wonderful HBT PTSA,

Thank you so much for organizing a wonderful Staff Recognition Luncheon. It was greatly appreciated by me personally and the entire HBT staff.

I was so happy we were able to shift to a new format and you were able to incorporate so many staff awards into the day.

I feel fortunate to work with everyone-it's a true partnership. Thanks again and have a great summer with your families!

Sincerely,


Kevin Bonanno, Principal-HBT

Correspondence from Ms. Perrone:

Dear PTSA,

I want to thank you for the beautiful luncheon for Teacher Appreciation Day. Year after year you go out of your way to make us feel very special and appreciated.

The partnership between the HBT parents and teachers is what makes our school the best place to come to each day!

Thank you for all that you do!

Love,
Melissa Perrone

Correspondence from Ms. Silverstein:

Dear PTA,

Thank you very much for the Staff Recognition Luncheon at HBT. It was very kind, I appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,
Lauren Silverstein

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

Mr. Bonanno – Welcome back and thank you for attending tonight. We'll have to plan with the district calendar committee for next year – we normally don't want Open House so early, but we're relieved it is over after a lot of stress. There is a lightness here now very similar to when it was before COVID. We now have over 990 students – the largest in a long time (since 98 when I took over).

Even with arrival and dismissal changes, we see the happiness and lightness in the kids' and staffs' faces, everything is good and happy. We are in a good place with everyone.

Our staff have had 4 babies since school ended – Ms. Pross had a baby girl, Ms. Leidner had a baby boy, Mrs. Song had a baby boy and Ms. Mullady had a child. You were able to meet their leave replacements were at the open house. Ms. Verre is our Teacher Rep. and is also in charge of earth science, advisory, clubs, etc.

Advisory Classes – Consist of 12-15 kids across grades (6th through 8th). Advisory classes are the same through to graduation. They are now meeting after 7th period.

School doors are open by 7:35, so if you are dropping off, please do so early. When you drop off close to 8am, it becomes stressful for everyone.

Mr. Harrigan – I've been here since 2006 and am having a great run with Mr. Bonanno. This is our 2nd year with Ms. Waters and Mr. Naraine. We are happy to report that at Lunch, we were successful in getting everyone fed. All students have an opportunity to go out for recess. Hot and cold lines are available at both doors to the cafeteria. Looking to get a more variety of offerings. Please add money to your child's account in their school buck's account. If they bring cash, no change will be given – any change will be added to the student's school bucks account

Nook room – They are available and provides a quieter place to eat lunch – 50 ppl in 6th and the 8th grade, about 25 in 7th grade. Can also get passes to see their teacher (math, science, etc.) for a lunchtime workshop.

Clubs – Club offerings will be shared during advisory. We encourage all students to join a club. 7th and 8th graders can participate in sports.

8th grade – D.C. trip – Room preference sheets went home today. Everyone will be in a room with at least one person they put on their preference sheet.

Communications for parents and procedures will be out soon about the trip.

Mr. Narine – Seems like we have been here a while (longer than just one year), but that is because everyone is so welcoming.

Bussing – All busses load and unload in the back. Dr. Curry is back there with us on most days. There are numbered spots 1-18 – bus pulls up to their same number location. Since there are 26 buses, they must park along the side of the building as well. Bus drivers and students are getting used to it.

By 3:02pm, we had everyone out.

We also had grade-level assemblies last week – They focused on socialization, responsibility on social media & empathy – always think about what they say, do or post beforehand and ask this question.... “Does it uplift someone or make someone feel bad”.

Our philosophy here is to treat these children like we would want our children treated.

Ms. Waters – Funny story.... my daughter goes to North Shore Synagogue and when I went to pick her up tonight, I knew many were our children from HBT because they all immediately sat up straight when they saw me. Hopefully kids are coming home and chatting with you after meeting with counselors and getting to know them. We now have 4 guidance counselors which is very exciting. Will continue to do this steadily over the next few weeks. At the Board meeting on Monday, social workers talked about activities District-wide, but right here at HBT, they are getting involved with several different groups. The value of advisory and others is making sure kids are ready willing and able to learn. If there are any issues, your child's guidance counselor should be your first point of contact and feel free to reach out to teachers directly before reaching out to those in the administration.

VI. Special Event – BOE & District Administration:

Board of Education (Brian Greico, Lynn Abramson, Shany Park & Jack Ostrick)

Brian Greico – Unfortunately, Tom Rotolo couldn't make it this evening. Good evening. I have 4 kids in the district. It's a great turnout tonight, but the PTA does mean a lot to me. Thank you for what you do and what you will do. Every month we have a School Board meeting – we would rather have you in person, but you can still watch it online. Next one is 10/3 at South Woods.

Lynn Abramson – Hi, I have 3 kids in the district. We started at HBT right before COVID and I'm so happy to see everyone back. If you are new, you are going to love it and if not, enjoy being back. The Board is working a lot, looking at growth in the buildings, construction projects, etc. We are also always looking at diversity and inclusivity.

