

1-10-24 PTA Meeting minutes

By: Emily Slutsky, Recording Secretary

PTA Meeting via Zoom @ 7:30pm

Jamie Shiner and Nikki Zimberg, co-presidents bring the meeting to order and welcome everyone to the first meeting of the new year.

Emily Slutsky, Recording Secretary states that the last minutes have been posted and asks if there are any changes to be made, and if not, they are considered to be approved. No one had any comments, so they were approved from the last meeting.

Kristin Wong-Valle, Treasurer, states that as of 12/31/23, the bank balance was \$130,783.28 and the book balance was \$126,566.47. She said that the report was filed for audit and no corrections were made.

Jessica Freeman, Corresponding Secretary, states there was a bunch of correspondence since the holiday, all basically saying the same things. She summarized it during the meeting as thanking the PTA for the holiday breakfast at each school and the snack bags during conference time. She said the correspondence was from the teachers and staff showing their appreciation towards the PTA for all the recent things that have been done at the buildings in the past month or so.

Nikki Zimberg introduced the Principal's for principals reports...

Principal Report #1 from Mrs. Curto @ Winthrop Avenue:

She wished everyone a Happy 2024. Thanked the PTA for the holiday breakfast and the welcome back cookies in the office and was very appreciative. She discussed the 3rd grade concert right before the break, with over 80 students reading poetry and singing, which was all holiday related. The concert ended with a recorder and string performance. She also mentioned there was caroling around the school before the break, as well, all thanks to the band and orchestra. The school is starting to plan for Winthrop's 100th Birthday Project. This will be done with ceramic artist Cathy Russell. It will include all students and will be displayed in front of the auditorium. The 100th day of school celebration will be on 6/4/24 from 5-6:45pm and the Open House will be the same day starting at 7pm! Mrs. Curto said that the Star Polisher "Tour Team" gave tours to the Manhasset Administration team on 12/20/23 and that went very well and they were very impressed. The school is continuing to work on the core values and leadership principles. The 3rd graders have been doing Circle of Dance, which is related to the 3rd grade social studies curriculum and teaches the students about different dances from cultures from around the world. Mrs. Curto said that PARP is going very well so far, and the students have read 10,000 minutes already! She said it is not too late to sign up as a secret reader and she wants to see the students committed to reading more each day! School is closed this coming Monday for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. She thanked the PTA again for all their hard work.

Principal Report #2 from Mrs. Matthews @ Shore Road:

She wished everyone a Happy 2024! Mrs. Matthews said the school has been super busy, starting off with PARP week and their superhero theme. Dr. Famularo will be a guest speaker, as he is an author himself, which is super special! The topic will be “where writers find inspiration.” The school also has a writing contest going on, where certain students have been selected to move forward for their exceptional writing skills. There is a Book Fairies collection going on at the school, if anyone wants to donate. The school had a very busy November and December with origami club, environmental club, the school store opened, student council, and project Splash. The 6th grade band and orchestra went to JFK HS to watch the high school students perform to show them where they could go and wind up if they work hard, to their full potential in the school band/orchestra. They also had a select few perform at the Bellmore library, instead of at the hospital, like they used to do, pre-Covid. There will be a concert on 1/25/24 and Bingo was on 12/15/23 and it was a very fun, successful night. Mr. Wallwrap will be coming to start working with the 5th graders on their science projects for the science fair and Club Yearbook photos will be on 1/18/24. There will be no makeup for these pictures so she wants students to come to school on this day, if they are well. There will be the Dave and Busters fundraiser on 1/15/24 when there is no school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The kids loved the Cornhole Tournament so much and she thanked the PTA for the new tradition. She said the 6th grade committee is super busy planning and fundraising and she thanked the PTA for their hard work.

