

# DRAFT



Minutes of Virtual General PTA Meeting

April 21, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

President, Cindi St. George presided over the meeting: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed all to our PTA meeting and noted that quorum is present to conduct business. Bylaws were emailed out with today's agenda and are always available by email, if desired.

Introduced officers:

Kate Martin, Vice-President

Jessica Cona, Secretary

Nicole Annunziata, Treasurer

Minutes of March's General PTA meeting were emailed with today's agenda and if no corrections, they are approved as written and will be filed.

## **TREASURER REPORT:**

This report will cover the month of March 2021.

The Unqua Elementary School PTA bank account had \$15,379.54 on March 31, 2021. The bank reconciliation for March 2021 completed. The books (accounts receivable/payable/reconciliation) were reviewed by Amy Ruiz on Monday April 19, 2021. There were no inconsistencies found.

The following payments were made in March: County Graphics Forms Management, LLC for PARP Family Packet \$210.41, Sarah Klein for PARP Prizes of Barnes & Noble gift cards and gift bags and tissue paper \$499.77, Trophies By Jay for Reflections \$260.50, Membership for 97 Members \$388 + \$1 transaction fee, Reason 2 Smile for 100 Bracelet Kits Grade Gifts \$300, County Graphics Forms Management, LLC for the Book Fair \$25.80.

The following deposits were made in March: Membership \$90, Verizon Donation \$750, Membership \$20, Plant Sale \$1,571.50.

Treasurer Report

Nicole Annunziata

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

As of today, we have 440 members and our goal for the year is 534. There is still time to join the PTA if you haven't done so. We are getting closer and closer to our year end goal! Please contact our membership chair Jessica Cona at (516) 639-1807 or [antjessa@gmail.com](mailto:antjessa@gmail.com) with any questions. You can join online at <https://unquany.memberhub.store/store> or you can drop completed membership form and dues to the Rocky mailbox at the address listed on the form. Just a reminder, all Spring Plant Sale Committee members and Field Day volunteers need to be PTA members. Please sign up today if you haven't done so. Thank you!

**PRINCIPAL REPORT:** Mrs. Catapano began by thanking parents, teachers, staff and students for their continued cooperation as we begin to close out the school year. The ELA assessment was yesterday, Tuesday, April 20th. Since students need to stay in their cohorts, all students stayed in the classroom even if they were not participating. Those

# DRAFT

students not taking the test were allowed to read and draw. The assessment is down to only one day and only multiple choice questions. They are still trying to plan make-ups for those who were sick or had to quarantine. She thanked Mrs. Hulsaver for making the day go smooth. Mrs. Catapano was happy to share that 5th graders have moved into their special area classrooms (with the exception of phys-ed) and they are working toward doing the same for all grades as soon as possible. When borrowing a book from the library, Mrs. Alford will have the books sit for 3-5 days before returning them to the shelves and Mrs. Abel is using the auditorium for music. Mrs. Catapano announced that there will not be in person Kindergarten orientation this year and will send out a video. We are able to have Kindergarten screening since they can set it up that the kindergarten parent and child are able to enter and exit the building without going through the school. Depending on the outcome of the budget vote, summer recreation is scheduled to happen. East Lake will be held at McKenna due to construction. Unqua will be having construction as well but it will not interfere with summer rec or camp invention (which is to be held at Unqua this year). Mrs. Catapano informed us that construction at Unqua is almost complete- the 2nd grade hallway is just about finished and on 6/25 they will begin construction on kindergarten rooms. Field day is scheduled for June 3rd (raindate 6/4). It will look different from past years but we are very happy to still have it. It will be very condensed with very limited parent volunteers due to guidelines. It is limited to class parents and other parents will be picked by a lottery system- Notices will go out next week. There will be a 5th grade moving up ceremony which will be spread out over 5 separate ceremonies. Since we are allowed up to 100 people at Berner Middle School, students will be allowed 2 guests-More information to come soon. Questions from parents answered by Mrs. Catapano:

Q- Are any parents excluded from field day- For example, if a class parent spouse offers to volunteer are they excluded because there is already one parent there? (Kelly Collins)

A- No one is excluded. It will be offered to everyone.

Q- Do the class parents have to fill out the form too or are they automatically in? (Christina Dell'Anno)

A- Separate notices will be going out to class parents and for additional volunteers. As always, if a class parent cannot make it, please notify us. You do not find your own replacement.

Q- Are the students allowed to get their yearbooks signed by the whole 5th grade? (Stacy Hock)

A- Kids will definitely be allowed to have their own class sign their yearbooks but as of right now we are still looking into a way that is safe for the students to get their other peers and teachers to sign. Unfortunately, we can't have the kids going through the hallways and into other classrooms at this time.

