

New York Harbor School PTA/Minutes/ May 19, 2020

Ian McGrath, PTA Executive Board member, opened the meeting on Zoom at 6:02 PM.

The minutes from our May 8 meeting have been posted to the NYHS website and Nan Richardson asked for a vote to accept them at this meeting. They were unanimously approved and accepted.

- Present were 26 members (I could not get ALL names as we didn't have access on Zoom- trying to fix that for next meeting!) -from the PTA board Lissa Wolfe, Nan Richardson, Ian McGrath, Emma Acker, Louise Mulvihill, Elizabeth Kirk, Maureen Packer, Debra Sito, Acting Marine Policy Rep, Bill Seery, and from SLT Jesse Cores, Andre Amrhein

Ronni Ettinger, Parent Coordinator & Paul Garcia, Dean represented the school.

- Quorum was established with the members present
- Lissa Wolfe asked all to consider the budget for this year, projected for next.
- Discussion ensued on budget categories and specific amounts allocated. We are this month spending the \$3500 previously allocated on senior awards, \$300 for the film awards, \$200 for some gifts to the. new mother teachers, and are carrying forward the monies (already allocated this year) for garden benches (3000) the vending machine and snacks (3500), Composting internships (3600), one year long PTA internship (1800), Water bottle giveaway to all students (once we get the water bottle fountains the PTA paid for installed in both school and MAST center, up to \$3000), BIO Trip monies raised this year by Bio (17,000 and that should go up by \$1500 from the Donors Choose grant still incoming, so \$18,500).
- Discussion about the greater need for funding next year for the school ensued— ideas were proffered, besides the race in the Fall and Spring Tide as an auction in the spring.
- Nan spoke of the need for creating streams for passive income as the challenges of this PTA to put on events with our island location were greater than many schools, namely:
- Maureen's initiation of **SHOP with SCRIP** needs to be heavily promoted (Dave Chang said his school made tens of thousands with it all year long)
- Why the **vending machine** was important, so we will get that in place the minute the restrictions lift and it can be delivered.
- Why we should push to sign up EVERYONE for **Amazon Smile** at .5% NOW as in COVID it's a no-brainer to make passive money---and work hard to get Amazon affiliate status as that 7% !
- In addition, we did poorly on **merchandise** sales this year compared with last as we a) didn't push it out well and b) had no new merchandise to offer (once you own cap, mug, umbrella you don't need more) So we need to have someone with sales energy take that on. Glenda or Angie? suggested masks- great idea! Ana and Luis Mallo offered design help.
- In addition, if we really commit to concentrate efforts on two major fundraisers a year **one in Fall (the Oyster Classic race) and one in spring (Spring Tide)** that would well carry us into the 100K mark. Nan says the Bio trip raised \$40,000 in basically 2 months from only 80

families (with some kind and generous help from many of you to the GO FUND ME campaign, with Bio's grateful thanks!) and proves we really can raise money when we have a clear and focused goal and a big PUSH to reach that goal.

- Ronni mentioned that her gift basket drive netted 20K for her other charity.
- Louise pointed out that our vote was to allocate \$200 scholarships (not \$250) to 14 kids (one girl and one boy in each CTE). Lissa argued that we have the money so why not to make up to seniors for a bad year. She also asked that Welding have its own scholarships to add to this making 14 x \$250 or \$3500 and that the budget ratified in October, 2019 allowed for this: Awards and Acknowledgments Graduating Seniors \$3,500.
- The budget was voted on and approved unanimously.
- Nomination for PTA for next year were discussed. Bill Seery, Lissa Wolfe and Nan Richardson are the committee. Please contact them if you would like to run. Lissa spoke about sharing a post as making it easier for both people in terms of work and Nan spoke about having an upper and lower class parent share, ideally, so the institutional memory is preserved and continuity ensured. We must have a President, Treasurer and Secretary to have a PTA! **Please volunteer—this school only improves if parents step up and make change possible.**
- Paul Garcia discussed Restorative Circles and invited all parents to attend as the meeting Wednesday night is for the whole school community.
- Ronni Ettinger mentioned the effort to raise money for seniors via T shirt sales and that graduation was proceeding apace along with prom on Friday with virtual limos etc.
- Lissa moved that the meeting be adjourned, a motion unanimously accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.