Principal Report #3 from Mrs. Castine @ Reinhard:

Happy New Year and thank you to the PTA for all the treats for the holidays. The kindergarten classes had farmer Tom visit and teach them about animals and chicks hatching and did a project with them where the whole grade and other classes were able to see the stages and process of the chicks growing and hatching. They absolutely loved watching this and were fascinated by it. On 12/20/23 Brady Rymer came with a band to sing holiday songs and songs about core values. The kids loved it! The 1st grade had a lovely holiday concert before winter break where they sang a variety of holiday songs and had one show for families and one show for students and teachers later in the day. PARP started and it is going very well so far, with tons of secret readers and the Summer Olympics in Paris is the theme. There is a light up Eiffel Tower to track the minutes and the kids love keeping track each week. Students love trying to earn lunch with Mrs. Castine by doing the right thing and working on WIG's and earning high 5's. They are on their third pajama day because of so many high fives! SAC is working on their pet food drive and there is a table in the lobby for donations. We will start the cereal box challenge soon. The 2nd grade concert will be on 1/26 at 10am for families and 2:10pm for students and staff. Chess and game club started today and it was very successful.

Jamie Shiner thanked all the principals for their updates and introduced the EVP's...

Jackie Taylor, EVP at Shore Road said Mrs. Curto covered basically all of it. She thanked the PARP committee for their hard work. Also thanked the birthday board committee. She said the holiday sale was successful. And chess club is underway and Zumba will be starting. Also, the legacy project will be starting with Cathy Russell. The 6th grade committee has been super

busy, as well, but we will hear from them after, Jackie said. She thanked everyone who is responsible for making all these things happen.

Kristin Oakes, from Winthrop said that the PARP assembly went well to kick off PARP week and the mystery readers have been going smoothly, so far. She thanked the committee for that. Bingo night will be on 1/26/24 and the theme is cozy pajamas so come dressed for the occasion! There will be 2 sessions, one for each grade. She thanked the birthday bulletin board committee and said the valentine's day sale will be coming soon!

Carla Wong, from Reinhard said that PARP kickoff was great and Lee Knight kicked it off with an assembly and was super engaging! The kids and staff loved it! The school has had a ton of mystery readers. Chess and game club started today and we got new board games and the kids loved it. She thanked all the people that made these things possible.

Jamie asked if Ways and Means was present and since they were not, Jamie shared that the Holiday Boutique made \$6,700, Fat Boy Burrito made \$200 and Train for The Game made \$230. She thanked everyone who participated and helped in these events/fundraisers.

Kristin Oakes for SEPTA said that they sold all 100 tickets for their first event at The Brokerage. Raffle tickets will be sold at the door for cash only.

Teresa Palumbo from BOE reports on the last meeting on 12/19/23 at 7:30pm (Winthrop)

1. It was mentioned that Winthrop students will give a tour to Manhasset school administrators to discuss the schools mission/principles. This is a result of interest taken by Manhasset administrators on the school's mission and principles.

2. She said there was a report from Dr. Dacek (assistant superintendent)
 - Mentioned Reinhard toy drive (aligned with civic leadership work pillar) to children in need in the community
 - Highlighted the kindergarten chick hatching program with Farmer Tom which followed chick development and on Dec 11th the kindergarteners saw the chicks hatch
 - Other events highlighted: 4th grade fall concert (Mrs Aronoff and Martucci), ceramic projects, Kandinsky tree art project aligned with the school's leadership principles; bellmore chambers of commerce holiday singing; good vibes day

3. Assistant superintendent of instructional services brought up the purchase of a new podium

4. Community relations: Thanksgiving concert mentioned; kids were overall happy with transition from elementary to middle school (felt workload was appropriate, well prepared); 450 pounds pill waste INTAKE dropped off to HS students as a part of the drug disposal program

5. Central HS - Superintendent Harrington received College Board AP District of the Year; Bellmore Merrick one of 12,000 schools nationally. Out of the top three, we were the winner of a medium sized district. This designation stemmed from Tom D. Tommaso's goal for each HS student to take one AP course and now we're at about 75% HS AP course enrollment.

Teresa asked Nikki if she had anything else to add to the information and Nikki declined.

Nikki said we have 560 members and it is not too late to join! We have the membership form listed on the website.

Leah Walsh from the 6th grade committee...

Bingo at Shore Road was a huge success and we raised over \$5,000. We need to raise a lot to support our off-site 6th grade dance at Freeport Yacht Club. The Dave and Busters Fundraiser will be on Monday and we have approximately 99 kids so far. Leslie will help you with your booster for the yearbook in exchange for a donation to the food pantry since Leslie is very good with words like that.

Jamie said we are still accepting applications for Executive Board positions and the due date is next Friday, 1/19/24.

The next meeting is Wednesday, 3/13/24.

Jamie concluded the meeting, since there was no new business.