

MINUTES

New York Harbor School PTA Minutes

October 20, 2020@ 6:00 pm

Welcome and *Meeting called to order by* Marge Richards

Ian McGrath welcomed all parents and then turned it over to Marge Richards who discussed the new remote meeting norms. Chat comments should be positive. Please direct chat comments to a specific person so your questions can be answered either during the discussion or at a later date. Limit comments to 2 minutes; can set aside bigger discussion times for issues that need it. Everyone should have a voice here so please only speak 2 times.

For annual dues- please donate what you can. Schools are hit hard with their budgets, can't afford afterschool programs and tutoring. Either donate \$250 or a fixed amount monthly- only \$25 a MONTH (over 10 months). Whatever you can do is greatly appreciated. The PTA is registered as a non-profit so everything you give can be deducted from taxes..

Ronni announced that the election codes were sent out at 2:30 to all parents who registered for the PTA election.

Approval of Minutes

The September Minutes were posted by Ian McGrath and read by Nan Richardson. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore and seconded by Ian McGrath; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Lissa Wolfe read the Treasurer's Report (also posted on the PTA page on the NYHS website saying we have over \$39, 458 in Chase and \$387 in PayPal account. We collected \$1000 in last month and 20K of this amount are BIO funds earmarked for that CTE. Paid \$200 for the Harbor Website and received \$148 from RunSignUp. Please use Amazon Smile and check out MY Scrips. Both are good ways to passively donate (you shop, they kick back a portion to the school.) And this year we BADLY need the money Both are on the PTA website with links for gear to buy- mugs- pint glasses, T-shirts and other great stuff. Lissa says goodbye. Marge thanks her warmly for all her service. Lissa is hereby removed from the Chase bank account and instead the new Treasurer, Tamara Johnson, as well as Secretaries Angelic Martinez and Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore, will be given access to the account, effective immediately.

SLT Committee Report

Nan Richardson said that last month SLT was the Panel on Educational Policy to protest the recent cuts at Harbor. Where LaGuardia received half a million in COVID relief, we got \$3000- and then (insult to injury) the measly 3000 was TAKEN AWAY next day! (They got **500 times**

what we got in COVID funding). Plus, we only get 94% of our Fair Student Funding (FSF). This is on top of the CTE cuts we experienced last year this time – making it very hard to get the quality CTE and afterschool programs Harbor is known for. We needed to speak up and protest this treatment, and do it now. So, we attended and Donna and I spoke, along with Theresa Case. It was a five hour call. from 5:30 to almost 11 at night. And at the end of that long night they actually called us out, mentioned us... “We heard you Harbor School and want to speak with you after.” As Donna said they heard from a LOT of people that night, so mentioning us was a WIN. We scheduled a call with Tom Shepard and Michael Kraft the next week, spoke at some length, and Shepard asked “How much does the school need to fulfil its mission, beyond the facilities need, which I as a Navy man certainly understand?” We consulted Jeff and gave him the number of \$250,000*(the gap in FSF). Shepard and Michael Kraft were slated to come for a tour but Tom got sick so they postponed it. We hope to push ahead on the search for fair student funding!

Nan said “You see the power of going in person, so they see and hear you”. Marge says “we need to build that capacity in our parents so that advocacy can be perpetual.”

MERCHANDISING:T shirts and Masks.

Nan says we will have T shirts in two weeks once we order and presents two options:

150 T shirts at a high price or 200 at a lower price, requiring us to sell 68 T shirts. Total either way is about \$1200. If we did sell all 68 we break even on the T-shirts. Asks for a vote on Option A or Option B. Ellen moves to vote for 200 T shirts. Marge instructs us to vote A for the small number or B for 200 shirts in the Chat. The Bs have it.

One more expenditure- we thought to have face masks designed by Tara Askin, but then learned the Freshmen were doing face masks. So, Nan asks do we want to create 200 of these face masks if 150 students are getting them free?. Masks don't have nose bridges Kellie affirms. Double faced cotton. Donna shows a sample. There is a vote to produce if the Freshman only get them-Yes or No. Ronni says it is the whole school- all the students? The count was yes but then it transpired that the whole school was getting them so the Exec decided no.

