

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  
January 11, 2022

Meeting called to order at 10:03 via Zoom by President and Co-President: Jen Poitrimol and Karen Ostrick

**I. Approve minutes from the last meeting:** We had distributed the minutes from our last PTA meeting in November 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 12/22/2021: Miranda Tang

<u>Checking Account:</u>	
Opening Balance, 10/22/2021	\$ 44,456.26
Income/Deposits	\$ 9,102.13
Expense/Cash Disbursements	<u>(11,061.89)</u>
Checking Balance	\$ 42,496.50
Saving Balance as of 9/30/21	<u>6,242.39</u>
TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 12/22/2021	<u>\$ 48,738.89</u>

**III. Correspondence: Kirsten Zollo, read by Jennifer Poitrimol**

To our HBT PTA,

*We would like to thank you for our holiday luncheon. Everything was displayed so nicely, the food was delicious and the snacks were plentiful!*

*Wishing you all and your families, a happy, relaxing and a safe winter break! For those who are celebrating, happy holidays to all!!*

*We are very lucky to have such a generous and thoughtful PTA.*

*Much appreciated, HBT Administrators, Support Staff and Custodians*



**IV. President's Report-** Jen Poitrimol

First and foremost, we want to wish everyone a very happy New Year! I hope everyone had time to recharge and enjoy the holiday break. We also want to thank everyone for joining us this morning. As always, thank you for RSVPing and 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](mailto:hbtptsa@gmail.com) to rsvp. I also want to take this moment to say I hope with the latest surge that all of you and your families

are staying safe and healthy. Please know that if any of you need help, Karen and I are here to offer any support you may need. You can always reach out to us and we will do whatever we can. We are all exhausted by this virus, but working together and following our districts' guidance will help us get through this latest surge. Please remind your children to keep their masks up, as we continue to see schools are the safest places to be as long as all the safety measures are consistently done. Lastly, if you were not able to pick up your home COVID tests during the three distribution dates, the administration will be reaching out to you to coordinate picking yours up as mentioned in the most recent email from the District. We need to send our thanks to the Administration for an amazing response during this time. The 3 distribution sites were organized, efficient and appreciated by all of us in the community. Additionally, coordinating special testing dates and times for our student athletes in high risk sports is also appreciated. As always, a thank you to our HBT Administrators, Support Staff and Custodians who are working tirelessly to ensure a safe school environment. We were happy the PTSA was able to show a small token of our appreciation by providing a holiday luncheon prior to the winter break.

A reminder that we do NOT have a meeting in February. Our next meeting is on March 15 at 10:00am via zoom. 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, 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 HBTPTSA) to stay updated on the latest happenings at HBT. Make sure to follow those pages, as we post flyers and any reminders as well.

Another valuable resource of membership is the ability to hold a position on our Executive Committee – more on that when we discuss the Nominating Committee later on in the meeting.

We have had a great end to 2021 with our fundraisers and assemblies. From the pie sales, gift card sales and holiday boutique all of your support is especially appreciated. 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents – please watch your emails to start preparing for your 8<sup>th</sup> grader's transition to High School. We include a summary of items (but not all the information) in our weekly blasts. This information will include valuable resources to facilitate the course selection process, along with information concerning on-line opportunities to preview course offerings and have a clear understanding of programming choices for your rising 9th grader. We included a link to the [Overview](#) of the academic program and co-curricular offerings that was included in the High School email. If you are not getting these emails, please reach out to the school.

Please note that we will be voting on Syosset Council of PTAs' bylaw amendments. 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 the proposed by-law amendments for the Syosset Council of PTAs. Remember you can only vote if you are a paid member.

I would like to ask for a motion to use block voting for Syosset Council of PTAs bylaw 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:**

Thank you for the delicious luncheon prior to the break, it was really appreciated. This is the longer stretch with no outside recess. Hoping for tomorrow with the weather. We are not immune to the COVID outbreak. Staffing-wise we are stable, but we had a scary patch 10 days ago. We had upwards of 18-20 people out but we leveled off and hopefully we hit the peak and staffing will be ok.

