

NEW YORK STATE CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, INC.

-Branch of the National

H.B. Thompson Middle School

President and Co-President: Jen Poitrimol and Karen Ostrick

November 9, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:45PM via Zoom by President and Co-President: Jen Poitrimol and Karen Ostrick

I. Approve minutes from the last meeting: The October 2021 meeting minutes was approved. Thank you!

II. Treasurer's PTA Funds Report as of 10/22/2021: Miranda Tang

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Beginning Balance, 9/22/2021:	\$ 41,054.45
Deposits:	\$ 3,957.81
Disbursements:	\$ (556.00)
Ending Balance:	\$ 44,456.26
Savings Account as of 6/30/21:	<u>\$ 6,242.39</u>
The total PTA Funds:	\$50,698.65

III. Correspondence: N/A

IV. President's Report- Jen Poitrimol

Thank you everyone for joining us this evening. Thank you for RSVPing on time, as it is helpful to organize our agenda and get the zoom information out to you. For those of you who have trouble with the google form because you do not have a google account, feel free to send an email to hbtptsa@gmail.com to rsvp.

A reminder that we do NOT have a meeting in December. Our next meeting is on January 11 at 10AM and we are not yet certain whether it will be by zoom or in person. Stay tuned for that over the next few weeks. Therefore, keep an eye out for our newsletter, email blasts and reminders on social media for updates and events. Just a reminder for the PTA meetings – if the meeting is at 10am, please RSVP the day before by 3pm and submit your questions. If the meeting is in the evening, please RSVP by noon of the same day with any questions that you may have.

Thank you to those of you who have already signed up for membership. 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 blasts 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 and social media pages (Facebook and Instagram). If you do not have the link, please feel free to email us or text me. Please check our Facebook page (HBT PTSA) and Instagram pages (also HBT PTSA) to stay updated on the latest happenings at HBT. Make sure to follow those pages, as we post flyers and any reminders as well.

We have had a great start to this year, with the return of our book fair (more on that in our committee reports) and a really cool virtual assembly with Corey the Dribbler. We are looking forward to additional activities over the coming months as we keep our fingers crossed that the COVID numbers stay low through the winter and holiday breaks. Please also note that there are upcoming deadlines this week for our Thanksgiving and Gift card fundraisers, which will be discussed a little bit later during our committee reports. Remember that every time you support our fundraisers, it allows us more flexibility to bring interesting and exciting events to our children.

Reminder to our 8th grade parents to order your yearbooks and purchase personal ads by December 31st.

Please note that we will be voting on a few things in new business later in the meeting. We will be voting on our Nominating Committee (thank you to those who volunteered for this important Committee to help build our slate for the future). For anyone interested in a position or getting more involved with us, please reach out to us (it's never too early or too late to get involved)!! We will also be voting on the NYS PTA resolutions and new by-laws. They have been distributed the last few weeks in our newsletters as well as in our meeting rsvp reminder. We will post the links in the chat as well, so feel free to review them prior to voting. To save time, we will be taking a block vote, which means we will read each part we are voting on and discuss or answer any questions that people may have. Once any comments or questions are discussed, we will vote on all the retentions first, then the rescissions, then the updates, new resolutions and finally the proposed by-law amendments for NYS PTA. Remember you can only vote if you are a paid member.

I would like to ask for a motion to use block voting for the proposed resolutions and amendments. Jessica Goldberg – Made the motion and was seconded by another member.

Any objections?

There being no objections, the motion to vote on proposed resolutions and amendments by block vote passes by acclamation.

With that, I will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno for his report.

V. Principal's Report:

Hi everyone and welcome! So glad you all can join us and it's nice to see such great nice numbers again, for our virtual meetings. We had great assemblies virtually the last couple of weeks, Corey the Dribbler and author Rachel Vale. Friday is our first in-school assembly with weatherman John Marshall for our 8th graders.

The first marking period ends on Friday which it's hard to believe we moved that fast. The report cards will come out probably Thursday or Friday of next week. You will get an email from us saying that they are in the portal and you will be able to check that. Teachers are starting to enter the grades which means that the portal does close for access usually so you can't see any last-minute assignments. It can be a little frustrating but it just ensures the process in getting the grades in for the quarter grade is accurate so again reach out to teachers as we go if there are any questions and hopefully if there is any concern, they will reach out to you.

We have our school full play on Thursday, November 18th that is going to be in person and it's very exciting. It's only for parents, each student its allowed to have two guests. We don't have a large cast, but it's about 35 members. We can fit everyone in there and keep family socially distant. It's almost like the model if you have high school children what happened in sports last winter sports two

family members per student. We are very excited about that. It's not a full show but it's more like scenes. It allows each student to show their skills. Next week, it's a big week. It's the first time that the kids are in some kind of performance together.

