

December 15, 2020@ 6:00 pm

Executive Board Members in attendance: Marge Richards and Ian McGrath **Co-Presidents;** Donna Coppola **Vice President;** Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore and Angie Martinez **Secretaries;** Tamara Johnson **Treasurer;** Elizabeth Kirk, Renee Alevras, Debra Sito, David Chang, Louise Mulvihill, Nan Richardson, Alex and Cas Stachelberg, Maureen Packer, **CTE Parents** Glenda Hoffman, **Senior Parent** and Naima Freitas, Michelle Eliseo, Carraid O'Brian, Sophie Staub, **Freshman Parents**

Welcome and *Meeting called to order by* Marge Richards

Marge Richards welcomed all parents and mentioned that chat comments should be positive and limited to two minutes.

Principal's Report: Jeff Chetirko, Principal, Aneal Helms and Diana Halluska, Assistant Principals

Jeff Chetirko greeted all present with wishes of Happy Holidays. He reported on a positive Covid 19 case in the school community but as no in-person sessions were going on at the time he is merely following protocol and advising the Harbor Community of the news. The individual who tested positive was a staff member who is reportedly doing well. Jeff will make a visit to the Island along with a former graduate to help out in Marine Biology to support some of the living organisms there. An update on the re-opening of the school is still undecided as protocols are fluid, but school should reopen in January in a form as yet to be determined. He will notify the school community as soon as he knows more. Winter Break will begin after 12/23/20, school is scheduled to resume on 1/4/21. January Regents are cancelled. Afterschool Programs have begun. Ronni sent out an Email/Survey went out to students and parents, anyone who did not receive it should reach out to Ronni.

Aneal Helms greeted all and discussed the Community and Catch-up week. The week of 12/21-12/23/20 will have no Live instruction and no new work will be assigned. The intention is to give the students an opportunity to make up any missing work facilitated by Live Office Hours with teachers. There will also be a few Community Events: Arron will host a Boat docking challenge game; Jen the Art teacher will have a few demo lessons; there will be cooking classes, a mask making class, and more. Aneal Helms will host a Show-and-Tell of holiday home decorations. Aneal Helms will send out a sign-up email to all students and she will also send out a schedule for the live Teacher Office Hours during catch-up week.

Diana Halluska reported on a Ninth Grade Advisory Pilot she hopes will be launched in the beginning of 2021. In the beginning of the year she met with the SEL Committee and they discussed how the 9th grade community could be brought together despite the pandemic forcing the cancellation of In-Dock over the summer. A six-week ninth grade program is scheduled that all students will attend once a week. Students will attend by Crews and then be separated into smaller break-out groups and will move through a cycle of six different experiences with advisors. One of the goals is to have the students come together to get to know one another as well as their teachers. Work is ongoing to develop tools for the students to use on how to deal with schoolwork and life with Covid-19, Life, more information will be sent out soon.

Approval of Minutes

The November Minutes written by Angie Martinez and Ellen Dobbryn-Blackmore were posted by Ian McGrath and Marge Richards gave everyone 2 minutes to review. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by Amy Mores and seconded by Donna Coppola; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Tamara Johnson Reported at NYHS PTA December 15, 2020 ● As of November 30, 2020 we have \$39,525.38 in our Chase Checking Account ● As of November 30, 2020 we have \$2,748.99 in our PayPal Account. ● Making our total PTA funds \$42,274.37. ○ We collected \$1,991.12 in parent donations for the month of November. We have begun to sell Harbor Merchandise online and have sold \$332.36 since the start. ○ Please remember to use NYHS PTA Amazon Smile whenever you make a purchase from Amazon.

SLT Committee Report

Marge Richards reported that the administration will be reaching out to students for social and emotional support. The Guidance team will reach out as well. Community catch up week will be December 21st-23rd. The Billion Oyster Project (BOP) is using the MAST building, now that the Electrical work has been accomplished. Chronic Absenteeism was discussed; is this a real problem, or are students merely not signing in to remote learning? Elizabeth Kirk spoke of problems for students with IEP's, steps are being taken to address these with the DOE.

