



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
May 2, 2024

Good evening everyone.

The meeting will come to order, at 7:07 pm with a quorum present (14 members - Section 4 of Article 11). Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet - please make sure you sign in.

I. Approve minutes from the April 2024 meeting:

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in April for review. 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 4/22/2024:

Opening Balance, 3/23/2024	\$ 56,616.97
Income/Deposits	4,104.93
<u>Expense/Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Checking Balance	\$ 61,521.90
<u>Saving Balance as of 3/31/2024</u>	<u>\$ 6,249.79</u>
TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 4/22/2024	\$ 67,771.69

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

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

Right now we will start and 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 (see Section IV).

We would like to take the time to first thank our Awards committee for volunteering for HBT. Pam Bahiri, Dana Kralstein, Inna Choi, Nina Grieco and Dana Kuropatkin. We truly are so lucky to have you all on this committee.

Now we would like to call up Pam Bahiri and the awards committee to kick off our well-deserved awards for our HBT community.

PTSA award recipients:

Advocate in Action – Jennifer Poitrimol

Leadership Recognition Award – Nina Grieco

Honorary Life Award – Tara Ginsburg

Congratulations to all!

Staff recognition lunch is coming up very soon, May 20th. Thanks to all those who contributed to our fundraiser. For those that did participate your name will be printed and posted for the staff to see who contributed.

It is committee sign up time!!! We will distribute the link to the form through our weekly newsletter and a separate email this week. 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.

IV. Administration & Board of Education Visitors: Dr. Rogers, Dr. Curry, Brian Grieco, Lynn Abramson & Jack Ostrick

Brian Grieco – The final Board presentation is 5/13 at 8pm at South Woods Middle School. For the 12th year in a row, the tax levy increase (3.21%) is below the state cap (3.23%), resulting in a year over year increase of 4.07% in the total budget. This accounts for inflation, rising health insurance and pension costs, etc. – it's been a struggle to keep up with rising costs. Good to review the slides from the April meeting that Dr. Rufo had up to explain the quick summary of items. It preserves all existing services and programs, supporting the emotional health of our children with social workers/psychologists, while maintaining our aging facilities (maintaining, not improving). Improvements are a part of a separate planned bond funding, etc.

Lynn Abramson – Many districts are cutting programming, but we are proud to be able to maintain everything within the state cap. All programs are staying, special education, athletic programs, universal pre-K for all interested students (no more lottery) and introducing Challenger Bowling and Challenger Track and Field next year. Please vote on 5/21, polls opened from 6am to 9pm.

Jack Ostrick - Facilities – Budget ***maintains*** safety and health of our buildings; expansion of classroom space at South Woods middle school, converting offices into two classrooms. This is not to be confused with the larger projects and expansions which would be addressed with bond votes, etc. There are 4 people running for the board of Trustees, you need to vote for 3. Syosset library trustees – vote for 2 – There are 2 people running, but can write in a name as well

V. Principal's Report:

Mr. Bonanno –Thanks for coming this evening. As mentioned in Dr. Rogers' Community Update, we are dealing with passing of James Connolly. It has been a hard 24 hours here for all of us. Thankfully, the kids were in good shape. There are approximately 150 Willits kids here and we shared a part-time psychologist with South Woods to help assist kids with any concerns, etc. He was a great man and great with the children – he will be sorely missed.

Staff Updates: Ms. Bellomo had a baby girl over the break. Ms. Correia came back from maternity leave on Monday, so Ms. Musto is back in our Wellness Center.

Recent Events: More details will be in the HBT Happenings this week, but we are having a toiletry drive for veterans, so please have kids bring in donations. Items will benefit the Northport V.A.

Fence – It is completed. It was a bit odd coming in Wednesday morning after the break to see it, but it is great for the kids. It will be closed during the day, so kids can be out for recess or physical education. A security guard will be outside any time kids are out there as well. We need a few more swipe passes for the gate and around the building, but in good shape.

- Tennis Court side – We are keeping the gate closed during the day and it will be opened for parents for sporting events, etc. later. This is definitely an improvement, so we thank all of you for your support in getting the District to focus and push for this.

Cell phones – As we mentioned at the prior PTA meeting, cell phone holders have been placed in all classrooms. Teachers are still working with students to get adjusted to the rules. There is a big debate out there about banning cell phones entirely – e.g., the book on the “Anxiety Generation”. However, we want to make any changes thoughtfully. We know more schools are banning cell phones, but we are not there yet. We also know about the petition that is circulating about banning cell phones, but will not make a hasty decision.

Question – Can we still walk up to the nurse's office? **An** –Yes, and the gate for the circle will be opened later.

VI. Correspondence: April Sontag (N/A):

VII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. 8th Grade Committee – Nina Grieco

Lawn Signs pick up will be at HBT after school on Thursday, 5/9 between 3:30 and 5:00 pm., but we will send an email out with details. The 8th Grade Lunch and yearbook signing will be on Friday June 7th, weather dependent. We will also be giving out T-shirts for the Great Adventure trip and cinch bag.

B. Membership Committee – Nina Grieco

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, 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 2024-2025 school year.

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

The school supplies sale is open. The link to order has been in all of our weekly emails. The kits are available for all students entering 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Please remember this is a fundraiser as well as an effortless way to get your school supplies.

D. Staff Recognition – Nina Grieco, Min An, Xu Zhang

Our outdoor "Appreciation Luncheon" to our teachers and staff will be held on May 20th 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 as 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 would love to reach our goal. The sign-up list for volunteers will be coming soon.

VIII. Council Committee Updates:

A. Communication Conference – Pam Bahiri

The communications conference committee met with the District administration on April 8th and April 17th. Some topics included in the discussion were Project Beyond and enrichment, transportation, approved snack lists, lunch options, high school guidance and college admission. The District will be posting their responses to our questions on their website and we will send a link out once it is available. If anyone would like more information about any of these topics or has any questions for the District administration for our fall meeting, please contact Pam Bahiri at pambahiri@gmail.com.

IX. Old Business: None

X. New Business: None

XI. Dates to Remember – Melissa Capie

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 13** - Budget and Board of Education Meeting, 8pm SW
- **May 20** - HBT Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- **May 21** - Annual SCSD Trustee Election and Budget Vote (6a-9p)

- **May 22** - SEPTA Mtg Awards, HBT, 7:45pm
- **May 23-27** - School Closed
- **June 4** - Algebra Regents Exams
- **June 10** - Monthly Board of Education Meeting, 8pm SW
- **June 13** - HBT PTSA Meeting - 7:45pm at HBT

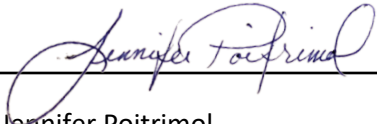
If there is no further business (*None*), the meeting will stand adjourned.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:36 pm

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

Tara Ginsburg	Jennifer Poitrimol	April Sontag
Melissa Capie	Nina Grieco	Dana Holzer
Mr. Bonanno	Karen Ostrick	Jen Biondo
Mr. Harrigan	Dana Kralstein	Sarah Lin
Mr. Naraine	Inna Choi	Dana Kuropatkin
Ms. Waters	Cindy Ho	Jack Ostrick
Michelle Verre	Lynn Abramson	Pam Bahiri



Jennifer Poitrimol

Recording Secretary