Wednesday October 6th, 2021 Mineola High School PTSA Meeting

Start time ZOOM 7:05pm

**Attendance:**

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| Amy Polmar  Christa Basel  Silvana DeFilippo  Nicole Matzer  Yoomi Chang  Janine Sartori  Nancy L. Farrelly  Zenobia Haddock  Wanda Catalano  Stefanie Widman  Cina Palumbo  Lori Massaro  Patrick Talty  Zacharo Swartwood  Mary Desiderio  Cathy Carr  Dawn Catania  Debbie Tobar  Maugie Ballantyne!  Kathy Escorcia  Christina Lingley  Michele Zaransky  Nancy Faccio  Whittney Smith  Rob Connolly  Diane Connolly  Aileen Scott  Irene Parrino  Joanne Stiehl  Jessica Laffey  Lisa Kelly  Gabriela Ramos  Christina Lingley  Michelle Rescigno  Dr. Nagler  Dr. Smith |
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**Kathy Escorcia:**

-Welcome to the meeting – kicking off with Deborah with the Treasurer report

**Treasurer Report** - Deborah DeSilva

Off to a good start, maintaining a steady pace for new memberships. Processing last year’s sprit wear for t-shirt and the Plant sale was very successful fund raiser

Staff appreciation donations are coming in.

Expenses thus far: 8th grade BBQ, membership dues in terms of what we pay for Member hub service and Plant Sales expense (cost of the plants itself),

Outstanding checks are scholarship awarded at the last graduation, gift card purchase for guessing Jar.

Kathy acknowledged that the Treasurer Report looked good and no one had any questions.

**Committee Reports** – Christa Basel

Starting with Fundraising 95 families pre-ordered with a total of 506 items about 25% higher than last year. 1st year of day of sale we had a table with mums and combination baskets we sold out everything – profit was $2,100 thank you volunteers who helped with unloading the truck.

Overall event went very well and very successful.

Homecoming on 10/09 we are selling Thunder Stix – for $3 for a pair or $5 for 2 pairs, not making money off it something for the kids to have during the game.

Start with our Gift Card Blitz – these are offered all year round and can be ordered from shoptoscript.com but during holidays you can buy these Gift Cards for own personal shopping. You can get them Digitally in minutes and start using them.

**Reflections** – Irene Parrino

First time in HS – this years theme is “I will change the world by…”

Dance

Film

Literature

Music

Photography

Visual Arts

All information is online – including the entry form

Deadline is November 8th

Allows kids to express themselves through art – has been offered through Middle School. Hoping for a strong response. One from each category will go to Nassau Regionals and then off to State and National. Looking forward to a strong response – District Council is planning a celebration so this will be exciting.

**Membership update** – Diana DeJesus

Happy to inform that the Teachers Association is at 100% of membership- Thank you

351 members – 90% to goal

If you have not signed up you can do so on Saturday 10/09 during Homecoming

**Trunk or Treat**

New event for entire community – looking for volunteers to decorate their trunks. Total of 25 spots available – 10 Trunks have already signed up lots.

October 22nd – 6:30-8pm

Ticket sale for treats starts on Friday 10/08 - $2/treater each will get a bag and a glowstick while supplies last. Flyers are distributed and its on social media.

Prize for the TOP 3 trunk decorators.

Our merch is on squad locker – QR code will be available during homecoming.

Squad locker items are on back order. We do not make money on this but it’s a good for school spirit.

**Correspondence** – Zenobia Haddock

Only 1 correspondence from Mineola Teachers Association – Dear Ms. Melendez and Ms. Escorcia – 100% teacher membership for PTA and Septa is a priority and sent a check for every teacher in the association.

**Update from Mr. Drew**

New through the Library – students approached the Library teacher Mr. Pellbaum and expressed an interest in creating a podcast varying in topis from world news to sports and other topics of interest.

3 kids who are engaged in this effort – Robert Basel, Tanish Batra and Sean Sabage.

Want to invite kids

Book Clubs – choosing and reading independent books and then be able to discuss ideas with other kids reading the same book.

Eighth graders are reading new book – I will always write back

True story – about a teenager in PA who through random acts become pen pal friends with a kid from Zimbabwe develop a friendship that last over 20 years – this opens the teens eyes to Global poverty. Her family sponsors the child from Zimbabwe and get him to come to America and attend an American college. Overall, it’s an uplifting story people helping people. Over the course of next few week kids can do 2 community service by signing up through Student Service Center.