Committee Reports:

SEA Committee: Nan Richardson reported on a busy couple of weeks. Grace Mack, Alfredo Salamanca, and Oggie Stachelberg appeared at the PEP in front of the Chancellor. AT CB1 the same night, Nan, Amy Koza and Amy Koethe, Ian McGrath and Diving teacher Lenny Speregen attended but there was no public speaking allowed, only written comments, so we all posted. In the meantime the SEA is avidly pursuing three temporary aquatics options: a floating barge, container pools and a modular pool, which is an extraordinary thing Amy Koza found. The good thing for us about the modular (Myrtha) Pool is that its manufacturer was the under-bidder for the spa on Governors Island and so they are very familiar with the island. They have already done the preliminary work that would have been needed and that is a real asset in time and cost. The downside is that the price point is higher than what we have in the bank ... the upside is that we can finance it in pieces and it has resale value after our use at 60 cents on the dollar. Visuals will be sent out to the committees and the Trust and Chin's office. Nan is calling on all parents to reach out to their NY City Council members, to get an appointment to see them and to encourage them to support us in our vision of the Island's future and the Harbor School's place in it. Any teachers that are onboard with this can step in as well. There is also a grant opportunity within the DOE that we need to pursue as a school which is called Reimagine Schools. We can plug into this idea of a 9 to 14 school and Jeff would love to do that. This could mean an incredible future for Marine Science and Climate change science right here at Harbor.—a chance to grow from right here at NYHS 's little hub on Governors Island into something bigger.

The PTA NYHS 2020-2021 Handbook is posted on the PTA website. The handbook does not address the particular circumstances that are happening due to Covid-19 (because of the continuing week -to-week changes!) It's a handbook for when we return back to school, yet even for now it has a lot of good information. In the past the Freshman parents have been really happy to look at it and get a feel for what the school is like. If anyone has ideas for changes or added information for next year, please reach out to Nan Richardson.

Events/Fundraising: Donna Coppola reported that Friday 12/18/20 will be the first Virtual Family Funfest Event which is a Bingo night with an Ugly Sweater Contest at 7pm. It will cost \$10 and a link will be sent out.

Participants can pay when they sign up, or on that evening. There will be Door prizes of Harbor Swag. The administration will judge the Ugly Sweater Contest and staff will play for free. Donations will go to the Teachers' Wish list.

Maureen Packer reported on using ShopwithScripts whereby participants can make a donation to the school while shopping as they normally do. Go to the website ShopwithScripts to sign up. The link will be placed in the chat or interested parties can download the app called "Raising Right" which would be linked to a card to be shopped with. The Harbor School gets a percentage of the amount spent with the gift cards. This is a great way for the Harbor School to generate passive income in the long term, without having to stage big events. There are 750 vendors choose from and the program is easy to use. Please email Maureen with any questions.

Donna Coppola reported on the website of Café Press (<https://www.cafepress.com/newyorkharborschoolpta1>) Additional Harbor Gear is available there. A bit of the proceeds benefits the school. All items are of good quality. Any questions can be directed to Donna Coppola.

Nan Richard reported that the Cookbook will soon be available.

Communication: Ian McGrath reported that the committee's focus is on putting together a Harbor News Letter, providing updates on what is happening around the Harbor School community. There are some articles on the committee's Facebook page and they are hoping to get it all out on a single newsletter.

All are encouraged to speak about any interests they have via email to Ian at pta@newyorkharbor.org or via groups.io. Another project the committee is working on is a Film/Tour of the Harbor School. Ian reported that the committee is looking to get a drone to record some aerial footage, and Rick the Engineering teacher and a filmmaker parent will get together to make that happen. The committee is also trying to keep up with the website and Facebook to keep it interesting.

Sustainability: Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore reported that Nan, the committee's founder, has reenergized the committee. An email detailing several projects which can be worked on regardless of Covid-19 restrictions has been sent to a list of parents who had previously expressed interest, and now is waiting for responses.

CTE Reps:

AQUACULTURE: Renee Alevras, working with Elizabeth Kirk reported they are working with Roy on resume writing with the Juniors and Seniors. They are looking into internship placement and an idea on the delivery of science kits to be used in the New Year.

