
MINUTES

NEW YORK HARBOR SCHOOL PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 @ 6:00 PM, ZOOM CALL

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

AMY KOZA AND IAN McGRATH **CO-PRESIDENTS**; DONNA COPPOLA **VICE PRESIDENT**; RENEE ALEVRAS, BRIDGETTE BETHEA **RECORDING SECRETARIES**; TAMARA JOHNSON **TREASURER**; ELIZABETH KIRK, DEBRA SITO, DAVID CHANG, CARAID O'BRIEN, MAUREEN PACKER, NATHALIE ROBBINS, NAN RICHARDSON, ALEX AND CAS STACHELBERG, **CTE REPRESENTATIVES**; JEANNIE CRETARA **SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE**

REPORTS & DISCUSSION: 20 MINUTES

- Welcome and Introduction of Board Members to Harbor Families (Amy Koza & Ian McGrath, Co-Presidents)
 - Ian McGrath welcomed all and then introduced PTA Board Members:
 - Co-President Amy Koza introduced herself
 - Treasurer Tamara Johnson said hello
 - Co-Secretaries Renee Alevras and Bridgette Bethea said hello
 - Vice President Donna Coppola introduced herself
 - CTE MST Rep David Chang introduced himself and asked for co-rep volunteers. He provided his email contact for those interested: kpeak96@yahoo.com
 - CTE Marine Policy Rep Debra Sito introduced herself and requested volunteers to be co-representatives with her
 - CTE Diving Reps Cas and Alex Stachelberg introduced themselves and also asked for co-rep volunteers to contact: go2alexs@gmail.com
 - CTE Vessel Operations Reps Maureen Packer and Nathalie Robbins introduced themselves and asked for co-rep volunteers to contact: maureentpacker@gmail.com
 - *Acting* CTE Marine Bio Rep Nan Richardson introduced herself and asked for volunteers for this position to email her at nanmrichardson@gmail.com. Nan requested help identifying internships for

students in the Marine Bio CTE. Tricia Realtor and Samantha Lee (samhonore@gmail.com) volunteered to be a CTE Marine Bio Rep.

- CTE Aquaculture Rep + IEP Rep Elizabeth Kirk introduced herself and promoted the I.O. Groups. She noted that families could reach out to her for any help with 504, IEP, or other special education needs
- Senior Committee Co-chair Jeannie Cretara introduced herself and requested volunteers to help out. Senior co-chairs must attend all senior meetings and report back to the PTA, so help is needed to divide the meetings among multiple volunteers. Senior co-chairs do NOT have to be parents of seniors.
- *Former* Freshman (9th Grade) Rep Caraid O'Brien, whose son is now a 10th grader, introduced herself and requested volunteers to be the new 9th-Grade Reps to email her at caraidobrien@gmail.com
- Summary Intro of Big Projects and Events for 2021-2022 (Amy & Ian)
 - Amy summarized the following:
 - There is a new school store that offers daily supplies and uniforms. She requested parent volunteers to help with the school store.
 - Fundraising ideas and volunteers to help with fundraising events are needed. The Oyster Classic will take place in June. More information is upcoming and volunteers will be needed. A possible Turkey Trot will occur in the fall--volunteers are requested for this as well. Please contact Amy Koza with fundraising ideas or to volunteer with fundraising at: aepkoza@gmail.com
 - BOP (Billion Oyster Project) event on Thursday (September 23) was still requesting additionally volunteers starting at 5:30pm
- Review & Accept Minutes from June 2021 meeting (Renee Alevras and Bridgette Bethea, Co-Recording Secretaries)

- o Renee Alevras presented the minutes. Amy Koza motioned to approve the minutes. Caraid O'Brien, Alex Stachelberg, and Donna Coppola seconded. Ian McGrath approved the minutes.
- Treasurer's Report (Tamara Johnson, Treasurer)
 - o Tamara Johnson reviewed the treasury report for the months of June, July, and August. Please see detailed reports [here](#). Tamara reminded families to "Shop with Scrip" <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login> to raise money for school and make PayPal donations with "Friends and Family" function to avoid extra fees. Put "Donation to PTA" in notes to clarify the reason for payment.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT JEFF CHETIRKO 20 MINS