Shany Park – I have 3 boys. All of us are parents of children in school. If you have any concerns, we are feeling it too. Please share ideas and concerns. Most likely, we are probably thinking about the same thing. We are there with you so come out to the Board meetings. If you have a concern in the school, please talk to the teachers first. Give the teacher a chance. If that doesn't work, then bring it to the administration.

Jack Ostrick – I know what it means to be a volunteer and the time we put it into it. I am so appreciative of the time and know my 7th and 3rd graders appreciate the efforts for our children. I wanted to be a part of this board to help make the difference for our children. We encourage you to join the PTA – they represent you and get a lot done to help our children. Thank you.

Central Administration (Dr. Curry & Dr. Tom Rogers)

Dr. Curry – I am so blessed to be a part of this family in Syosset. I have twin daughters who are 16 and going into their junior year. All of you do an amazing job. Please continue letting us know what YOU need to make the child's experience the best it could be. We can only do our work if we know what you and your children need. So, let's have a great year.

Dr. Rogers – Dr. Curry is our new Deputy Superintendent – We are now in the position where she is in charge if I win the lottery. We always want to work with you to have our children have the best experiences. We work with building administrations to bring the Board's goals to life. It is incredibly rewarding. We also sit with building administrators to see what they need. Syosset has enjoyed success and I am always asked by others what is our secret – It truly is the tremendous faculty and staff who are dedicated and motivated along with a great partnership with parents who have higher expectations for us all.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee - Liz Wolkoff / Sherri Smith / Vicky Pan

The audit committee has examined the books of the treasurer of HB Thompson PTSA for the period July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022 and found them to be in order.

B. Book Fair - Linda DiGeronimo / Jennifer Poitrimol

The Book Fair is set to take place on Wednesday & Thursday, October 12th and 13th. It will be 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, you need to "roll over" any money in your account to this year's fair. There will also be another pre-sale for the Diary of a Wimpy Kid, which will go on sale to the public on October 25th. 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).

C. Cultural Unity - Buddy Program - Farah Mozawalla

The Syosset Council of PTA's Cultural Unity Committee is proud to be a sponsor of the Buddy Program. – Please visit the Syosset Council of PTAs website to participate – <https://syossetcouncilofptas.org/buddy-program-main>

You can also email them at syocouncilcultural@gmail.com

IF you want to be a buddy or need a buddy, go to the cultural committee on the council website.

D. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff / Shira Zatzoff

We are working on bringing some events. Meeting with Mr. Harrigan next week to set up a plan for the year. Will have more to update you at the next meeting.

E. Clothing Sale Fundraiser / Spirit Wear - Jen Biondo

Check out our Woodbury Sports spirit wear fundraiser! Support the PTSA by purchasing spirit wear for your student. New this year is HBT specific items! Click the link in your Sunday newsletter or go to the link listed on the flyer... the deadline to order is: September 23rd Once the period ends, please expect 4-5 weeks till the items are available for pick at Woodbury Sports. Also, keep your eyes out for the grade level t-shirt order form. Coming soon! We just have one change to the store, so stay tuned. Will be in the Sunday blast.

F. Dining Fundraiser - Chipotle Fundraiser - 9/20 - Barbara Krilov – Read by Tara Ginsburg

We are working with Chipotle on a fundraiser for our PTSA. IT will be on September 20th from 5-9pm. You can order in store by saying HBT PTSA or online - your weekly email includes the online directions and the flyer (on the tables) includes the code.

G. Eighth Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin / Liza Oyaga / Gabby Platz / Adrienne Ashkin

8th grade parents please sign up for the remind texts. See Liza for the remind text information. We will be giving the 8th graders a great year, so stay tuned for future activities. The flyer to sign up for the Remind texts are on the tables.

H. Health Nutrition and Safety - Gabby Platz

The Health, Nutrition and Safety Committee met on August 31st to discuss our work of plan. The HNS committee is creating quarterly newsletters that will include various topics and resources. Our committee is looking into

guest speakers this year to address topics such as bullying and suicide. Also, October 19th in the Syosset High School Health fair where the Health Nutrition and Safety Committee will have a booth representing. Officer Yolanda Turner will be back to discuss bullying, cyber-bullying and suicide. Also looking to bring in Ryan's story. Keep an eye out for our Newsletters.

I. Parents Night Out - Liza Oyaga / Pam Bahiri

Parents' night is in the works. If you are interested in joining the committee, please let Liza and Pam know.

J. Legislation - Jessica Goldberg

A legislation vote will need to happen at the October meeting because the convention is the first weekend in November. We need to report our results at the October 27 general council meeting. You will receive an email from HBT PTSA with all the items that will be voted on in our Sunday updates and reminders email.

Resolutions are where we stand on an item, and we will also need to vote on proposed bylaws. We need a quorum of 14 for our vote to count and be brought forward. We will blast these items in advance. They are primarily just revisions or changes – nothing substantively new. Things are pretty much straight forward.

K. Membership / Student Directory - April Sontag / Irina Sedighi

Directory Spot: read by Tara Ginsburg

Hi. Irina Sedighi is the person to reach out to for anything to do with the school directory. She apologizes for not being able to be here tonight, she was really looking forward to meeting everyone in person.