## **TEACHER REP REPORT:**

Ms. Sondo and Mrs. Pass were unable to attend. Any questions please email or contact them at the school.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Nicole Annunziata and I attended Nassau Region PTA Virtual President/Treasurer Rap in March which provided helpful information and guidance for us to work effectively in our positions. Superintendent/Council Meeting on April 12.

**Massapequa Council of PTAs elected officers for the 2021-2022 school year:** The new officers will assume their roles on July 1st. They are as follows:

President: Shanon Tranchina

1st Vice President: Colleen Clagnaz

2nd Vice President: Kaitlyn Beleckas

Treasurer: Luz Bove Recording

Secretary: Kristine Magnifico-Riggio

Corresponding Secretary: Kristi L'Esperance

**Budget Presentation:** Presented by Alan Adcok and Lucille Iconis. Budget Vote is Tuesday, May 18 from 6AM - 9PM. Watch for a mailing with budget highlights.

# DRAFT

Summer Programs: Mrs. Iconis announced that all summer programs will be in full swing - summer recreation, fine arts, teen center at Ames (6-8), marching band camp, elementary special education, summer school (9-12), Camp Invention (which is scheduled to be held at Unqua this year), etc. Registration should start in May pending Budget Vote and still waiting on guidelines.

Elementary Schools: District continues to evaluate COVID restrictions. Phys ed continues to be out of the classroom for all grades. 5th graders have moved into their special area classrooms after returning from spring recess. Hoping all specials can be this way eventually for all grades.

Playground: All students still need to stay in cohorts so a class can use playground equipment at recess and classes will rotate.

NYS Testing: NYS petitioned the federal government to suspend state testing for grades 3-8 and the request was denied as they federal government states we need to identify the gap due to COVID. ELA and Math for grades 3-8 will only be one day of testing and district will only administer Session 1 for the ELA and math assessments. Science assessment will also be one day only for grades 4 and 8 and they will only complete the written portion, there will not be a hands on part. All students have to stay in cohorts, including students who opt-out. Students that opt-out will be able to read, write and draw (no electronics). A school day will resume after testing. The testing is untimed and if a student needs more time after a certain time frame, those students will be relocated.

Meet the Candidates Night: April 28 at 7:30pm. Details are still being finalized. League of Women Voters will only do virtual events. An email will be set-up for questions to be submitted to the League of Women Voters.

## **NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Budget Review: A revised budget was emailed out with today's agenda with the changes highlighted in red. -Motion to add \$750 Verizon donation (unexpected income for this year) to the Enhanced Student Promotions line. Motioned seconded and carried. Revised adopted budget will be emailed out to membership with April PTA draft minutes. Thank you to Unqua parent, Kelly Collins, for coordinating this and thinking of Unqua PTA.

-Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser and student plants: Upon creating the online store for the Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser, a mistake was made and all plants were sold at cost. Therefore there will be no profit to use to purchase a plant for each student. We would like to go forward and still purchase a plant for each student because as discussed at our February PTA meeting there is no Student Plant Sale this year and we had to let the farm know how many plants to reserve (and this was voted in favor of in February). Motion to spend up to \$850 from Enhanced Student Promotions to cover the cost of the student plants. Motioned seconded and carried.

-Field Day gift for all students: There will be no school-wide entertainment this year as grades will come out in sessions and classes will still need to be cohorted. PTA would like to provide a gift for each student that ties into the entertainment for the day. Motion to spend up to \$200 from Enhanced Student Promotions to cover the difference of adding a gift which puts us less than that amount over the \$2,800 Field Day budget. Motion seconded and carried.

Officer Elections: Nominating Committee chair presented next school year's slate of officers at our March PTA Meeting and today is our officer elections. As per our bylaws, additional nominations may have been made from the floor provided the written consent of the nominee was secured and the chair of the nominating committee received notice at least two business days prior to the election meeting of the candidate's intention to run. Acting in accordance to our bylaws, an election was held and our elected officers for the 2021-2022 school year are:

President: Kelly Collins

Vice-President: Kate Martin

Treasurer: Nicole Annunziata

Secretary: Jessica Cona

Reflections: Reflections participants and family members were invited to attend a zoom ceremony on Monday, March 15th, where our winners were announced. Mrs. Catapano made a school-wide announcement the next day and held an in-school ceremony for students only (we also displayed our new PTA Step and Repeat banner). Remote learners had their award dropped to their doorstep. A video slideshow and photos were shared with parents. We had 1 NYS PTA Award of Merit winner.....Jack Ruddy! Congratulations to all of our participants!! Thank you Kelly Workman for chairing this committee.