The biggest stressor for us is staffing issues, lunch monitors (one day we had 4 out), so Mr. Harrigan and Mr. Narraine have been stepping in to help during lunch hours. The State Department of Health came out with additional guidance and we are working with Dr. Rogers to understand it. There are some little hiccups in what was sent out by the State last night and more to come on that.

Concerts are still on schedule (potential to push back to February). We will keep the dates since not too many are out. In-school field trip is planned for rehearsals and the Concerts will be streaming. Each group is playing in different locations. We unfortunately cannot have an audience because of seating capacity. Mr. Salzman is working on the technology and will stream it.

Sports clearances for Winter sports starts next week.

Grade 8 to 9 transition is in a good place. Dr. Durante sent out an email with the e-book. Very good curriculum guide that is interactive. Additionally, Counselors met with kids on our virtual day. They reviewed electives in advisory in the morning and math, science, english and world language are making recommendations. Next week can set up with guidance meetings for course selections – January and February. Working closely with Dr. Durante and his teams. This can be overwhelming with the kids because there are so many

choices. High school is like a university but can get a little scary for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

NWEA testing has begun and coordinate by Mr. Naraine – no virtual testing so if out for quarantine, there will be makeups throughout January

Ms. Waters and Ms. Berry are in a transition meeting so could not attend today.

We continue to be prepared for any challenges.

Question – Why not record the concerts and allow streaming for parents to view (rather than just a live stream)? A: There are different requirements for streaming music vs. performing it live. Different approvals and costs are involved. Easier to stream it live.

## **VI. Standing Committee Reports**

### **A. Curriculum Enrichment - Liz Wolkoff (Karen to read)**

On Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders had their first in-person event in almost 1 ½ years. John Marshall (the weatherman) came to do an in person weather assembly with his mobile greenscreen which the kids got a kick out of. He was recently on NBC, CBS and now the FOX weather app. He wants to teach the kids about his passion. It certainly was an interesting experience for all the kids.

Kwame Alexander will come for our 6<sup>th</sup> 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 on some other things.

### **B. Board of Education - Tara Ginsburg**

December 2022 BOE Meeting

Dr. Rogers Update:

- Priority to maintain in person learning
- Communicating to the community often with updates
- Continued issues finding bus drivers, keeping them healthy, substitute drivers are thinning out due to illness
- Dr. Rogers will continue to watch on a daily basis for busing updates
- Current numbers are concerning and are 4x higher than this time last year but good news is we understand the virus and people are getting vaccinated. The curve is looking similar to South Africa, hopeful data like South Africa even

though current numbers are still high we will likely see it taper off and start to decline.

- Surge of students 3-5 days past NYE in quarantine and isolation. Approx. 60/40 split isolation (sick)/quarantine (contact). Surge will pass.  
NY State New Rules for Quarantine/Isolation
- No Quarantine for close contact if vaccinated
- Eligible for classroom instruction and bus if un-boosted
- Eligible for extracurricular activities only if boosted or else 5 day quarantine
- Quarantine for exposure for unvaccinated students/staff reduced to 5 days
- Isolation for individuals testing positive for COVID-19 reduced to 5 day minimum (regardless of vaccination status)
- Must not have symptoms that persist

Audience to the public:

- Vaccinated vs. unvaccinated children – parent states they should be treated equally for close contact and quarantine, guidelines should be the same for everyone
- Request for more learning support virtually for those kids who have to be home
- Dr Rogers response – The School District has to follow the state guidelines, if we stray from the state guidelines we will expose ourselves to liability. Now that the quarantine time is soon reduced to 5 days there will be less issues needing virtual support. Students in isolation that have covid and should be resting not online. Those quarantined will have a shortened time frame and will get assistance from school when they return

Rapid Test Distribution:

- Was a huge success

### **C. Fundraising Update - Jen Abraham (Karen to read)**

A special thank you to all of our supporters for the various fundraisers we have had to date. Thank you to Tara and Shira for the Holiday Boutique and April Sontag for running the gift card fundraiser! It was so nice to see the kids happy and have an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts for their friends and family. We do not have any specific plans/dates for Spring fundraisers as of right now, but stay tuned and watch your emails. We will provide another update at our next meeting in March. Of course if anyone has any specific fundraisers in mind or ideas, feel free to reach out to Jen A, Jen P or me.