COMMITTEES:

SEC Amy and Nan spoke at Community Board one meeting about the Harbor School's role in the new Trust plan. Plan looks a lot like the 2018 plan which got slammed in the press- if you remember the NYTIMES cover story “Is this the end of Governors Island?” and the plan folded. Now the plan STILL has huge glass and steel buildings the size of the Statue of Liberty. CB21 grilled them hard as some of these structures actually will be 65 feet above 30 stories - with the need to put HVAC post Sandy on top not in basements. The difference between this plan and that one is the idea of climate center as centerpiece, bring in a big name university as centerpiece. Like Cornell on Roosevelt Island.

Amy spoke to CB! about the history of the school on GI. (The Community Board has a lot of new members who don't know the history or much about us.) She called us the “**beta case**”

when Governors Island was “invented”- the first tenants, no potable water, no electric, no internet. We were a climate change center from inception. The environmental ethos of our school was set and was meant to be solarized, a poster child for eco, but sadly the money was not there to do all the dreams. Still, the foundational principle of the school- we were already environmental education and to fulfill our mission we need the space to expand.

Clare fumbled a bit and said “we love the Harbor School and we are in constant conversations with Jeff and we are definitely going to help you out. want to talk to you.” Yada. Nan just followed her and said Amy had said it all, and we looked forward to having that conversation immediately.

Amy said “They smile and nod, we love the Harbor School but they won't give us a pool. We are all tired of hearing how much they love us! This plan may be great for the economy of the city, may offer opportunities for partnerships. but they are going to build this thing and unless we insist we won't get anything out of it that we need. They are just making a big boy model of what the Harbor Scholl was intended to be. But I will NOT let them get away from getting a larger footprint without giving the school it's facilities.”

Nan says, right, “IF we don't push, we won't get. “ Alex says” Cas and I are all for trying to have our voices heard. “Cas says we “need to mobilize the parents to get the facilities to obtain these facilities to fulfill the mission. There will be 200s of millions invested in the facilities on that RFP and they will have the money to fund this for us. “ Nan says the next CB meeting will have a rendering of the plan at bird's eye view. While many of it may not like it, as the Harbor School we just should stick to the demand for facilities as there are lots of others to question the wisdom of the plan. (Several community board members said loudly they don't want it to look like Wall Street.)Amy says on problem is while mobilizing the parents is never hard for us, there is a disconnect between what Jeff's input is and what he will support- the funding to get lifeguards, SCA and TRUST and how those players fit into this. “I never know when we are overstepping with Jeff. That said, to get the Trust to give a building or two is the first step and SCA the next.” She points out that Carranza (when he was here) could not have been more enthused. Nan says he turned to his vice Chancellor (who has since quit and gone home to San Francisco) and said, “Can't we get more Silicon money in here. “ Amy recalls we could not get him off the Vessel Ops simulator. Nan responds to Bill Seery's question saying “ The buildings will be in play for a long time- in at least a 10 year roll out- first to one entity, then another. Building it bit by bit.” Bill says he as a parent alumnus has commercial real estate connections and he wants to stay with this. As does Lissa.

Marge wants to be sure parents are well represented on the Committee the Trust allegedly wants to put together and to make sure our ideas are not usurped in their plan. “We need to keep in top of this. School Construction came out and after we grilled him, he dialed back his rhetoric. Life happened, COVID happened, and we see the Trust has their ideas of what they want to do and we need to be sure we are not left out of it.”

CTE FUNDING CUTs Donna COPPOLA says nothing has changed with that. We are hoping since the students aren't getting the hands- on need for certification they should be asking the DOE that we expect them to FULLY FUND CTE so we are able to get the students certification in

spring with overtime on the weekends to make up for the time they are missing this year. As it is part of graduation requirements.

When the school gets a budget end of the year it's supposed to get Fair Student Funding- 100% is expected. But what happens is some schools get well over and some well below 100% . So, we are working without the funding we need- we are funded at 94% . Every year Jeff had to put in an appeal to get the additional funding just to make ends meet. So, he takes funding from one place to help in another place. This past year we the PTA wrote letters to our Superintendent pleading for it. May and June conversations looked like we are going to lose the afterschool programs as those were the money Jeff had to use for the classrooms.

