

COMMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA
Minutes of Meeting Held April 18, 2024

- I. **Call to order:** 9:30 a.m. Pledge
- II. **Approval of Mar-24 Minutes** – Approved
- III. **Principal's Report – Dr. Larson**
 - The final exam calendar can be confusing. The calendar was shared with parents and community members on April 9th. This is so that parents know the schedule and have time to plan and make arrangements if needed.
 - June 4th is the Algebra regents but this is a regular school day for middle school students. They will take the test in the new gymnasium in the morning.
 - Below are a list of a few important dates to keep in mind:
 - June 14th is the administration of the living environment regents. If your child is in earth science in 8th grade, they do not come to school that day. 6th and 7th grade students will come to school for field day activities.
 - June 19th all kids are off for Juneteenth
 - June 20th is the earth science regents and students enrolled in living environment will not come to school that day.
 - Starting June 14th, it is 2 hour school days when the exam schedule takes place.
- IV. **Vice Principal's Report – Mr. Agovino & Ms. Martin**
 - **Ms. Martin** - State assessment for ELA took place April 11th and 12th and it went really well. We are looking forward to more computer-based testing in the future.
 - Math testing will be taking place on May 8th and 9th with an adjusted bell schedule. The adjusted bell schedule will go out to parents and students as it gets closer to the testing date.
 - Gold and white night was a great night and congrats to the white team as they were the winners.
 - Adventureland trip for the 8th graders is coming up and they will be given their T-shirts beforehand. An email was sent out with a link for volunteers for chaperones.
 - **Mr. Agovino** – The adventureland trip is almost up to 100% participation and it is awesome. The kids have such a great time. We do need some more chaperones for the trip. We have around 18 right now but we are looking for more. A letter will be going home asking for help.
 - David Miller is coming to the art rooms for adobe workshops for the 7th graders.
 - There will be three more arts in ed programs taking place in June...including Jester Jim and Corey the Dribbler who will be joining us on June 16th.
 - On June 21st we have the brain challenge.
- V. **Student Council Report – Ms. Cherney**
 - The student government is planning the 8th grade dance which is Friday June 7th and the theme is Neon night. The BBQ is Monday June 10th after school.
 - NJHS is still doing their community collections. April they are collecting little make up bags and travel sized toiletries. They will be packaged and given to shelters. In June they are collecting back packs and school supplies to be given to the shelters so they have materials to start the school year in September.
 - Yearbooks are still on sale for \$55 until the end of April. If you ordered a yearbook, please make sure you have a receipt in your email from Jostens to make sure you have the receipt and that the book was purchased. Sometimes it is forgotten and left in your cart and wasn't actually purchased.
- VI. **President's Report – Marta Sliwska**
 - We are still taking orders for the 8th grade lawn signs. Pre order is open until April 30th. There have been questions on facebook asking if they placed an order or not, please check your email and see if you have a

receipt or reach out to Marta and she will look into it for you. We will let you know when pick up will be as soon as we have the information.

- We are taking donations for the CMS staff lunch scheduled for June 16th. Any amount is appreciated. You can make donation through memberhub. If you want to give a check or cash, please send to the school labeled Staff lunch donation.
- The book fair is coming up May 20th-23rd. We will be sending out a volunteer schedule for you to sign up to help. Help is much needed and appreciated.

VII. **Vice President's Report – Jenn Engheben and Linda DeAngelis**

- When you are searching your emails for receipts, please look for givebacks as it is not listed as memberhub anymore.

VIII. **Treasurer's Report – Noel Darvassy - \$32,000 in account and all bills have been paid.**

IX. **Correspondence – Alexandra Tsoiilis – Nothing to Report**

X. **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Arts in Ed – Tracy Decena –**
 - David O'Miller will be in the Art room next month for Adobe Photoshop for 7th graders.
 - Also, I just want to mention that Brain Challenge will be here in June for an end of the year assembly. They ask for 5 prizes for each show they perform. There will be 2 shows, PTA has paid for this in the past. I would need \$100 to purchase 10 \$10 gift cards. I would need it before the June 21st show so we have plenty of time. Let me know if there are any questions.
- **Board of Education Report – Heather Gordon**
 - Keeping under the 2 percent tax cap for the budget. State aid only increased by 1.6 million dollars this year compared to last year's 4 million dollars. Despite the much less increase in state aid, we are still able to keep all our programs.
 - We will be maintaining small class sizes capping at 29 but try to keep the number below that in each class. If class size is approaching that max they will put support in that class if needed.
 - Tower gardens in the primary schools will be placed.
 - In process of rebranding the IB learner profile.
 - Cedar Road school is part of the school district and they will be graduating with a Commack Diploma. Some of the students will be integrated back into the high school for one period to start and that is very exciting.
 - The high school will be more differentiated where the students can choose what school they want to be a part of so the classes are more geared to that career path.
 - Creation of the financial literacy lab is a big cost of the budget and will be part of the school of business.
 - Important dates to remember is to register to vote either at the high school or middle school depending on where you live. This is where you will also go to vote.
 - Tonight is the meeting for the budget at 8pm.
- **Budget – vote on 5/21 and CMS and CHS**
- **Council Report – Jenn Engheben**
 - Dr. Cox said they will be sending videos out regarding Commack Vision; he asked us to talk with our kids and discuss with them how to possibly brand our vision for Commack. He also discussed much of the educational program for K-5 so that they begin to align with the middle and high school programs.
 - Debbie Virga wanted to thank the community for all the formal wear that was collected for the prom drive. Additionally they will be selling flags for freedom soon and the funds will be going to the

25th year of remembrance of 911 and we are hoping to get the towers as well as have a drone show for that ceremony in 2026.