### **D. Nominating Committee – Melissa Capie**

Our Nominating Committee is working to help identify and propose our slate of officers for next year. If you would like to get more involved and help make our children's middle school years more memorable, please let the Nominating Committee know! We will be sending out the

Nominating Form shortly. In the meantime, if you have any questions as to the duties, time involved, etc., please feel free to ask me at [nominations@hbtpsa.org](mailto:nominations@hbtpsa.org).

#### **E. Membership – Dana Kralstein (Read by Karen)**

Thank you to all of you who became members. We are still short of our goal of 606. It's never too late to join! Remember, all your family members can join and support your PTSA (grandparents too). Please let your friends and family know and become a member! Membership is one of our largest fundraisers and brings substantial benefits like voting, getting our email blasts, becoming a board member, etc.

#### **F. Reflections - Arifa Siddiqui (Read by Karen)**

All winners were notified and their entries were sent to the Nassau Region PTA. As of now, the February reception will be held in the Spring.

#### **G. SEPTA - Deanna Marmor & Hina Imran**

1. Changemakers Fundraiser- We are launching the EASIEST way for you to support our organization- The Changemaker Initiative!  
The Changemaker Initiative is an opportunity to raise funds for Syosset SEPTA by asking people to simply donate their digital spare change each month. It's simple: sign up a credit or debit card, shop anywhere, & your change will automatically be donated to our organization. Will you become a Changemaker for Syosset SEPTA? Text "SEPTA" to 404-994-3399 to learn more or click this link - <https://app.hellodonor.com/donate/syosset-septa> !! Thank you so much for your support! I am excited for the impact that The Changemaker Initiative will make for SEPTA! A video link is provided in our weekly email blasts that explains how the program works. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iuLLnmQhwJD0nq\\_x873mcCZ3r4swrfw6/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iuLLnmQhwJD0nq_x873mcCZ3r4swrfw6/view?usp=sharing)
2. Transition Workshop for Students with Learning Differences post HS Graduation - Reserve the Date- on February 16 at 7pm as a live streamed event hosted by Ms. Muller SHS Special Education transition teacher talks about transitioning to post-secondary programs and readiness for college and presents a positive approach to the college admissions process. The workshop is most beneficial to current juniors but all can benefit and are welcome.
3. January 27 at 7:45pm- is our next SETPA Meeting. Several of the school social workers will be present an overview of the **Social Emotional Learning supports** provided to K-12 (groups, curriculum, etc.). Competencies include topics such as self-awareness, social awareness, ethical decision making, and more. At the elementary level, buildings are implementing groups such as social skills and anxiety management. At the middle and high schools, the buildings are using the Advisory and Wellness Programs, in addition to groups such as stress management, executive functioning skills, and mindfulness. Please join us to learn and ask questions regarding these relevant programs.
4. January 12 Worskhop -Student Directed IEPs for Families - L.I. Regional Partnership Center

and the L.I. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Centers, are launching a two-hour virtual training workshop on Student Directed IEPs for Families on Wednesday, January 12th. High school students have long participated in their Individualized Education Program meetings, but the trend is now to have students of all ages start this process. Please join us for this exciting opportunity. You can register by emailing: [post-cci@liu.edu](mailto:post-cci@liu.edu)

