

COMMACK MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA
Minutes of Meeting Held October 19, 2023

- I. **Call to order:** 9:30 a.m. Pledge
- II. **Approval of September Minutes** – Approved
- III. **Special Guest: Debbie Virga**
 - There is a senior citizen gold card and it allows the senior citizens in our community to come into the schools to see a show and get dinner. This is a great event for them that they look forward to.
 - Police will be here Thursday, November 2nd for the medicine give back program. Bring in unused medication and the police will take it to be properly disposed of.
 - Tonight is the parent university at the high school from 6-9pm. Parents can pick up to 3 classes that they are interested in learning more about.
 - The Greater Commack Chamber of Commerce is looking to change the name of Valmont Park to Survivor Park. There will be applications at the parent university if you would like to join the Greater Commack Chamber of Commerce.
 - October 28th and 30th is the Peppermint haunted house event. All the proceeds will be going to the Daniella Conte Foundation. The address is 4 Peppermint Lane, Commack.
 - Career Day is coming up on November 28th @CMS.
- IV. **Principal's Report – Dr. Larson**
 - We had our National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony. There were 150 students inducted this year for their academic and service achievements.
 - Dr. Nancy Kaplan will be talking about Digital Media at the Parent University.
 - Talked to the 8th graders last year about digital footprint and how it can follow you and how it could affect your career and future. She will be coming in the spring to talk to the 6th and 7th graders about digital footprint.
 - The 8th grade class T-shirt contest is underway and ends tomorrow to enter. Throughout the year, the students will wear these T-shirts to their events.
- V. **Assistant Principal's Report – Mr. Agovino & Ms. Martin**
 - **Mr. Agovino**
 - Pumpkin Palooza came about during Covid and has been such a fun event for the kids. This will be taking place on October 26th in the courtyard. Students can bring their pumpkins in on Wednesday or Thursday. Be sure to place your name and homeroom teacher on the back of the pumpkin.
 - November 15th & 16th are the parent/teacher conferences. The students will be having a ½ day on these two days. The night of the 15th there will also be evening conferences available.
 - Parents will have to make an appointment through the Canyon Creek system which will open at 2am. The appointments book up very fast, so be sure to have who you want to see in mind.
 - If you are not able to get an appointment with a teacher that you wanted to see, please contact that teacher to set up a phone conference or zoom.
- VI. **Presidents Report – Marta Sliwska**
 - We have received positive feedback from the 6th graders that have come in.
 - We have an amazing program for kids that are coming into our school from different places. They have a breakfast and buddy program to help the new students feel more comfortable and make the transition into the school easier for them.
 - The Northwell Program is great and provides a linkage. They are great with setting up and finding you a provider to help you with what you need and are looking for.
- VII. **Vice President's Report – Jennifer Engheben & Linda De'Angelis** – Nothing to Report

VIII. **Treasurer's Report/Approval of 2023-2024 Budget – Noel Darvassy** – \$31,800 in account and all expenses have been paid.

IX. **Student Council Report –**

- The Pride Club hosted Unity Day
- The Leaders Club finished their Halloween costume fundraiser and was very successful.
- The NJHS will be hosting the courtyard cleanup on Saturday, weather permitting. Their next meeting will be on Friday, October, 20th.
- Yearbook sales have started and are \$45. They will be going up to \$50 on 10/28.
- The Student Government Go Card sales started on 10/16.
- The Fall Festival is tomorrow after school and the car wash will be taking place on Saturday.
- Student Government will be helping out at Pumpkin Palooza with the voting and will be selling refreshments.