**Music Parents** – Joanne Stiehl

Undefeated Marching Band – looking for volunteers to help including students and parents who can help in any way.

Please cheer for the band during the Homecoming

Meetings will be now on Thursdays we it does not conflict with the PTSA’s Wednesday meeting.

**Booster Club** – Cathy Carr

Booster Club meeting on 10/12 -become a member of Booster club – you can pay the dues via VENMO – please make sure to put details like your name when paying via Venmo.

Biggest event is the Mustang Stakes – Fall sports each team, each player gives $5 for the baskets for the Mustang Stakes event in February.

Working hard at the Snack Shack at the night games – please continue to support it.

*What is Booster Club?*

It is a parent Organization that facilitates for Athletes – membership fee of $25 each family provides 1 time scholarship for EOY that you can apply for and hosts snack shack @Hampton.

They support kids who do internal and external sporting events.

**PTSA will have table at Homecoming on Saturday 10/09 – will sell thunder Stix and provide games for younger kids at no cost – this is to get them involved, Kids can win prizes**

**Septa – Kathy Escorcia (on behalf of Miriam S.)**

Septa for homecoming is selling Lanyards at Homecoming – they too are looking for members looking for volunteers to help at the table at Homecoming. Septa has already signed up for a Trunk for Trunk or Treat. Meeting is in January but there is an event sponsored by Septa in November called the World Kindness event so be on the lookout for that.

**District Council – Amy Polmar**

There is a district sponsored app called Goose Chase it’s a scavenger hunt app available to all schools anyone can join. Started by Meadow Drive during the Pandemic if you are interested to sign up please contact your PTA unit to sign up.

District Council is in discussion to setup a district wide movie night at HS field so more to come on that. In addition, setting up the Goofballs Christmas decoration contest more info to follow.

**Board of Ed – Dr. Nagler**

**Agenda – Sperry Building purchase and the Synergy Program**

Sperry Building – **Vote on 10/26** – for the public to vote in favor not of the purchase of the Sperry Building, right across the HS building. Purchase is for $4.25M this is coming from the undesignated funds balance, in essence it means buying it in cash.

Building will house Synergy program – new program replacing old MAPS program which has been operating out of the MMS Annex for the last 3 years.

MAPS was a small program – for 9&10th graders this year has 30 students participating

What is Synergy?

Change the structure of HS – in compliance with Regent’s requirements, 22 credits that we need to graduate all the subject area. We cannot change that, but we can change how we deliver that and how kids progress through the subjects.

1. Teach the subjects asynchronously (course work will be available online and progress at their own pace)- included will be office hours with teachers who can help them too.
2. Focus on transition skills – transition from teenager to an adult, transition to college, life after school – strengthening Executive functioning – plan, work on a plan and complete the plan.

# Goals for Synergy –

* Following your passion
* Changing the structure of school
* Focusing on the transition skills

Its not an alternative to coursework it is a not special Ed – this will allow kids who do not fit the mold of traditional school to be able to ‘fit in’ and excel in school.

This space is crucial for Synergy Program – details need to be ironed out the proximity to the HS is what makes this investment so important.

Displayed pics inside and out of the Sperry building – this helps us mimic the world of work for our HS students.

It’s a rare opportunity – we can buy it now and if not needed we can sell it later but if we miss this opportunity, we probably won’t have another opportunity to buy it again. Sales of buildings like this just don’t come up!

Think of this as an expansion of HS campus – we won’t have to bus kids to Cross St that they can walk right across.

Went over concept of ‘We Work’ – young professional rent space from us in exchange for them mentoring out kids. Logistics must be worked out – regarding safety of our kids, the professionals must thoroughly vetted before they can interface with our kids.

There is a lot of misinformation on Social Media – please get involved come to the meetings and have an opportunity to get answers to their questions/concerns.

At this time Kathy Escorcia the PTSA President noted –

“Having heard the presentation, at this time I propose that’s a Mineola HS PTSA support the purchase of the property located at 2400 Jericho Turnpike, Garden City Park also knows as “Sperry” building. Do I have a motion? “

Colleen Torres and Amy Polar seconded the motion.

There were no objections from audience.

Hearing no opposition to the proposal it passes by acclimation.

**Dr. Smith Update**

Dr. Smith shared his thoughts on the benefits of investing in this opportunity. There is more info on the District website and there will be an OUTREACH Bulletin that will be sent home which will give details about the purchase and future. Any misinformation should be referred to these resources.