# DRAFT

**Arts in Ed:** We had our first Virtual Arts in Ed assembly on March 25th with award winning singer/songwriter Jared Campbell. He live-streamed through youtube and students enjoyed the show in their classrooms. We shared the link with remote learners who were able to participate from home. The kids listened to music that focused on overcoming obstacles, anti-bullying, respect, leadership and having an amazing outlook on life. They were able to sing along and dance. He even gave shoutouts to individual classes!! Hope the kids enjoyed the show!! Thank you to our co-chairs Nicole Erker and Melanie Geier for setting this up.

**Bake With Me:** Unqua PTA gave each student a raccoon shaped cookie cutter last month. Students were invited to text a picture of their creation to me to be included in a photo collage that was posted to our Unqua PTA Facebook page and for a chance to win a small gift from the PTA. I also created a quick slideshow of the pictures. Happy to say that we had enough small gifts for all students who sent a picture. Students picked up their gifts and half of those gifts were marked to also receive a \$5 gift card to a local establishment (Ralph's, DQ, Dunkin Donuts, and Swirls and Twirls) for our students to enjoy a treat with their special someone.

**School Photos:** School Photo Retake Day was on March 19 and those photos were sent home in backpacks. Restrictions did not allow us to take class or group photos this year, however our vendor is offering a composite class photo of each class for purchase. Mrs. Catapano sent an email blast to all parents with the link to place your order. All orders are due by Friday, April 30. Orders will be distributed via backpacks once delivered to the school. Visit [www.classactphoto.com](http://www.classactphoto.com), click Shop and enter code UNQUA20C.

\*\*Please note that 5th Grade Band, 5th Grade Orchestra and 5th Grade Magnet class composite photos are also available for purchase. If your child(ren) was a Distant Learner at some point this school year, his/her photo is in both the Distant Learning class and under his/her current class at Unqua.

**Spring Plant Sale:** We are so excited to be able to have our Spring Plant Sale! Pick up will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pick up will take place on the back basketball court of Unqua-all details will be emailed to the members who purchased. The Unqua PTA will be donating 1 plant per child to give to their special lady in honor of Mother's Day. They will be bringing this home on May 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. The total cost for the Kids Plants are \$795 and the plant sale sold \$3,361.50 in plants. Thank you all who participated.

**Apparel:** Our online store closed on Wednesday, April 14 and we should profit just under \$1,200. Please allow about 4 weeks for orders to be ready. Just a reminder that our vendor will email you directly for pick-up at the store. No items will be going home through backpacks. Thank you to co-chairs Jessica DiLucci and MaryAnne Lesczak for arranging this.

**Blood Drive:** The blood drive is scheduled for tomorrow Thursday April 22, 2021 from 2PM-8PM and will be held at the Donor Center in Massapequa-right around the corner from Kohl's on Sunrise Highway. Our goal is to donate 40+ pints tomorrow and right now we have 40 donors signed up. Thank you to all who have already registered to donate. Please consider signing up to donate if you have not already done so-the blood center is in critical need of blood. Any questions please reach out to Kate Martin 917/941-3201 or Mary Jo McBride 516/660-4855 and let them know.

[https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/288503](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/288503)

**School Supply Kit:** The supply kits are still available to purchase. A flyer was sent home in backpacks, and it was posted to our Facebook page and emailed to membership. Orders must be placed online and will be delivered directly to your home in June. Orders are due April 30. School supply kits are a convenience for parents who don't want to shop for school supplies. The supply lists are provided by our teachers and are completely optional to purchase.

**SEPTA:** We celebrated World Down Syndrome Day, by "Rocking our Socks" and a successful Crazy Socks fundraiser. We also celebrated World Autism Day on April 2nd with a successful mask fundraiser. SEPTA met on 4/14 - the budget was presented by Mrs. Iconis and Mr. Addcock. Our guest speaker was Eileen Taylor, from Special Education Quality Assurance. She discussed general information about IEPs and Special Education services. Unqua's Mrs Alford- had a wonderful presentation about how she teaches inclusion, positive be yourself messages and be accepting through her library curriculum. Our new slate of officers was also voted on - Unqua's Katie Beleckas and Jennifer Brown will continue as co-Presidents for next year. Our next meeting will be June 8th.

**Curriculum:** Our chair, Melanie Solnick had a curriculum meeting with Diana Haandraats and Dr. Fasano last week and her notes are as follows: Curriculum Committee Plan of Work 2020-2021 April 15, 2021

# DRAFT

Every year the district does a review process of all curriculums. The BOE made it a goal to highlight diversity and inclusion. There will be a presentation at the May 20th BOE meeting from teachers to showcase content and lessons that are being taught that incorporate multiple diverse perspectives and a greater understanding of empathy.