- Principal's Report
 - o Amy Koza introduced the principal Jeff Chetirko.
 - o Jeff introduced the Assistant Principals: Jacky Stephenson, Diana Halluska, and Aneal Helms.
 - o He introduced and described Harbor's new family facing website which can be found at sites.google.com/newyorkharborschool.org/harbor-families/home. The site is meant to mitigate emails and provide access to important information including Bell Schedules, Staff Email Directory, and the DOE Calendar
 - o He thanked the PTA and highlighted the significant contributions of Amy Koza and David Chang.
 - o He shared his sorrow and insights on the impact of the loss of PTA member Ellen Dobbyn-Blackmore. He emphasized that Harbor High School supports families and that families should know they can reach out to the school administration for support whether it's school supplies or emotional well-being. They are present to help connect families to the resources they may need.

- o He summarized the success of the summer rising and summer Indock programs which serviced three different schools, provided orientation programs to both 9th and 10th grade students, and provided paid employment to about 40 students.
- o He noted that Ronni Ettinger, the parent coordinator, is on medical leave until December and that any questions families have should be directed to administration or teachers.
- o He noted that the Chancellor updated the COVID testing protocol. Random COVID testing will now be weekly (as opposed to bi-weekly). He requested that families complete the consent for testing forms and have students turn them into Paul, the school dean, or turn them into a teacher to give to Paul.
- o He shared that students are doing a great job of mask wearing. Aneal Helms noted that grade teams have meetings to raise morale around mask-wearing
- o He introduced the school nurse: Helaine Winograd. She has access to a list of student consent forms.
- o He announced that an after school programming fair will take place Friday (Sept 24) in the morning and at lunch for students to learn about and sign up for programs.
- o He noted that the company we receive uniforms from is experiencing a national shortage and uniforms should arrive by the 30th. There will be no penalties for students not wearing a uniform before uniforms are available.
- o He shared that Harbor School is part of the GI RFEI and different programs are writing proposals for how they can contribute to the Climate Center in hopes to win \$150 million for the project. This means many programs are seeking to work with or collaborate with Harbor.
- o He shared that Harbor worked over the summer to help the Redhook Middle School align its curriculum with theirs. The Harbor Middle School will begin next year.

- o Aneal Helms noted that Senior Photos will take place on Tuesday, October 12. Ninth, 10th, and 11th grade photos will take place Wednesday, Oct. 13.
- o Jackye Stephenson noted there is a metrocard delay. The main office is providing letters from the DOE to show to station agents. Admin is asking students that have experienced agents not accepting their letters to share their experience with them in the main office.
- o Jeff noted that 100% of Harbor faculty is showing up and excited to work with students in-person this year.
- Q & A with Jeff
 - o A Parent asked if vaccinated students needed testing or consent. Jeff said if a student is vaccinated it should be recorded in the DOE portal, but there have been some issues with the portal, so please send documents to the admin team if you're having trouble with the DOE Vaccine portal which can be found at <https://vaccine.schools.nyc/>
 - o A parent asked what the academic plan was for students that tested positive for COVID. Jeff said the student will learn remotely and the grade team + counselor will work with the student.

NEW BUSINESS: 20 MINS

- General Information and Call for Volunteers (Donna Coppola, Vice President)
 - o Donna Coppola asked parents to email her or Amy Koza if they'd like to volunteer or join a committee: Donna = donnacoppola520@gmail.com Amy = aepkoza@gmail.com
- Navigating Harbor School Info: Link to PTA Site, Handbook (Ian McGrath)
 - o Ian introduced and shared his screen to showcase the PTA website: <https://newyorkharborschoolpta.com/>
 - o <https://newyorkharborschoolpta.files.wordpress.com/2020/12/nyhs-pta-handbook-2020-2021.pdf>