Over a month into school – things are looking great – children are excited to be back. Children are excited to participate in various clubs – Marching Band, Color Guard etc. Classes are full and safety protocols are being followed.

Homecoming and Parade are back – shared details on where the parade will be starting – its starts at 12:30 pm on 10/09 please start assembling at 12:00 pm on Andrew’s road. The varsity football game follows (2:00pm).

**He congratulated this year’s homecoming court:**

**Freshman Princess** – Madelyn Troche

**Sophomore Princess** – Michaela Palumbo

**Junior Princess** –Kaitlin Kelly

**Senior King and Queen** – Connor McLaughlin and Isabella Galan

Dr. Smith reminded It is time to purchase your 2022 yearbooks.  The cost of this year’s yearbook is $120 dollars plus tax. The cost of the yearbook will be $110.00 plus tax if you order before October 31st.  You can order your yearbooks at [JOSTENSYEARBOOKS.COM](http://www.jostensyearbook.com)

* 110 Mineola High School students have been recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars as a result of their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams (36 - AP Scholars with Distinction; 22 - AP Scholar with Honor; 52 - AP Scholars).  Additionally, we are proud to announce that 15 students received the Capstone Diploma Designation and 3 students received the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. Students take AP exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses in the district in a variety of subjects.
* Congratulations to our All-State Musicians for 2021!
  + Arwen Lopez - Vocal Jazz
  + Adam Tobar - Electronic Music Composition
  + Bridget Cunningham - Alto 1 Alternate
* Congratulations to Newsday Top 50 Volleyball Player Daniella Speranza and Top 100 Boys Soccer Player Joe Cerrato. We are proud of your accomplishments both on and off the court/field.
* Congratulations to Bethany Shatz who was selected by Newsday and the Long Island Arts Alliance as a Scholar Artist. She was chosen out of 100s of artists throughout Long Island for having a 90+ average and incredible art portfolio.
* Ms. Sclafani's 11th grade classes will be continuing our newest tradition at Mineola High school, creating the 2nd Annual Flag Field of Honor.  This year students have already begun working on their Veterans Awareness Projects, and the entire 11th grade class will be voting to choose a local Veterans charity to donate their fundraising efforts toward.  Flags to honor past and present service members can be purchased for $20 each (or 3 for $50) and will be flown in front of Mineola High School from Veterans Day to Thanksgiving.  The Field of Honor fundraiser will begin October 4 and will continue until October 15.  More information and Flag ordering forms will be sent out in the next week.  All questions can be directed to Francine Sclafani ([fsclafani@mineola.k12.ny.us](mailto:fsclafani@mineola.k12.ny.us)) at Mineola High School.
* Congratulations to Alvin Tsai and Katherine Ahn who were named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program.
* Congratulations to Andrew Paternostro who was recognized by College Board as a National Hispanic Scholar
* We are excited to welcome Adelphi University’s Admissions Department representatives who will be meeting with all seniors to discuss the college essay process.

The Marching Band’s show, entitled “Tragedy of a Champion” had a first place finish in each of its first two competitions and will be performed at our Homecoming football game on October 8.. You can also see it performed at upcoming shows at Malvern on October 2, Arlington High School on October 10, Sachem HS on October 16 and of course our home show on October 23

Our Business Club and Entrepreneurship class sold out on all left-over goods we paired that with the first spirit day of the year and we were excited about that.

Student Organization (SO) has been busy with a food drive this year it is a combo food drive.

We started CANstruction it’s an Engineering type project - n which she will create a structure out of the non-perishable goods that are collected and then later donated to local food drives

We have partnered with Northwell Health to provide children the support with school Mental Health issues as we know there is an overall need but also some kids are having difficulties adjusting to coming back to school.

Question:

Is this support open only to HS?

Mental Health support is available to schools in the district. Its for students and families.

Where is it located?

Its on 2nd street – off of Mineola Blvd open from 8am – 8pm.

**Some important dates and details of this information can be found in the October Newsletter:**

*October Newsletter (can be found on Mineola HS website)*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FitwJu3o-bWisNqVfKV0tdPTs8ZBoTczQZksOT2KRok/edit>

2 main takeaways –

COME TO HOMECOMING ON SATURDAY OCTOBER 9th!

GO OUT AND VOTE ON OCTOBER 26th !

**Meeting over – 7:52 PM**