There is no approved list per se for library or classroom libraries, but librarians and classroom teachers are able to cultivate libraries that they feel are diverse or fit the needs of their students. They are able to order new books each year. The district takes a balanced literacy approach. There is not one particular program for reading, however the district does use both the Wonders Program and Schoolwide for Reading and Writing Workshop. There are units of study that are aligned for reading and writing and can be viewed on the district's website for each grade at the elementary level.

Grades 2-5 may use the Wonders Program and has more options for guided reading.

There are four literacy coaches, three at the elementary level and one at the secondary level. They are not building specific but instead grade focused.

In K there is a curriculum written for phonemic awareness for all students, and then targeted for those who need additional practice. Foundations is used in grades K and 1. In grade 2, targeted students will use foundations as well. Grades 3-5 use mini-lessons during the writing workshop to teach grammar skills.

Teachers are able to use iReady to look into diagnostics and specific data for students. There are data meetings three times a year to discuss student progress.

Cursive is taught in the second half of second grade. It is no longer in the standards.

There are district wide assessments for grades K-2 in Reading/Writing and math. For Grades 3-5 in Reading/Writing, Math, Social Studies and Science.

The internet is filtered both at school and at home on the chromebooks. It is constantly being monitored for what students are searching for and adding key words to be blocked. All advertisements on youtube are filtered for appropriate advertisements only. There is no way for teachers to filter all ads without breaking the user agreement with youtube.

Students receive lessons on digital citizenship and the internet in library at the elementary level. There are also social media presentations for both 5th graders and their parents put on by high school students each year. They are also recorded and you can access them on the district website. This is ongoing and also needs to be a partnership with parents.

**Staff Appreciation:** Staff Appreciation Week will take place from Monday, May 10th - Friday, May 14th. We have a week of surprises planned for our amazing staff, including breakfast, lunch and a few days of a variety of snacks. We need posters, drawings, notes, pictures, etc. that PTA can use to line the hallways at school so our teachers and staff know how much we love and appreciate them. Please drop in a collection bin outside by the Unqua main entrance from Wednesday, April 28th through Wednesday, May 5th between the hours of 9:45 am - 3:00 pm (school days only and items will not be returned). A signup genius will be sent to committee members for donations on these days. Any questions, reach out to chair Cindi St. George.

**Kindergarten Orientation:** Unqua PTA is starting to put together our Kindergarten folders with PTA gifts to welcome our new students. Folders will be distributed at the Kindergarten Screening. I created a flyer with information of what the PTA does to share with our new parents and will share it with when the minutes go out as well.

**Field Day:** will Take place on Thursday, June 3 with a raindate of Friday, June 4. Class parents are invited to attend with their class, however parent volunteers will be limited. DJ has been booked as well as an entertainment station. There will be no school-wide entertainment as grades will come out in sessions and classes will still need to be cohorted. Just a reminder, that ALL volunteers (class parent or parent volunteer) need to be PTA members. PTA membership will be verified.

**PTA Awards:** Every year, our PTA honors active parents, teachers, therapists, and community members who work to support our children and school with NYS PTA Awards. A flyer for award descriptions was email blasted to all parents by Mrs. Catapano as well as emailed to membership and posted to our Facebook page. Please think about people or organizations that may fit the description and submit your nomination. Please submit your nomination by emailing your form to our Awards chair, Kelly Workman at kellyhanford@hotmail.com. You can also drop your nomination form to the Rocky Mailbox at 275 Harmony Drive, Massapequa Park. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly via email or at 516-993-3242. Please note all nominations are due to no later than Friday, May 7, 2021.

# DRAFT

**Ice Cream Social:** It will be on Thursday, June 24. Unqua PTA will treat all students (remote students too) to Dairy Queen ice cream. Unfortunately this year, there will be no chocolate syrup or sprinkles, but we think the kids will still enjoy it.

**Box Tops:** Please download the box tops app and scan your receipts. Please enroll your ShopRite card in the ShopRite for my School program. Keep clipping any physical box tops over the summer, and we will collect again in September.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Habitat:** We are still collecting painted rocks for the path in the Habitat. We have gotten so many nice ones so far, but we still need more.

**Unqua Newsletter:** The 7th issue of the Unqua Update was emailed out earlier this month. The next issue is scheduled for May 1st. Any upcoming PTA news will be included there.

Unqua PTA was awarded the runner-up award for the 2020 Winifred Pratt Newsletter Competition for our newsletter the Unqua Times. I submitted this year's newsletter, Unqua Update, for the 2021 newsletter competition.

## **CLOSING**

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 12 at 9:45 am.

If there is no further business, meeting is adjourned at 8:09pm.