- President's Report –
 1. Discussed the Yankee game this weekend, and that North Ridge had a winner for this week's raffle for a family and Indian Hollow had a winner for the raffle for teacher/staff. Directions or emails on how to transfer the Yankee tickets to your account.
 2. Additionally, each unit should be finalizing slates, and those folks who are nominated must be current PTA members. There will also be one more round table for the year and incoming presidents and current presidents are invited.
 3. Finally, they wanted to highlight that North Ridge put a book vending machine in their building, and thought that they would like to share it with the Commack PTA community. Students will receive tokens on special events like their birthday, and will be able to put the token in the machine and select any book they would like.
- Committee Reports –
 1. Blood drive will be occurring on May 8th at CMS
 2. District action Awareness – look out for a letter to ask the town to resend their support for the rail
 3. Membership – overall membership for each unit is low. We discussed multiple ideas on how to improve and increase our membership. A reminder that membership shows that you support the PTA and what we do. Ex: when we reach out to other entities such as the town to oppose the rail, it shows that we are representing the majority of the families.
 4. Photography – dates have been sent to the district and once the district calendar comes out for the year, units will be asked to get their extra three event dates to our photography person who will be Tara Fore taking over for Toni Newman.
 5. REACH CYA – the Friday teen events are going well. There is a park cleanup on April 26th from 11 to 1. You can meet up at Old Farms and have transportation to/from the park cleanup. Additionally, REACH CYA has been working with CMS on Tuesdays after school and their next project will be designing and decorating memory boxes.
 6. SEPTA – there is a resource fair and presidents are asked to blast out the flyer. This is occurring on April 14th from 12-3 at CMS. Their next meeting is April 16th at 7pm and they will have a guest speaker for students who are twice exceptional.
 7. Teacher Rep – Mr. Ciani discussed a food drive occurring on April 18th from 2:30-6 at Suffolk JCC. Additionally, he was a representative in Albany and folks there were rallying at the federal building to support school funding and not see a cut in those funds.
 8. New Business – Council PTA Slate was announced.
- **Health and Safety – Jenn Engheben - Next meeting in June**
- **Membership** – please sign up to support CMS Community
- **Nutrition – Candice Sheherbelis**
 - State Budget has not been released yet. There is a possibility of the free lunch program for all next year.
 - There is still a negative lunch balance of \$49,000. Weekly emails are being sent out to the 854 families. Building administrators have been asked to email these families as well. General fund has to be used to pay these balances, a.k.a. our taxes will pay the balance for these 854 families.
 - Pay your balances!!
 - Guest chef days are April 19th for the middle school.
 - Taco station is an everyday option now. The ice cream machine has been installed and the smash burger day was a huge success.
- **SBMT – Alexis Tsiolis**

- Talkied about NJHS members that are eligible to be going in will be sent what is expected from them and what they need to do to apply.
- The certificate for Honor roll and High roll was put out for the 3rd marking period and we have received great feedback on the certificate. Parents were asking about getting a certificate for the first 2 marking periods and Dr. Larson stated that those will be given out when we hand out the certificate for marking period 4.
- The certificates will be available to print for 1-2 weeks and then will come down because they take up a lot of space.
- Next meeting is April 30th.
- **SEPTA – Nazia Khan**
 - 8th graders are at the high school today for their breakfast/brunch and to help with the transition going into 9th grade.
 - Wanted to thank the faculty this year for their participation in SEPTA this year and this is much appreciated.
 - Presenting to 2 high school graduating seniors with scholarships.
 - Significant changes to how the budget money is aligned to SEPTA. Questions about this are coming from parents.
 - Next meeting is a dinner meeting that will be offsite. This will be a social meeting where you can talk and get to know one another. We will also have a speaker there.
 - Opportunity as the SEPTA board to tour the de-escalation rooms and wanted to give a shout out to the middle school for their great job on this. We have heard great feedback on these rooms.
- **Staff Appreciation – Please consider making a donation on Memberhub**
- **Nominating Committee – Robi Bart**
 - Met this past week and wanted to thank the committee
 1. Co-Presidents – Desiree Carbonaro & Alexandra Tsiolis
 2. Past President – Marta Sliwska
 3. VP - Alyssa Papesca
 4. 2nd VP – Toni Newman
 5. Corresponding Secretary – Leana Visalli
 6. Recording Secretary – Candance Sheherbelis
 7. Treasurer Nicole Cuda-Perez
 - We will be voting on the slate on May 15th.

XI. **Adjournment** – Next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 15th at 9:30am in person**

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:30 AM.

Upcoming Events: 4/22 - 4/26 School Closed

Respectfully submitted by,
Desiree Carbonaro