Winter I sports started, my understanding is that the set up will be two spectators per students when sports begin. The athletic department will send more information about that.

Earlier last week, you received an email about NWEA scores being on the backpack for the fall, please take a look at that. We are going through them as a school. Mr. Harrigan and Mrs. Waters and especially our reading and math teachers are looking through everything. If anyone is struggling, we can help with support or if someone is excelling both with their grades and testing we can make some adjustments and change a placement and put someone back in electives. That's the State Assessment, we will be releasing those scores probably on Monday or Tuesday next week with a letter from the district. Only 40% of students took it last year which is no surprise because of all the virtual students across the state. If your child took it and you have any questions related to that please contact us.

We are putting honor rolls back in place in middle school this year. We didn't think it was appropriate last year because of all the format we had. Some good and bad news with our staff. Good news, Dr. DeGennaro, our school psychologist had a baby about two weeks ago now. A little boy, Milo. Dr. Pomeranz is filling in for Dr. DeGennaro. If your child needs talk to the psychologist, they can go to the guidance counselor. Sad news, on Sunday Mrs. Gjodesen's father passed away this weekend unexpectedly. If your child may have her, she will be probably out for the week. Please keep her in your thoughts.

8th Grade group picture, there is no date yet set up. We will take a little step back for anything that large. We will take a look into that.

Make-up date for individual pictures, is on Friday November 12th. It will be done during lunch.

Dateline for yearbook, the book must be turned in soon after the New Year. The ad we have a bit more time. The production and shipping have been delayed. It's a process and I assume this year will be a challenge.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

A. Book Fair - Nina Grieco

Thank you to everyone who sent in money with your children and who came to volunteer. We had a very successful two days and raised almost \$2000 for the PTSA and over \$200 in Scholastic Dollars for the school. We would also like to thank Mr. Harrigan, Ms. Zehnder, the English Teachers, and all the faculty and staff for helping us plan and schedule the book fair.

B. Board of Education - Tara Ginsburg

On October 18th, Dr. Rupo gave a presentation on the school tax calculation and the reassessment process what is control by the school district and what is control by the county. Ensure the tax levy which had a tax cap trend at 1.999% over the past 10 year is control by

school district. Assessment based proportion adjustment tax rate are control by the county. For more details on this presentation, it can be view on the district website. There was also a technology presentation, the district gave a presentation to the Board of Ed to explain the efforts to safeguard the district's network in order to protect students' data and privacy along with preventing disruption of the internet service. They explained how the students and teachers work securely online. The district also explained they are continuously looking for tools and updates that comply with our privacy standards since not all are at our standards. Also, for more details on this presentation is posted on the district website. Dr. Rogers also discussed about transportation that he is planning to have a plan B now that we are entering in the Winter months for drivers in case they call out sick to help ensure students having transportation.

In the audience to the public, parents asked how to adapt honors and lighten the loads on students. Mange changes had already occurred. Many parents asked about light installation on the turf field so we can add more games at night (one of the few schools who do not have lighting on our field. Dr. Rogers and the board will be looking into it. Also discussed High School start times, which will be revisited after the pandemic.

There is a place to submit a question, there is a section on the website. If anyone wants to reach to me if you have a question for me to ask please feel free to reach out

C. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff

Successfully, our 7th graders had Rachel Vale virtual event today and Corey the Cribbler on 10/27. On Friday, our 8th graders are going to have our first in-person event in almost 1 ½ years , John Marshall (the weatherman) is coming to do a whole in person weather assembly with his mobile greenscreen which I think the kids are going to get a kick out of it. He was recently on NBC, CBS and now the FOX weather app. He wants to teach the kids about his passion. I think it's going to be an interesting experience for all the kids.

Then, we have Kwame Alexander coming eventually I don't know what date, but he is going to come for our 6th grade like he did last year. In February, we are going to do something in conjunction with our friends in South Woods another virtual presentation that it will be in conjunction with black history month. It's called Ball in the House, it's all about music and how reggae started, and disco and rap and I think the kids will definitely relate a lot to it. We will work in some other things.

D. Fundraising update - Jen Abraham and Committee Chairs

1. Foodie Card

Our Foodie Card sale ended on October 31st. Thank you to all who purchased a Foodie Card. We hope you are getting the benefits. We sold 35 cards and made \$175. We will discuss doing another sale in the future.

2. WPF Thanksgiving Sale

There are 3 days left for this sale to get your Thanksgiving Pies and Breads. Please use the link in the chat to order or send in the form with a check or cash to me or the HBT PTSA mailbox. I will be picking up envelopes after school on Wednesday from the school's mailbox. Pick up will be Wednesday, Nov 24th at HBT from 3-5. We will need some volunteers to help hand out the orders. Please let me know if you have availability during that time to assist us!