We are just asking not to have to go through this drama of appeals and begging every single year...but just give us just the 100% we are due! In other words, we should not need to beg borrow and steal every year for this money. Though in truth we should get 106% as we are on an island and security costs extra

In our conversation with Tom Shepard from the Pep in fact he said " You have your finger on something that is an equity issue across the board in NYC schools-."He seems interested in being an advocate for us in this.

Sustainability: NAIMA and ELLEN DOBBYN-Blackmore said Nan was working on a grant for \$5000 from the Sustainability arm of the schools.

Rob was on it and Naima says she got it before, and Ellen said it was great that Naima assuaged Rob's fears that it was a whole lot of work reporting. We need to work on the garden and composting. We want to apply to a lot of grants so next spring we can get the money to do things but there isn't a lot to report with COVID.

FUNDRAISING: Marge led the discussion on Virtual fundraisers. Ian's idea was Turkey Trot. Donna said Nan came up with a cookbook as an idea. We need ideas for a monthly event so we are both having fun and interacting. Will make it easier to donate and participate. Someone came up with BINGO night in the chat- great idea! Jeopardy, Trivia Night, Movie Night are all suggestions in the chat. Please join our committee!

Email Marge and Donna to join this committee and help.

Principal's Report Jeff Chetirko

Says tomorrow is a random test day- 58 students will be tested with the shallow nasal test.

With 2 or more positives the school will close. If kids are tested, the company doing the testing tells parents the results. Families cannot do the testing on their own. Must be done through the DOE facilitator. Release COVID testing allowance form MUST be on file.

As far as we know November would be the next time to indicate you wanted to get back to blended from remote. We can't bump you into remote unless we ask you twice for the form and then you are forced to be remote. We get only 50 students per day but have over 100 registered. Because of that our teachers have to show up anyway and can't go remote themselves. Today only 45 students showed up. The only way to do this is to have families opt into the remote.

Showed the October and November schedules on screen to parents. The Parent Teacher conferences will be remote only for those days..... so, teachers could be available to talk to the parents. Parents ask that we not change the schedule again. Jeff agrees heartily but.. the DOE doesn't always concur. Happy to announce masks and uniforms for 9th graders are both coming. Thanks to the PTA Exec for the election process, which isn't easy this year. I appreciate this community more than I can say.

In response to questions in the chat, Jeff went on to say:

Hard to enforce wearing Harbor shirts right now so they have not been doing that.

Afterschool activities- there are none happening right now. Saving per session money for springtime. Hoard resources, to hopefully be on the island then, gambling that COVID will be done by then. Now it's not ideal so we will try to fill in with Restorative circles and other options.

Parent Coordinator Report / Ronni Ettinger says to reach out to her with any and all issues. Invites all to attend the Wellness Wednesday monthly Brain Power invited us all to BREATHE and Ronni said Dianne will be offering parent sessions once a month, Nov 4, 7:15-8:15 being the next session, on coping skills for the pandemic. Will work in classrooms October 22. Asking students to wear pink this week. Wed-Thursday-Friday to show support and donate just a dollar. Helene the nurse will collect money in school and on line. Office of Family Engagement will host parent workshops in November. Thanks to Aneal for sending all those letters out today.

PTA Elections were conducted.

Each person identified themselves and we asked if there were any other nominations.

We took a vote and Nan nominated and Lissa seconded Marge and Ian and they nominated and seconded each other candidate and all candidates were elected **UNANIMOUSLY**.

Marge Richards and Ian McGrath for co- PRESIDENT

Donna Coppola for VICE PRESIDENT.

Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore and Angelic Martinez for SECRETARY

Tamara Johnson for TREASURER

Elizabeth Kirk and Renee Alevras for AQUACULTURE REPs

Debra Sito for MARINE POLICY REP

Kellie Knight and Nan Richardson, MARINE BIOLOGY REPS

Louise Mulvihill and David Chang for MARINE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY REPS

Maureen Packer for VESSEL OPERATIONS REP

Emma Acker for OCEAN ENGINEERING REP

Alex and Cas Stachelberg for PROFESSIONAL DIVING (AKA SCUBA) REPS

SENIOR REP Glenda Hoffman

FRESHMAN REPS

Naima Freitas

Caraid O'Brien

Michelle Eliseo

Sophie Franks-Staub

SLT: Elizabeth Kirk and Donna Coppola

NEXT PTA Meeting is Tuesday, November 17, 2020 on Zoom @ 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:16 pm and passed unanimously