## H. Council Committee Updates

1. **Parent Resource Group/Cultural Unity** – Nina Greico  
*Celebrate Calm Presentation* - The Syosset Council of PTAs' Parent Resource Group is providing a Zoom presentation by Celebrate Calm. This presentation will provide concrete, practical parenting strategies that work with kids aged 2-22 in everyday situations. Join the zoom presentation with Kirk from Calm Parenting on Wednesday February 9th, from 7:30-9:30pm. See the attached flyer in our weekly blast for more details.
2. **Health, Nutrition & Safety** – Gabby Platz or Karen  
The Health, Nutrition & Safety Committee of the Syosset Council of PTAs has scheduled a Zoom presentation with Nassau County Police Officer Yolanda Turner on bullying/cyberbullying and what parents should do to protect their children on Monday, January 31, 2022 at 7:00pm. Please see the attached flyer and RSVP link in our weekly update.
3. **School & Community** – Tara Ginsburg/Irene Ventouratos
4. **Scholarship Mailing** – Erica Sutter - Karen to read  
The Syosset Scholarship Fund kicked off their annual fundraising drive. The Syosset Council of PTAs and Syosset Teachers' Association are asking for your support! By now you should have received the Scholarship Fund postcard in your mailbox. We are pleased to report that we have received \$5,573 in donations to the Fund to date. Thank you to everyone who has donated. All donations go directly to the Fund to benefit deserving graduating Syosset High School seniors (awarded to qualifying graduating seniors on the basis of financial need, academics & community service). Donations can be made in "in memory of" or "in honor of." *The drive for donations is ongoing throughout the school year and the goal is to raise a total of \$7,500.* Any help you can provide to reach their goal is very appreciated! For more information on how to make a donation, please see the flyer attached in our weekly emails.

## VII. New Business – Jen Poitrimol

- A. Syosset Council Bylaw Amendments  
Before we proceed with the vote, 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.

At this time we would like to take a block vote on the proposed bylaw amendments for Syosset Council of PTAs. There are 2 proposed amendments.

*Bylaws must be adopted by the unit or council and approved by New York State PTA every three years for the unit or council to remain in good standing.*

**Proposed Changes to the Council Bylaws-**

1. Article V - section 7: Each officer or board member of a constituent association shall be a member of such local PTA within its area, *but does not have to hold a delegate position.*

2. Article VII - section 2: Each member PTA/PTSA shall be entitled to representation on the voting body by its president/alternate and by 6 delegates per elementary school, *7 delegates per middle school, 10 delegates from the high school and 6 delegates from SEPTA* selected by the PTA/PTSA according to its own bylaws/procedures.

Are there any objections to the proposed amendments? As there are no objections, the vote has passed by acclamation.

**VIII. Dates to Remember – Karen**

Keep an eye on our dates to remember in our weekly updates for additional dates between now and our next meeting.

- **January 17 - School closed (MLK Day)**
- **January 19 - 8th Grade Virtual Winter Concert - 7:30pm**
- **January 20 - 7th Grade Virtual Winter Concert - 7:30pm**
- **January 25 - 6th Grade Virtual Winter Concert - 7:30pm**
- **January 27- SEPTA meeting at 7:45pm via Zoom**
- **January 28 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period**
- **February 7 – Monthly Board of Ed Meeting & Budget Information – 8:00pm**
- **Feb. 21 – 25 – School closed (President’s week)**
- **March 15 – March PTSA Meeting – 10:00am via zoom – Voting for New Executive Board**

Meeting Adjourned: 10:45 AM

Recorded by Jennifer Poitrimol, for Jessica Peredo, Recording Secretary

**Attendees:**

H.B. Thompson MS PTSA (Karen Ostrick) Jennifer Poitrimol Shira Zatcoff	Linda DiGeronimo Rosanne Ruppel Nina Grieco Jessica Goldberg
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christopher digeronimo

Paul Naraine

Tara Ginsburg

Vicky Pan

Min An

Kevin Bonanno

Amy Kenner

Angela Yun

Sara Bostwick

Mimi Tang Wong (Mimi)

Randi Fogel

Katy's iPhone

Jake Kuropatkin

April Sontag

Melissa Capie

Brian Grieco

Amy Hornstein

Gabrielle Platz

pam bahiri (Walt

Whitman PTA)

Hina Imran

charrigan

Michael's iPhone

Jordana Altman

Sarah Landow

Samantha Newman

Susan Suriel

DJ

Renée Borkenstein

Shany Park

Sherri Smith