MARINE BIO: Nan Richardson reported on looking into finding a way to have Marine Bio teacher Mauricio have support with a technical assistant of some kind. Marine Bio students are also doing resume writing, and the Reps (Nan and Kellie Knight) are looking into ways to support work-based learning opportunities for Marine Bio students. Nan reported on putting together a film series about climate change and environmental issues. It has been difficult nowadays for the internships and the students cannot do any real science sampling virtually. She also spoke of working on a fillable pdf that would be useful for all work-based learning for all CTES.

MARINE POLICY: Debra Sito reported that Marine Policy is very busy and Rob Markuskie is moving towards certification. He has a lot of MOU's in progress. Like all the other CTES, work-based learning and resumes are being worked on. The Near Peer Panel this week was about Marine Policy. The students got other students' perspectives on Marine Policy and information on learning the skills like public speaking, podcasting, writing and advocacy. There will be a meeting/summit happening with the Economic Development Corp and Marine Policy this week on Thursday. Some of the research being done by the students and the Economic Development Corp will be available to the public. The parents of the Marine Policy students will be able to attend the meeting/summit. Lastly Rob would like to make a request for Podcast equipment. A budget will be

suggested and submitted to the PTA Executive board for review and it will be presented for a vote at the Next PTA meeting.

MARINE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY: David Wang reported that the students are still learning remotely. He reported their goal of raising \$10,000 dollars for 2021-2022 for individual welding PPE equipment such as welding masks and gloves as sharing such welding equipment is no longer allowed.

OCEAN ENGINEERING: Emma / no report

PROFESSIONAL DIVING/SCUBA: Alex Stachelberg and Cas Stachelberg reported they are working with the SEA committee to get a pool, and they welcome more parents to join. Oggie Stachelberg (their son) was able to speak towards the end of the PEP meeting regarding the future of Governor's Island and was acknowledged. Cas emphasized that having students speak at such meetings is a powerful way to further our goals. It is hoped that parents can encourage more such participation by students. The PEP member was very interested about plans for the pool and would like to visit the school to help further.

VESSEL OPS: Maureen Packer reported that Aaron has been continuing his programs and classes to help students understand what career opportunities exist for them. A few weeks ago there was a Panel with women and men that assisted Harbor to get a boat and simulation equipment. Events exploring career opportunities in cargo shipping, Ferries and more are helping students to understand the scope of what opportunities are available. This month there will be an event that's for women in maritime. All the events are recorded and posted on the Harbor YouTube channel. Maureen encourages parents to check out the vesselops.org page, and to please join the vessel ops io group and try to schedule a meet and greet.

FRESHMAN REP: Naima Freitas reported that the Freshman IO group has been very active. Carraid O'Brien spoke of an ice-skating event at the Brookfield Skating Rink on Saturday December 19th. The cost will be \$20 dollars to skate and parents who don't want to skate can just meet up to get a hot chocolate and socialize. All are looking forward to the Freshman Advisory Group.

SENIOR REP: Glenda Hoffman reported that their group met last week, and Paula set up a google classroom for the yearbook; students were sent an invitation to join and were advised to send in pictures. Another email has been sent out to the Seniors to sign up for designs for the Senior Shirt. The Senior pictures have been postponed until March 3rd 2021 and March 5th 2021. What provisions will be made for remote-only students to be photographed has yet to be determined. A virtual "I Applied" celebration is being planned. No dates are available yet for prom or Graduation.

Parent Coordinator's Report:

Parent Coordinator Ronni Ettinger reported she would like to mention that Jessica Cuevas is the College and Career Counselor who will be hosting an 11th grade meeting to provide them with a college information workshop. On Thursday 12/17 there will an Admissions virtual event from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Anyone who knows of any eighth graders interested in attending the Harbor School should please reach out to Ronni. On December 17th the DOE will host their version of office hours via a virtual Town Hall meeting to address the questions and concerns parents have with regards to student health and safety.

NEXT PTA Meeting is Tuesday, January 19, 2021 on Zoom @ 6:00 pm