3. Gift Card Sale – April Sontag

We are pleased to once again offer the Shop with Scrip gift card program, just in time for the holidays. Buy gift cards for the holiday season and support the HBT PTSA. Many favorite stores are available, including Starbucks, Best Buy, Macys, Ulta, and Apple. Also, don't miss the opportunity to buy American Express and Visa with no activation fees! Gift cards can either be purchased at Shop With Scrip, or on the Raise Right app. Save on shipping by choosing "ship to administrator". Please make your selections carefully – if you want to make any changes after placing the order, Shop with Scrip will charge you a fee. Chanukah is early this year, so we have made two deadlines and pickups of cards. If you would like your cards in time for an 11/24 pickup, the deadline to place your order is tomorrow, Wed., 11/10. If you would like to pick up your cards in time for Christmas break on 12/20, the deadline is 12/10. Don't forget to include the envelopes for your cards!

4. Holiday Boutique – Shira Zatcoff & Tara Ginsburg

We are planning to bring back our Holiday Boutique for December 1st and 2nd, giving the kids an opportunity to shop for the holidays. More details to come as we get closer to the date.

E. Membership / DirectorySpot – Submitted by Dana Kralstein, read by Jennifer Poitrimol

- 1.** Please join the PTSA for the 2021-22 school year! Support your children's education by signing up online! Spouses and children can also join our PTSA.
- 2.** Our free online directory is only available to paid PTSA adult members so please sign up for this year!
- 3.** Look for an email from the Directory Spot when your directory account has been reactivated for this year. Your same login info will work from past years once you receive that email.
- 4.** Once you join the PTSA, please understand it takes Dana several days to update the directory. If it has been over 3 days since you signed up, feel free to email to check in.

5. All of the info has been updated in the directory. If you have a 6th grader, I added the same info you had in your elementary school directory. If your child went to South Grove, you will probably want to update your contact information.

6. Any new students or changes to your info, please fill out the form online or just email us directly. If this is a new sibling but you are already in the directory, just email us the family connection and Dana can copy the info across your kids.

7. If nothing has changed about your contact info, you DO NOT need to fill out a google form. Thank you!

F. Reflections - Arifa Siddiqui

We had the following reflections entries: 21 literature entries, one film production, two photography and two virtual art entries. The judges are reviewing and we are waiting to hear from them. Once, we have the winner's information then we will send the entries to the Nassau County PTA that should be around December 6th.

G. SEPTA - Deanna Marmor & Hina Imran

1. SEPTA Membership- Please consider joining SEPTA if you haven't already. SEPTA is proud to serve and represent all schools in the Syosset Central School District and focus our efforts on students that receive services from the district ranging from speech, occupational therapy to inclusion classes, counseling and nursing services for food allergies. Membership is \$12 per person and once you become member you will be included in all emails and events sponsored by our unit. We are the only PTA that sponsors speakers to help and support parents with various issues.

2. SEPTA is sponsoring their first Fundraiser- Mario's Pizza in Syosset will be sharing the profits of food/drink purchased tonight until 10PM. Be sure tell them you are buying pizza in support of Syosset SEPTA. Thanks in advance for your support.

3. SEPTA's next meeting is Tuesday, November 23rd at 7:45PM. We are excited to have Special Kids Advocates Agency presenting. As advocates they will provide tips, tools and resources to help you make the most of CSE process/meetings.

H. Council Committee Updates

1. Parent Resource Group/Cultural Unity – Technology Presentations – check out the District website in case you missed them. There is still time to register – see the link in the PTA emails.

2. Health Nutrition & Safety – Gabby Platz

The Health, Nutrition and Safety committee had a successful first event. The

Breakthroughs event was virtual and free. Deep discussions, inspiring conversations and fun workshops were provided for a healthy body and healthy mind. We will endeavor to bring more wellness content in the months

ahead. Our committee is working on creating flyers for the community that include anything from healthy tips, inspiring mind set, healthy recipes, meditations and coping strategies for stress and anxiety. We are also aiming to secure an internet safety speaker from the Nassau County Police department for some time in January 2022. We will provide more information so there is ample time to plan to attend the event. I.

I. High School Theatre Update – Sarah Landow

SHS Theatre Arts Presents "She Kills Monsters" - Syosset High School's Theatre Arts program is back with She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition! Performances will take place on November 18 (7:00 pm), November 19 (7:30 pm) and November 20 (7:30 pm) in the SHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased online.

While this is the Young Adventurers Edition of "She Kills Monsters", the suggested target audience is 13 years and up.

