

COMMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA
Minutes of Meeting Held March 21, 2024

- I. **Call to order:** 9:30 a.m. Pledge
- II. **Approval of Jan-24 & Feb-24 Minutes** – Approved
- III. **Principal's Report – Dr. Larson**
 - The PTA gift of the 8th grade T-shirts have arrived.
 - The ELA and Math State exams have moved to online
 - Previously mentioned was students getting recognized for high honor roll and honor roll. Now if your child makes high honor roll or honor roll, you will be able to print a certificate in infinite campus for your student that you can frame and display in your home. This will be available every marking period moving forward and during marking period 4, you will be able to also print the certificates for the 1st and 2nd marking periods when this wasn't available.
 - This is a pilot and we are expecting it to go smoothly and we are glad to be able to do this for our students starting on April 12th.
 - Vice Principal Frank Agovino announced his retirement after serving our school for over 25 years. We love you and will miss you and we will be celebrating you!
- IV. **Vice Principal's Report – Mr. Agovino & Ms. Martin**
 - **Ms. Martin** - We want to give a big thank you to the PTA for the 8th grade shirts and we can't wait to hand them out to the students ahead of the Adventureland Trip.
 - The Adventureland trip is on May 7th for the 8th graders. April 3rd a letter will go out about the trip and will be asking for chaperones. This is a great trip and the kids love it.
 - The musical was last weekend and it was a huge success. Burr and Sawmill students came to see the play during the day on Thursday. Friday, the 6, 7 & 8th grade students were able to see the play. The students did such a great job and congratulations to all that were involved.
 - April 11th & 12th is the ELA testing and we will be having a modified bell schedule. The 8th graders will be taking the exam online with their Chromebook and the 6th and 7th graders will be taking it as normal with paper and pencil.
 - May 8th & 9th is the math assessment and the same procedures will be taking place that are taking place for the ELA exams.
 - The marking quarter ends on April 5th and the grades will be available to the parents on April 12th.
 - **Mr. Agovino** – This month in arts in ed we had Rohan Murphy come in and speak to our 6th and 7th graders. He is a motivational speaker who lost his legs and went on to become a professional wrestler.
 - The 8th graders saw David Flood and his message was about empathy and inclusion and we was also great.
 - Yesterday the 8th graders saw Theater 3 production from the fires about the holocaust. They come in every year for us and it is a great performance that engages the kids and always has them asking questions after the performance.
 - Today a holocaust survivor was supposed to come in and talk to the students but we have to reschedule because he is ill and not able to come in today.
 - Monday started the taco bar for the kids to enjoy. There will be different types of tacos available everyday.
 - Yesterday we had our guest chef Tony come in and make smash burgers. We sold over 500 burgers and the kids absolutely loved it!
 - The students are trying to get Dr. Larson, me and Ms. Martin to serve them during their lunch in April with Chef Tony.
- V. **Vice President's Report – Jennifer Engheben & Linda De'Angelis – Nothing to Report**
- VI. **Treasurer's Report – Noel Darvassy** - \$30,000 in account and all bills have been paid.

VII. **Correspondence – Alexandra Tsoilis – Nothing to Report**

VIII. **Presidents Report – Marta Sliwska**

- I had the pleasure of being able to chaperone the 8th grade Adventureland trip last year. I hope everyone goes because I saw first hand how much all the students enjoyed this trip. It really was so much fun!
- We will post all the student government information online about their fundraisers for them.
- Lawn signs are available to purchase for the 8th graders so please go online and order. The last day to order is April 30th and it is \$20.
- Nominations for the committee for next year are still open so send all your nominations to Robi. The last day to get your nominations in is April 11th.

IX. **Student Council Report – Ms. Cherney**

- The Little Mermaid was very well attended all weekend long and was so nice to see the community come to support them.
- Yearbook – May 31st is the last day to purchase a yearbook for \$55. After this date the only way to get a yearbook is to wait until they are all distributed and then if there are any left over, you can buy one for \$65 cash only.
- The Leaders Club is having gold and white night April 5th from 7-9pm. There will be a meeting that night where they will hand out the shirts and will be given 2 tickets for parents to come.
- NJHS have many fundraisers coming up. In March they are doing a cereal food drive for the food pantry's. In April they are collecting travel size bags and toiletries to donate to the shelters. May is TBD. In June they are collecting gently used backpacks and school supplies to give to the shelters so that the children have school supplies to start off the school year in September.
- Student government is planning the two big 8th grade events which is the dance and the BBQ that will take place in June.

