

**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**

**March 14, 2023**

The meeting opened with “Good evening, everyone. Thanks for being on-screen tonight given the weather. The meeting came to order, at 7:52 pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by the participant list on zoom. Presidents requested that all participants should make sure all names are being displayed properly so we can easily take attendance.

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

We had distributed the minutes via email from our last PTA meeting in February for review as well as copies on the table today. 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 2/22/2023:**

Opening Balance, 1/21/2023	\$ 55,000.26
Income/Deposits	80.39
Expense/Cash Disbursements	<u>3,565.50</u>
<b>Checking Balance</b>	<b>\$ 51,515.15</b>
Saving Balance as of 2/22/23	<u>6,246.87</u>
<b>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 2/22/2023</b>	<b>\$ 57,762.02</b>

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. No un-cleared transactions or deposits in transit. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Nina Grieco. Thank you, Nina.

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

**IV. President’s Report- Karen Ostrick / Tara Ginsburg**

Hi everyone! Welcome and so happy to see Spring on the horizon even though winter hasn't let go yet (spring officially arrives on Monday) and glad you were all able to make it on the zoom tonight with the snow tonight. Daylight savings is always a doozy as well. I hope you caught up on your sleep.

As always, a thank you to our HBT Administrators, Support Staff who are working tirelessly to ensure a wonderful school environment for our children. We look forward to celebrating all that you do during our staff recognition luncheon. Similar to last year it will be held in May during the school's lunch periods. If you are interested in participating in the staff recognition luncheon please contact the chairs - Susan Suriel, Linda DiGeronimo, and Adrienne Ashkin.

The 8th Grade committee is in full gear and is in the throes of planning for the 8th graders' graduation related activities this year. You will hear more during their committee update. SEPTA and The Syosset Council of PTAs are looking for nominations for their executive board. If anyone is interested, please reach out to me and I can forward the nominating form to you (it is also included in our weekly blast).

This evening we will be voting on next year’s slate of executive officers, as presented by our Nominating Committee later in this meeting. If you were interested in participating in the HBTPTSA executive board but didn’t want to be an officer, remember, you can always chair a committee. Additionally, as we do every year, we will be having awards given out to those members who have gone above and beyond this year (or in all of their years here). If you know anyone

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deserving and/or know those who are “graduating out” of HBT, please reach out to us and we will connect you with our Awards Committee.

With that, we will hand it off to Mr. Bonanno and his team for their report.

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

**Mr. Bonanno** – Thanks everyone for joining tonight. I know it was not ideal switching last minute but appreciate the zoom option in light of the weather. Personally, it works best for me tonight, as my son had elbow surgery and I wouldn’t have been able to make it tonight without zoom. It’s nice to see so many faces on the meeting.

Seussical the Musical Junior – This Thursday and Friday at 7 and 7:30. Kids have been working hard and looking forward to it. We have been experimenting with digital scenery, so there are some cool things going on.

7<sup>th</sup> grade parents – We put out our course choice selections for science and math and electives. Introduction to research, etc. Our electives are a somewhat scaled-down version compared to the years pre-COVID, but we are happy to have choices for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams.

7<sup>th</sup> grade field trip – Set for tomorrow to see West Side Story in Babylon. Kids will start with breakfast in the cafeteria (will go over some ground rules) and then go over to the Argyle theatre in Babylon. Approximately 2/3 of the grade is going. But we have a schedule for kids that are not going (approximately 20 kids per team).

Challenger basketball – It was a great event last week and thanks to all the parents and fans who supported our kids. Excited for the spring.

End of Year Schedule - Need some afternoon half days to meet the minutes mandates of the State.

Mr. Harrigan – 8th Grade trip to La Candela for those in the Spanish program. Those in Chinese class went last week on a trip. We are currently working on trips for the Italian and French classes, but it has been presenting challenges - looking for a worthwhile and cost-efficient trip for families.

**Parent Questions/Statements:**

(1) **8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Schedule Question** – The 8<sup>th</sup> grade schedules are due tomorrow on the 15<sup>th</sup>; however, these selections are due prior to our annual reviews and discussions with teams. Should we choose the courses and then potentially change them subject to the discussions in our annual review? *Mr. Bonanno & Ms. Waters* – Yes, please choose the courses and then we can always modify afterward. It just good to get an idea in infinite campus of where we will be with scheduling.

(2) **Follow-up Question** – Are all selections due tomorrow? *Mr. Bonanno* – Yes, but we will still be accepting them, as we are sure some will miss the deadline and reminders will be going out.