X. **Correspondence – Alexandra Tsoilis** – Nothing to report

XI. **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Arts in Ed – Tracy Decena** – nothing to report
- **Board of Education Report – Heather Gordon**
 - Board of Education Recognition Night – The first recognition came from Western Suffolk Boces to honor the Commack Board of Education for positively shaping educational outcomes and experiences of the district students. The BOE was presented with a visual recognition which included a video, and a picture book titled the power yet from the primary, intermediate and Middle schools in order to thank the BOE for what they have done in the past, present and the future which is yet to come.
 - Instructional Technology - The 2nd part of the meeting included presentations regarding Security and Instructional Technology. Product Highlights include Nearpod and Clever. Clever is a magical digital backpack where students can log into their clever portal and have access to teacher pages as well as all software that is available to them. The district will be transitioning to new line boards. They are interactive flat panel boards with a high-quality display like an LCD TV. They have multi touch capabilities and built in software and apps. In the 2023-2024 school year, school grades 4,5, 8 and 9 will be given new touch screen chrome books to replace their current chrome books. These chrome books will promote interactive learning and they can be used as an ipad.
 - Support plans are now in place for professional development for staff and parents with clever. There will be the establishment of the technology committees.
 - Security in The Commack School District
 1. Commack currently employs 73 full and part time security guards. Every security guard is trained on Commack's incidence and command system. The main security base is being moved to the High School. The old base was located at the facilities and maintenance yard. There is now a physical presence outside all buildings. 7 vehicles were purchased to expand their security fleet. The door ajar system is present to notify security if an exterior door is left ajar. Every exterior door has mechanisms to alert in real time if exterior doors are left open.
 2. Every building within the district has a comprehensive building emergency response plan. Security and staff monitors every public entrance way. Security assessments occur throughout the year. There are formal assessments with the Department and Homeland security and covert investigations and security. Drill procedures will perform conventional and non-conventional drills. Drills are conducted to prepare for an emergency. The Shell

system is included in faculty and staff training. This is an abbreviation for shelter in place, hold in place, evacuate, lock out or lock down.

3. Cyber Security – the district is signed up with the data protection support through Boces.

- **CMS Book Fair** – Rescheduled to 11/28-12/01
- **Founder’s Day – Paola Aspromonti** – please send in nominations
- **Health and Safety – Jenn Engheben**
 - Chris Guiffre – drill assessments are being done with the SCPD.
 1. Work with 1st Responders
 2. Training for security guards and nurses
 3. Security assessment will be revisited at the BOE meeting
 - Alise Pulliam – assess and update security protocols
 1. Cyber security – update policy
 - Laura Newman –
 1. Electronic bus pass through infinite campus in addition to paper. Next year it will just be distributed electronically through the infinite campus.
 2. Covid-19 protocols are still in place
 3. Teacher center running CPR training which is free
 4. Section 2 policy change for thunder and lightning. New policy is to shut down for 30 minutes and players must go inside
- **Membership** – please sign up by 9/30
- **PTA Council Report** – Jenn Engheben
 - BOE Report – Steve Hartman – Confirmation of commitment to all pathways to all students supported by the BOE
 - Community Relations Report – Debbie Virga
 1. Soccer Under the Stars October 11th – Varsity Boys 6pm, girls directly following. Honor first responders and essential workers. Thank you to CSL for Donating the lights.
 2. Thursday, October 19th Commack Parent University – It will be very informative, and parents may choose up to 3 programs to attend that evening.
 3. Commack started a new Greater Chamber of Commerce for Commack
 4. Peppermint Chop Shop will be back this year for two nights on October 28th and Halloween.
 - Arts and Ed - Jen Fein – September and October the buildings focus on anti-bullying programs, author programs and reading programs.
 - Community Events – Heather Gordon – Yankee Game is April 7th
 - Scholarship – Nicole Perez/Linda DeAngelis – Scholarship applications for the steam camp will be coming out in November
 - Founder’s Day – Heather Gordon – Please read through the updated packets and note the new changes. Theme Baskets will be needed shortly. Council will be doing the lottery ticket basket.
 - Reflections – submissions are due November 10
 - SBMT – no meeting yet
 - SEPTA – Eden Weisberg – will be doing their boo bags again this year.
 - Health and Safety – Heather Gordon – no update
 - Nutrition – Lisa Streim, Melanie Zak Curry – no update
 - Next meeting is 11/6
- **Nutrition – Candace Scherrbelis** – nothing to report. The first meeting is 10/25 at CHS @ 10am.
- **SEPTA – Nazia Khan** – Nothing to report.
- **SMBT – Nazia Khan** – had procedural meeting on Tuesday. Next meeting in November 10th

XII. **Adjournment** – Next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 30th at 9:30am**

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

MEETING ADJOURNED 10:30 AM.

Upcoming Events: 10/16 – GO Card Sale
 10/20 – Fall Festival after school until 4:45pm
 10/26 – Pumpkin Palooza
 11/7 – Election Day – NO SCHOOL
 11/9 – End of MP1
 11/10 – Veteran’s Day – NO SCHOOL

Respectfully submitted by,
Desiree Carbonaro