Social distancing measures are being implemented in Syosset High School's Auditorium. The ticket site enables you to choose your seats and then automatically provides safe distancing between audience members. In accordance with District policy, masks are required at all times during the production.

VII. New Business

A. Nominating Committee

Prior to this meeting, the Executive Board voted on the 3 members from its Board to participate in the Nominating Committee. Congratulations to Gabby Platz, Katy Mandell and Adrienne Ashkin. We will be using a poll to vote for the final two members of our nominating committee. We have three people; those with the two highest votes will be named to the committee and the one with the least votes will be our alternate. I first want to thank each of them, Irina Sedighi, Melissa Capie and Amy Hornstein for volunteering for this important role. Please cast your vote for the 2 members once you see the poll opened. Only current members may vote.

Congratulations Amy Hornstein and Melissa Capie! Congratulations everybody and for volunteering. Irina will be our alternate in case a member can no longer serve on the Committee.

B. NYS PTA Resolutions – Jessica Goldberg

Before we proceed with the votes, we just want to review some basic discussion and parliamentary procedures. All members can ask questions, participate in discussions and vote. Only one person may speak at a time and out of respect for everyone here, each

speaker will be limited to two minutes. No one can speak a second time until everyone who wants to, has spoken once. If a person would like to speak a second time, they may do so for another 2 minutes, but no one may speak more than twice.

1. Let's start with the 5 retentions. A retention is something that the NYS PTA would like to keep as is. The resolution has been working and should remain the same.

Are there any objections to supporting the retentions? As there are no objections, the vote on the 5 retentions passes by acclamation.

2. Moving on to the 3 rescissions. A rescission is a resolution that is obsolete, for reasons described in the resolution's statement.

At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the 3 rescissions? As there are no objections to the 3 rescissions, the vote has passed by acclamation.

3. Moving on to the 11 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 a resolution.

At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the new updates? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.

4. This year we have two new resolutions.

At this time, I would like to ask if anyone objects to the two new NYS PTA Proposed Resolutions. Does anyone object? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.

5. At this time we would like to take a block vote on the proposed bylaw amendments for NYS PTA. There are 5 proposed amendments. Are there any objections to the proposed amendments? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.

C. Vote of Confidence

Thank you all for voting. The resolutions have been and now we will ask for a vote of confidence for our voting delegates to bring our vote to council and to NYS PTA.

VIII. Dates to Remember

· November 10 - TOMORROW - Order deadline for Thanksgiving Bake Sale & Gift cards for Chanukah delivery!

· November 11 - School closed

· November 12 - Picture re-take day & End of 1st Marking Period

- November 15 - Board of Education Meeting, 8pm SW
- November 16 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 5:00pm - 8:00pm
- November 23 - SEPTA meeting at 7:45pm via Zoom
- November 25-26 - School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess

Happy Thanksgiving everybody!

** Since many of us will not be seeing each other formally until our January meeting, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy Holiday season. In the meantime, rest assured our great volunteers will be working hard over the next couple of months planning and bringing some additional activities and assemblies to our children. **

Meeting Adjourned: 8:34 PM
 Jessica Peredo, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

H.B. Thompson MS PTSA - Karen Ostrick	
Jennifer Poitrimol	
Liz Wolkoff	Hiedy Kim
Dana Kuropatkin	Michelle Verre
Liz Wolkoff	Jordyn Kenner
Shira Zatcoff	Lucille Polidoro
Jessy Peredo (louie peredo)	Irina Sedighi
adrienne ashkin	Angela Yun
April Sontag	Kevin Bonanno
Pam Bahiri	Lina Silva (JAIDEN)
Nina Grieco	Vicky Pan
Jen Abraham (noahabraham)	Brigid Ann Gold
Jessica Goldberg	Hiedy Kim
Arifa Siddiqui	Amanda Schlan
Allison Berch	Michelle Verre
Robin Greenstein	Linda DiGeronimo (Chris)
hina imran	Paul N
Ginsburg	Rosanne Ruppel
Gabrielle Platz	Sara Saab
Miranda Tang	Christina's iPhone (2)
Brian Marmor	Wanchin Brotchner
Amanda Schlan	Liza Oyaga
Chris	Joey Waters
Brandon Qu	Diana Chen

Katy Mandell Brian Grieco Mai Emara rosie destefano Vanessa Zhang Christine Garzilli Randi Fogel Jackie Cohen Sherri Smith Xu's iPhone Liz Wolkoff charrigan Sarah Landow Miranda Tang J. Irving Baylis Melissa Capie Catherine Shannon carol wang Sharmin Panjvani Robert Liu Jordana Altman Gillian Tepper Gillian barbara Vanessa Zhang Jyoti Agrawal Arifa Siddiqui	
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