**VI. Standing Committee Reports**

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**A. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin / Gabby Platz / Liza Oyaga / Adrienne Ashkin (Read by Adrienne)**

Planning is underway. Lawn signs are out on sale for MemberHub for \$20 - please purchase for your children and share the links with any other 8th grade parents who are not on our lists. This will help raise funds to cover the yearbook breakfast and any added expenses to make the commencement and the yearbook signing special. We will until April 11th to order the signs. We will not be able to order extra signs so please make sure you order soon. The yearbook breakfast, which is fully sponsored by the PTA, is scheduled for the 21st of June. We are also working on organizing the commencement with South Woods. We will have more news about this by April. Feel free to reach out to the Committee Chairs for more information - they are Dana Kuropatkin, Gabby Platz, Liza Oyaga and Adrienne Ashkin.

**B. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff / Shira Zatcoff (Read by Shira)**

Coming up in March, our 8th grade students will be seeing From the Fires: Voices from the Holocaust. And Ryan's Story, an anti-bullying presentation, will be coming for our 7th graders on March 27<sup>th</sup> (coordinated with South Woods). We are hoping to plan a few more assemblies before the end of the school year. 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have a visit by Darren Sardelli in May (known as the "Funny Poet") and will talk about the power of words.

**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, 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. Please remind people when they move to update their info for the directory. Whether a member or not, it is helpful for those members who use the directory for their information.

**D. SEPTA - Jennifer Poitrimol**

Our next meeting will be back in person on **Thursday, March 23rd at South Grove Elementary School**. The presentation for the meeting will be "Preparing for Transitions to Middle School and High School" with guest speaker Dr. Thomas Kelly. The Nominating Committee for SEPTA is still looking for volunteers for their executive board. Open positions are Secretary and delegate. Please consider volunteering for this special PTA which serves all of our students across the district. 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 below, 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) or see me, Jen Poitrimol. For those members who haven't received discount cards, reach out to me, Jen Poitrimol to get yours today!

<https://syossetsepta.memberhub.com/store>

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Lastly, SEPTA is continuing to host virtual Yoga/meditation sessions on certain evenings. There are separate sessions for adults (\$10 each) and children (free). The next session is March 28th for adults and May 12th for grades 7-12.

**E. School Supplies – Irina Sedighi (Read by Karen Ostrick)**

As you heard at the last meeting, we are switching vendors to 1st Day School Supplies. We look forward to a very smooth process for both parents and staff for the coming year. This is a vendor that works with several of the elementary schools in the district and the feedback we have is that customer service and attention to detail is a priority. We're in the final stages of the school supplies pricing. Looking to finish this week and start planning the timing for marketing and ordering. We intend to market to the parents and be ready for ordering by April. The deadline for ordering will be May 31, 2023 as we would like to have the supply kits delivered to the home before the end of this school year.

**F. Council Committee Updates:**

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

The final Budget Information Session is taking place April 18. All information sessions take place at 8 pm, right before the Board of Ed meetings. These information sessions are really very helpful to understanding the upcoming District budget. Detailed information about the upcoming budget vote (including budget presentations from information sessions) are posted to the district website - [2022-2023 Budget Information](#). As a reminder, the Annual District Election and Budget Vote takes place on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. One thing to note is that traditionally the district has been below the tax cap and have been proud of that. Although the budget is still projected to not exceed the tax cap, it is much closer to the cap than in years past. Please make sure you hear the recorded items and get educated by listening to the information sessions.

Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Know your Candidate forum. Karen O. – We will add into the newsletter this weekend.

Tara G. – Please note that everything is livestream and recorded, so you can always access it to review.

**2. Communications Conference – Pam Bahiri – None**

**3. Cultural Unity – Farrah Mozawalla (Read by Karen Ostrick)**

Syosset Council of PTAs Cultural Unity Committee will be holding a Celebration of Culture program. We invite all students in the district to help us celebrate the many cultures in our community by submitting a piece of literature, art, digital art, photography, or dance/music composition that shares what culture means to them. Feel free to share a special holiday, occasion, tradition, toy, food, or anything that is special to you. Each entry will earn a ticket into a raffle where there will be a number of random winners for a gift card prize. There will be an in-person showcase at the end of the year to see all the wonderful entries. Please look out for the flyer for the event this month.

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**4. Health, Nutrition & Safety – Gabby Platz (Read by Karen Ostrick)**

Refer to Arts in Education section for the details on Ryan’s Story.

