

**COMMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA**  
Minutes of Meeting Held November 30, 2023

- I. **Call to order:** 9:30 a.m. Pledge
- II. **Approval of October-23 Minutes** – Approved
- III. **Principal’s Report – Dr. Larson**
  - Concert season is in full swing. 12/5 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert, 12/12 – 7<sup>th</sup> grade concert and 12/19 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade concert.
  - Student Government hosted class of 1983 where the graduates from that class walked around the building. This was a great day.
  - Faculty meeting will be on 12/4 to go over response and communication with parents. 24-48 hours is a normal time to expect to get a response back from a teacher. It helps to follow the chain of response – start with reaching out to the teacher and then, if necessary, Dr. Larson said to reach out to him. He is always here to help us and listen to our concerns.
  - The parent portal is great and this is updated regularly. This will also be gone over at the faculty meeting on 12/4 but overall the staff does a really great job with updating the parent portal.
  - Overall, the staff really does do a great job with communication but there is always room for improvement.
- IV. **Assistant Principal’s Report – Mr. Agovino & Ms. Martin**
  - **Ms. Martin**
    - 150 8<sup>th</sup> Graders were inducted to the National Junior Honor Society.
    - The Courtyard Cleanup was a success.
    - 70 pumpkins were submitted for pumpkin palooza. The kids and community members had a great time and it was another successful year of this event.
    - The book fair has been taking place this week and is running smoothly.
    - 7<sup>th</sup> graders participated in a yoga session for mindfulness.
    - Scheduling will be starting for next year. Emails will be going out starting in the beginning of January.
      1. 6<sup>th</sup> graders get an enrichment choice
      2. 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teachers will be making recommendations for the science course the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students should be taking. It will either be earth science or living environment.
      3. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be getting presentations about the options that they have going into the high school.
    - There is a curriculum night at CHS on 1/4 for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to get information about the high school.
    - Directions will be going out about how to make selections for courses and the deadlines to do so.
    - January 17<sup>th</sup> is information night for the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents to get information about what middle school is going to be like.
  - **Mr. Agovino**
    - Teacher Conferences was great and we received a lot of great feedback from the parents.
    - If anyone knows of or hears of any glitches that took place, please let the faculty know so that they can make the necessary improvements for next year.
- V. **Vice President’s Report – Jennifer Engheben & Linda De’Angelis – Nothing to Report**
- VI. **Treasurer’s Report – Noel Darvassy** - \$32,000 in account and all bills have been paid.
- VII. **Correspondence – Alexandra Tsiolis – Nothing to report**
- VIII. **Presidents Report – Marta Sliwska**

- Book Fair has been a huge success so far this week and I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make this possible.
- Spirit wear will be sold at the concert on 12/12 and we will hopefully also be selling on 12/5 and 12/19.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade T-shirts are gifted to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders by the PTA. It is a contest to see which design gets put on the shirt. Everything has been sent off to production and all the graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade names are on the back of the T-shirt.

#### IX. **Student Council Report –**

- The Leaders club is having a Toy Drive starting next week for Toys for Tots.
- Registration for gold and white night will be starting tomorrow 12/1.
- The Yearbook deadline for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is 12/31 for personalization.
  - A personalized yearbook with your name will end on 1/31.
- Student Government
  - Fall festival was a success
  - The car wash that was held was a success
  - They are holding Adopt A Family for the holidays
  - 2/9 6-9pm will be the carnival

#### X. **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Arts in Ed – Tracy Decena – Nothing to report**
- **Board of Education Report – Heather Gordon – Nothing to report**
- **Founder’s Day – Paola Aspromonti**
  - Still in need of middle schools basket theme
  - AIA – Jason Flugger
  - HLM – Desiree Carbonaro
- **Health and Safety – Jenn Engheben – Next meeting is 12/7**
- **Membership – please sign up to support CMS Community**
- **Nutrition – Candace Scherrbelis**
  - A la Carte menu for snacks for middle school
  - Please pay your school lunch balances if you haven’t.
  - You are not able to charge ala carte items from the school cards, but if you want milk or water and you have a positive balance on the account you may charge that to your my bucks account.
  - Snack bar is on Monday/Wednesday/Friday and is cash only.
  - Free/reduced lunch programs can be found on the webpage
  - 1 day a month there will be a free lunch day for all the students.
  - The caramel apples were a big hit.
  - Next meeting will be taking place on 1/18.
- **PTA Council Report -Jenn Engheben**
  - Dr. Cox addressed the antisemitism/swastika incident at the high school. They will be looking to introduce developmentally appropriate Holocaust studies earlier than 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A CHS student group is looking to work with CHS admins and district admins to bring speakers (Holocaust survivors) to the school. Also, resources for parents to learn more about it was recommended as well. For the short term, the police are investigating and if found, the person will be arrested/charged. There is a zero tolerance for these actions at the school level. Mrs. Lipenholz will be addressing the incident with all the students tomorrow.
  - Founders Day – Council awarded the Council HLM to a student for the first time ever – CHS student Shaina Roth. Mr. Ciani is getting the Council AIA and Jenn Fein is getting the Council DSA.
  - The Blood Drive at CHS on November 14<sup>th</sup> is going to be a CLOSED drive (open only to students and staff). This was decided by the blood center. Linda will ask if PTA members can be part of it.

- Townline Association Rail Spur – 2 people from the group came to discuss the rail spur proposal. They are against it. They would like the PTA to advocate against it with them. Madhu is going to draft a resolution for Council to vote on at a future meeting.
- **SMBT – Nazia Khan – Next meeting is 1/23**
- **SEPTA – Nazia Khan –New President is Eden Weisberg**

XI. **Adjournment** – Next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am via zoom**

***THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!***

**MEETING ADJOURNED 10:30 AM.**

Upcoming Events:      12/5 – Grade 8th Winter Concert  
                                 12/12 – Grade 7<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert  
                                 12/19 – Grade 6<sup>th</sup> Winter Concert  
                                 12/23 – 1/1 – SCHOOL CLOSED

Respectfully submitted by,  
Desiree Carbonaro