- Intro to Parent Communication Platform Groups i.o (Ian McGrath)
 - Ian introduced the io groups as the main platform used for parents to communicate with parents. Link: <https://nyhsparents.groups.io/g/main/>
- Invitation to Freshman Family Nominations for Class Reps (Amy Koza)
 - Amy Koza described the need for new 9th Grade Reps. Zac Martin, zacmartin76@gmail.com, and Laura Paddock, laura@lapaddock.com, volunteered.
- Invitation to Nominations for Open Positions on SLT Committee and PTA Exec Board - CTE Reps and Co-Treasurer, Elections in October (Amy and Ian)
 - A few parents asked what the time commitments or descriptions of the roles were. The PTA bylaws found on the PTA website have descriptions of all PTA roles. Tricia Realtor and Steven Sposito expressed interest in volunteering.
https://newyorkharborschoolpta.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/harbor-pta-bylaws-april-2019_signed.pdf
- Information on IEP Support (Elizabeth Kirk)
 - Elizabeth described her certification and invited families to reach out to her for any support needed or wanted with 504s or IEPs.
- Vaccine Referral Program (Ian McGrath)
 - Ian described the Vaccine Referral Program and encouraged families to promote the program as it provides the patient with \$100 and gives the PTA \$100 if the patient says they were referred by the NYHHS PTA.

COMMITTEE UPDATES: 15 MINS

- Fundraising: All Hands on Deck (Donna Coppola)
 - Donna described that the program provides funding for senior activities, school trips, and teacher projects. The program asks for family donations via the school website donation button (please select the family + friends option), and Amazon Smile.

- Communication: (Ian McGrath)
 - Ian said the Communication Committee is in need of volunteers with video, graphic, technical, and writing skills. He also requested a Spanish speaker to help check the Spanish translations of announcements and documents. He noted that a PTA survey of families interests and availability in volunteering will be sent out soon.
- Events: (Amy Koza)
 - Amy restated a request for fundraising event ideas.
- Sustainability: (Amy Koza)
 - Amy Koza reported that sustainability is currently focusing on maintaining the school's garden and could use additional volunteers with this effort
- SEA - School Expansion/Advocacy: (Nan Richardson)
 - Nan shared that the SEA started 4 years ago and with the work of over 80 parents has finally secured a new building for the school. She noted that they have a \$200,000 grant and a \$5,000 grant, and while they have a solid core group of parents they need more volunteers with writing, grant-writing, financial, building, and architectural skills. They need help with planning and fundraising for this new building. Please email Nan: nanrichardson@gmail.com
- Senior Class Committee: (Jeannie Cretara)
 - see above
- Freshman Rep: (TBD)
 - see above

PARENTS QUESTIONS: 30 MINS

- Questions and Chat

PARENT COORDINATOR RONNI ETTINGER: NA

CTE INTRODUCTIONS AND UPDATES (IN BREAKOUT ROOMS): 15 MINS

- Amy Koza and David Chang proposed that we save the CTA Breakout Rooms until the next PTA meeting.
- Aquaculture: (Elizabeth Kirk and Grace Mak)
 - no updates presented
- Marine Biology: (acting - Nan Richardson)
 - Noted that the BioSEALS club meets Wednesdays after school and they do science experiments.
- Marine Policy & Advocacy: (Debra Sito)
 - no updates presented
- Marine Systems Technology: (David Chang)
 - David thanked Mr. Chris Greene for his PTA donation. He noted that PPE and money is needed and the MST will send a proposal to Ian and Amy at the next PTA meeting.
- Ocean Engineering: (Caraid O'Brien)
 - no updates presented
- Professional Diving: (Alex Stachelberg and Cas Stachelberg)
 - Alex noted that Lenny is requesting families return all paperwork so they can get students into the pool soon.
- Vessel Operations: (Maureen Packer and Nathalie Robbins)
 - Maureen thanked the Boat Classic for raising \$3000. She noted that the Waterfront club is open to all CTEs and will be at the Friday After School Programming fair. The Waterfront club meets Tues/Wed after school until 6pm.
- Amy Koza noted that 9th Grade parents could email her with any outstanding questions.
- Adjourn at 8:01 pm by Ian McGrath. Seconded by Renee Alevras. Meeting ended.

NEXT GENERAL PTA MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 19, 6-8 PM ON ZOOM