As we move forward through the year she would like to make a few comments about the directory:

The directory can be found at directoryspot.net. If anything in the directory needs to be updated you can email hbtdirectory@gmail.com and she will make the change. She will make an effort to get the request completed within 2 days. Please note that it is a manual process. If you haven't heard from her timely please feel free to follow up.

Please note that there is a difference between having your information in the directory and being able to access the directory. Only PTSA members are able to access the directory. This is updated every year so if you had access before and no longer do now please check if you are a 2022-2023 PTSA member. You can become a member at hbt.memberhub.com. She monitors the signups and makes every effort to process as quickly as possible. If you haven't heard from her timely please feel free to follow up.

The directory was updated based on lists provided by the elementary schools for incoming 6th graders. There may be students missing or incorrect information. It's appreciated if everyone reviews the information that is in the directory and lets her know of any changes that you need. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. Thank you very much!

Membership: April Sontag:

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 – as of October 15th, only members will continue to receive the PTSA newsletter and REMIND messages. If you have any questions of whether you are a member, I can check for you.

L. Communications Conference – Pam Bahiri

The district answers any comments or questions each school year. If you have any questions that are general in nature, please email me no later than 9/15. You can see online the past questions that have been asked and answered.

M. School & Community – Jessica Goldberg

The Syosset Scholarship Fund is looking for donations to the fund so that they can grant scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. See the flyer for more information and donations can be made “in the name of.” Additionally, the Fund is looking for volunteers to help with their table at the Syosset Street Fair on 9/18 on Jackson Avenue. Please reach out to me if you are available to donate your time.

N. Reflections - Liza Oyaga

Its National PTA reflections time again. The theme this year is "Show Your Voice". The flyer and reference document that we are planning to share with everyone on our 1st meeting will need to be approved by the district before we can distribute it. We will extend the deadline a little bit for this year since our committee will not meet until September 20th.

O. 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) as well as the QR codes that will bring you directly to our online store to join. Our first meeting is on September 20th at 7:45pm at South Wood's cafeteria. Grab some dinner from Chipotle to support HBT and bring it on over to our meeting!

P. Social Media - Jackie Cohen / Sam Newman

As a reminder - we have a Facebook and Instagram page as well as a website. Check out our page on Facebook at HBT PTSA and follow us on Instagram at HBTPTSA. Please note: You must answer the group questions, to get access to the group. If you would like something posted from one of your committees, please send us a request. Our website is hbtptsa.org and you can find all our materials and sign ups there.

VIII. New Business – Karen Ostrick

A. Votes: Proposed Budget:

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.

The budget committee chair (Danielle Kurtzer) moves to put it to vote “2022-23 Proposed Budget”. Since it is coming out of the committee it does not need a second. Is there any discussion?

We will proceed with a vote. We will vote by a show of hands. All those in favor of the Proposed budget and confidence to carry on, raise your hands. *Unanimous hands raised for members*

All those opposed. *None* *The yes's have it and the Proposed Budget is adopted.*

B. Awards Committee:

We would like to get volunteers for an awards committee - we will announce who has been selected at the next meeting. If you are interested, please contact us.

IX. Dates to Remember – Tara Ginsburg

September 20 - Chipotle Fundraiser - 5-9pm

September 22 - Student Picture Day

September 23 - Spirit Wear Fundraiser Deadline

September 26-27 - School Closed

October 5 - School Closed

October 12-13 - PTSA Bookfair

October 13 - PTSA Meeting - 10am

October 15 - Early Bird Discount Expires! Hurry!!

October 21 - 6th Grade Social @ HBT

Please note: We need to make a correction to our November PTSA meeting date. We originally had Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10am but it has been changed to Monday, November 14 at 10am. Please adjust your schedules accordingly.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:56pm.

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

Jennifer Poitrimol	Marcela Yoon	Shira Zatcoff
Karen Ostrick	Miranda Tang	Wayne Chang
Tara Ginsburg	Suet Man (Esther) Ma	Liz Wolkoff
Mr. Bonanno	Julia Malladi	Jessica Goldberg
Mr. Harrigan	Danfei Huang	Dana Holzer
Mr. Naraine	Ying Wang	Roseanne Ruppel
Ms. Waters	Rachael Lee	Linda DiGeronimo
Nina Grieco	Angela Yun	April Sontag
Jen Biondo	Sesil Kim	Kirsten Zollo
Beatrice Yung	Samantha Newman	Jackie Pliskin
Carol Wang	Gabrielle Platz	Dennis Guh
Lisa Fiocco	Mollie Newman	Xu Zhang
Erica Napolitano	Min An	Ding Wang
Lu Dong	Pamela Bahiri	Mary Kim
Hynn Hye Choi	Dana Kuropatkin	Amanda schlan
Ashley Park	Eliot Jung	Jordana Altman
Birva Sheth	Michelle Limo	Elizabeth Ko
Tracee Cohen	Kenneth Zhao	Beth Brodey
Christina Ng	Feng Hua Wang	Farrah Mozawalla
Lori Berg	Vicky Pan	Liza Oyaga
Lynn Abramson	Danielle Kurtzer	