X. **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Arts in Ed – Tracy Decena –**
 - David Flood a motivational speaker spoke with our 8th graders about dignity, respect, looking on the inside. His message of inspiring young adults to look at people differently was well received. He was engaging, funny and relatable to the students.
 - Rohan Murphy spoke with our 6th and 7th graders about his life experiences with living with no legs and how he became a wrestler at Penn State College. He also spent some time with the Wrestling team providing them advice on the mat. From The Fires assembly was for our 8th graders about the Holocaust. It traces the life of Rachel Gold, a Berlin teenager, and her experiences from 1937 to 1945.
- **Board of Education Report – Heather Gordon**
 - Dr. Cox made 1st budget presentation at the meeting. We are remaining under the 2 percent tax cap at 1.99 percent.
 - We are keeping class sizes small which remains one of our goals and priorities.
 - Financial Literacy is being brought into the curriculum as a graduation requirement.
 - Unveiled plans moving forward all the different schools that will be within the high school in the 2025 school year. The presentation is available online.
 - Next budget workshop is on Thursday, April 4th at Hubbs. Budget hearing is on April 11th at Hubbs and 7 pm.
 - BOE Budget Vote is May 21st at the middle school and high school depending on where you located.
- **Health and Safety – Jenn Engheben - Nothing to report**
- **Membership – please sign up to support CMS Community**

- **PTA Council Report -Jenn Engheben**
 - **Superintendent's Report**
 1. Budget season. All at Hubbs: March 14, 7pm, April 4, 7pm and April 11, 7pm.
 2. Informal budget hearing will be April 18, 8pm.
 3. Budget Adoption will be May 18th – budget vote
 4. Spring Superintendent Liason PTA meetings are upcoming will all units
 5. Parent University – 18 people attended. Looking on ways to improve attendance. Ex: 1 topic per month and do it virtual, etc.
 6. Attended SCPD debriefing – received praise for how Commack handled recent situation at CHS. 37 police cars showed up at CHS.
 - **BOE Report** – Science students received awards at most recent BOE meeting. New director of Public relations, Adam Rubin appointed.
 - **Community Relations Report**
 1. Prom formal wear drive until March 22nd @ Hubbs
 2. Early voting begins March 23rd
 3. Register to vote May 7th & May 9th at CHS/CMS
 4. March 21st @ 1pm -senior citizen matinee, Mamma Mia & Dinner at CHS.
 5. FOIL filed & found. 195 accidents in last 3 years along Townline Road between Jericho & 25A. Debbie Virga advocating for change @ SCPD.
 - **Presidents Report** – Yankee Tickets will be distributed electronically
 - **Committee Reports**
 1. Arts in Ed – America Sign Language will visit all k-3 grades (at Sawmill Friday March 8th).
 2. Disability is OK dwarfism presentation March 12th.
 3. March 7th Art of Chinese Dance
 4. CHS – all health classes will learn mindfulness
 5. Blood Drive May 8th, 1-7pm @CMS in Auxiliary Gym, open to the public
 6. District Action Awareness – Townline Railway Association seeking more community involvement and fundraisers to fight freight yard. June 3rd – golf outing @ Smithtown Landing Country Club. Next Board meeting is May 5th.
 7. Nutrition – free hot cocoa day @ CHS with purchase of lunch. French toast bar with Guest Chef Tony. Received bidder for food truck. No free lunch for all. Need to have 25% in need. Commack has 16%. At \$46,000 deficit lunch balance. Encourage families to pay. General fnd will have to cover the cost which means we all pay.
 8. SEPTA – Ms. Riddle presented at most recent meeting to incoming families. Next meeting March 20th, a doctor will discuss anxiety in children K-12. Looking to host kindness festival in April at CMS. Support group information forthcoming.
 9. Teacher Rep – CTA will highlight Commack Educator of the Year in upcoming newsletter. “CTA’s Got Talent” show in April details forthcoming.
- **SBMT – Nazia Khan**
 - Talked about NJHS and all the things that are coming through on the computer with the certificates for honor roll and high honor roll.
 - 6th graders expressed concern about not enough seats in the quiet room for them to go to sit for recess if they don’t want to go outside. Also if the real feel is 28 degrees and warmer they go outside and if it is below they do not allow them to go outside and they must stay indoors. They do also have the auditorium available for recess when there isn’t a performance going on.
- **SEPTA – Nazia Khan**
 - Meeting was yesterday morning and we had a guest speaker and did a presentation on anxiety with students with special needs.

- We have a copy of the presentation, if you would like a copy please email Heather Gordon and she will send it to you.
- There were a lot of great recommendations and she gave her contact information if you had any further questions in regards to the presentation that was given.
- SEPTA had the opportunity to visit all of the schools and see the de-escalation room and they were really impressed with the spaces that we have put together for the children.
- Working on friendship festival that will be held at the Middle School on April 14th 12-3pm.
- **Nutrition – Candice Sheherbelis – Nothing to report**
- **Staff Appreciation – link for donations coming soon**

XI. **Adjournment** – Next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 18th at 9:30am via zoom**

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:30 AM.

Upcoming Events: 3/28 – 4/1 School Closed
 4/5 – MP3 ends

Respectfully submitted by,
Desiree Carbonaro