Friendly reminder - please join the Health, Nutrition & Safety Committee for a parent *Zoom* presentation with Nassau County Police Officer Luis Serrano on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 @ 7:00 pm. The presentation will discuss the pros/cons of living in a cyber world, how social media has become a drug, the connection between social media and mental health, what parents need to look for, student consequences due to their online behavior/posts, and useful parent apps to help protect our children.

**5. Parent Resource Group – Xu Zhang – None**

**6. School & Community – Shany Park – None**

**7. Scholarship Fund - Jessica Goldberg**

Donations can **still** be made to the Fund. Check your emails or see the attached flyer. As of March 5, the Syosset Scholarship Fund deposits are:

Community Donations: \$4596

Street Fair: \$386

Student Government/Carnival: \$3200

9 PTA Units: \$1000 (most donating between \$100-\$200)

Council: \$500

Mario's Restaurant Fundraiser: \$250

SHS Cabaret Night: \$1000

Total Deposits: \$10,932

The Legally Blonde playbill was a tremendous success and will generate approx. \$5000 for the Syosset Scholarship Fund. Checks are still coming in and we will finalize that number next month.

**8. Ways and means - Linda DiGeronimo**

The Harlem Wizards game is this Saturday. Both games sold out.

**VII. Old Business – None**

**VIII. New Business – Officer Elections - Karen Ostrick**

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.

We will now hear an update from the nominations committee chair Linda DiGeronimo.

**Co-Presidents:** Tara Ginsburg/Melissa Capie

**1st VP:** Nina Grieco

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**2nd VP:** Karen Ostrick

**3rd VP:** Jackie Pliskin

**Treasurer:** Danielle Kurtzer

**Recording Secretary:** Jen Poitrimol

**Corresponding Secretary:** April Sontag

**Delegates (7):** Pam Bahiri, Krista Harris, Pooja Mehta, Theresa Morale, Liza Oyaga, Gabrielle Platz, Xu Zhang

Thank you, Linda. We will now vote on the H.B. Thompson PTSA proposed Slate for the 2023-24 school year.

According to our bylaws anyone not nominated by the nominating committee, but wishing to be nominated from the floor, must have submitted their intent and qualifications to the chairperson of the nominating committee no less than two (2) business days prior to our election meeting. No names have been submitted. Since there is one nominee for each position, the vote will be for the entire slate. Is there any discussion? **None** All those in favor? **29** Opposed? **None** Abstain? None. The Slate has been approved. Congratulations everyone.

Thank you to all those who voted. A special thank you to Linda DiGeronimo for chairing our Nominating Committee as well as our Nominating Committee chair and members, Linda DiGeronimo, Min An, Amanda Schlan, Xu Zhang, Liza Oyaga and Nina Grieco. And a special congratulations to our new executive board for next year. Please support our new officers and attend our swearing in ceremony and meeting in June.

**IX. 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.

*There isn't much time between now and our next meeting, so our list is short tonight.*

- **March 16** - HBT Musical Theater: Seussical the Musical 7:00pm
- **March 17** - HBT Musical Theater: Seussical the Musical 7:30pm
- **March 18** - Harlem Wizards (SOLD OUT)
- **March 23** - SEPTA Meeting 7:45pm - South Grove Elem.
- **March 27** - Middle School Sports Begin
- **March 28** - HNS Parent Session - Officer Luis Serrano 7pm via Zoom
- **March 31** - SHS Family Astronomy Night
- **April 4** - HBT PTSA Meeting at HBT 10am

If there is no further business (**none**), the meeting will stand adjourned. **Congratulations again to our new Officers, thank you all and have a wonderful night!** Meeting is adjourned at 8:26pm.

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, Recording Secretary

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Attendees via Zoom:

Karen Ostrick	April Sontag	Melissa Capie
Tara Ginsburg	Lucille Polidoro	Robin Greenstein
Mr. Bonanno	Linda DiGeronimo	Rachael Lee
Mr. Harrigan	Adrienne Ashkin	Eliot Jung
Mr. Naraine	Kirsten Zollo	Gillian Tepper
Ms. Waters	Xu Zhang	Laura DeGennaro
Jennifer Poitrimol	Nina Grieco	Liz Wolkoff
Michelle Verre	Danielle Kurtzer	Shira Zatcoff
Theresa Morale	Irina Sedighi	Jessica Goldberg
Regina Pisacani	Shany Park	Kenny Yung
Min An	Christine Garzilli	Pam Bahiri
Vicky Pan	Jen Biondo	Amy Kenner
Michelle Masci	Amanda Schlan	Rosanne Ruppel