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Minutes of Virtual General PTA Meeting

February 10, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:03 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.

Introduced officers:

Kate Martin, Vice-President

Jessica Cona, Secretary

Nicole Annunziata, Treasurer

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

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Mrs. Catapano thanked the PTA for providing the children with fun games and a scavenger hunt for family fun night. She also thanked the members for making the book fair a huge success. Instead of purchasing a book for each child, the PTA purchased 25 books to add to their classroom libraries. Mrs. Catapano was grateful for the additional recess balls the PTA supplied as well. The teachers are getting the children outside as much as possible for walks-even walking the halls on bad weather days. There are now assigned seats on the buses, keeping family members together to help with contact tracing. It has been working out beautifully. The school is still utilizing the "Scoop" method which quarantines only those who are in close contact so the entire class room doesn't need to quarantine. Mrs. Catapano reminded everyone that Kindergarten registration is solely on-line. Please remind your neighbors and friends! She is still not sure how the school is going to proceed with Kindergarten screening and orientation at this time. It will depend on what the regulations are at that time. The same is true for Field day. She also informed us how important it is for class parents to work in conjunction with the classroom teacher so the teacher knows what is coming in and what is going on. Mrs. Catapano addressed a question/concern from Cindi regarding the February break. The going away ruling is you can visit a connecting state without having to quarantine. If you travel internationally or go to a non-connecting state (ie: Florida) you have two options: If you don't want to get a COVID test, you can quarantine for 10 days and get remote instruction. The other option is that you must test negative 72 hours prior to coming back to New York. When you arrive back in New York the entire family must quarantine and on the 4th day, get another COVID test and if you get a negative test result you may return to school. You must be able to provide two negative test results. She asked that families please be honest and if you do plan on traveling internationally or to a non-connecting state that you inform the school as soon as possible so the transition to remote learning is seamless. The office will be open during the break (except for Monday, 2/15).

DRAFT

TREASURER REPORT: This report will cover the month of January 2021. The Unqua Elementary School PTA bank account had \$15,523.65 on January 31, 2021. The bank reconciliation for January 2021 completed. The books (accounts receivable/payable/reconciliation) were reviewed by Jessica Zwicker on Sunday February 7, 2021. There were no inconsistencies found. The following payments were made in January: Massapequa Council of PTA's \$67.41 for the 6th Grade Directory, S & A Certified Public Accountants P.C. \$350 for the Unqua 2019-2020 Tax Return, Suzanne Perakakis \$34.90 for the January Bulletin Board (Island School & Art Supply) and Suzanne Perakakis \$220.03 for the playground beautification paint supplies (Sherwin Williams).

The following deposits were made in January: Holiday Fair \$676.67, Apparel (Hope for A Cure) \$120.00, Donation to Unqua \$20, Membership total \$110.00.

Treasurer Report submitted by Nicole Annunziata.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

As of today, we have 425 members and our goal for the year is 534. Last month we asked class parents to send a message to their classes and some parents joined. Today is New York State Great PTA Sign-Up Day and the statewide goal for the day is to register 1250 new members. At Unqua we'd like to contribute and we are hoping to get 20 new members to join. Please contact our membership chair Jessica Cona at (516) 639-1807 or 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. I know this year you don't "see" us at the school, but please know we have been doing as much as we can given COVID and district restrictions and will continue to do so. We still have many things planned for the remainder of the year and we wouldn't be able to do so without your support. Just a reminder, that our Spring Plant Sale Pre-sale is for PTA members only and if Field Day is in-person, all parent volunteers need to be PTA members. Please sign up today if you haven't done so. Thank you!

TEACHER REP REPORT:

Ms. Sondo and Mrs. Pass are our teacher reps and were unable to attend tonight's meeting. They wanted to thank the PTA for all that we have been doing. Ms. Sondo reported that the kids were so excited about their PARP prizes and the gifts they got today for Family Fun Night. Please reach out to them with any questions or concerns.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent/Council Meeting on February 1st.

Social Emotional Learning: Mental Health Department reached out to students whose parents said they were concerned in the survey sent by Dr. McCaw in the beginning of the year. We have a Northwell Health psychiatrist on site once a week with parental consent. Reach out if you feel your child would benefit. It's a stressful time for everyone.

Music: There will be a high school musical this year. Little Shop of Horrors and it will be livestreamed. On the Elementary level, district is hoping for mini concerts to be held outdoors in the spring. Will have to wait to see about restrictions though.

Summer Recreation/Fine Arts Program: At least 5 elementary schools (out of 6) will be ready for Summer Rec. Each school will have construction but away from areas where kids are. Hoping to offer Fine Arts Program as well. Both pending the school budget vote in May and guidance from the Governor regarding restrictions.

DRAFT

Elementary Schools: District continues to evaluate COVID restrictions. Hoping we could do more at an elementary level. We can look into Virtual Arts in Ed Programs (more to follow below). We now have phys ed out of the classroom. Hoping all specials can be this way eventually.

Meet the Candidates Night: April 28 at 7:30pm. Not sure of platform yet. An email will be set-up for questions to be submitted to League of Woman Voters.

5th Graders: MHS Student Advisory Council will host a google meet on social media for our current 5th graders. Great way for young kids to learn from older kids. Also looking into a parent workshop, but this has been poorly attended in the past.

Kindergarten registration: numbers look good so far. Tell neighbors and friends to register so planning can begin. Registration is on-line and can be found on district website.

NYSED has applied for waivers from the federal government for the NYS grades 3-8 tests. State tests are required as part of ESSA.

NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-laws: Because of recent amendments to the NYS PTA Bylaws, the Unit Bylaws pattern must be updated. The following additions/changes will be added/changed into our current bylaws. There is no need to redo the bylaws at this time if they are not expired. The bylaws patterns have been updated on the Bylaws Wizard. When our bylaws are due for renewal (our current ones expire July 1, 2022), these changes will be in our final document. I am communicating these changes now to membership, but must be updated by the bylaws committee next year.

1. Unit Bylaws Pg. 5 Article VI- Members and Dues New wording #Section 8. - replaces the current section 8 #Section 8. Membership is purchased annually and is valid from the purchase date through September 30. Dues shall be remitted to the New York State PTA office on a monthly basis immediately following enrollment.
2. Unit Bylaws Pg. 9 Article IX- Executive Committee New Section 4 - the subsequent sections will be renumbered Section 4. In the event that a live in-person meeting cannot be held, members of the Executive Committee may participate in and act at any meeting of the Executive Committee by conference call, teleconference, or other electronic media where all participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time as permitted by applicable law. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting. Any voting that must take place should be a platform that allows for all Executive Committee members to participate.
3. Unit Bylaws Pg.10 Article X – Executive Board New section 6 - the subsequent sections will be renumbered Section 6. In the event that a live in-person meeting cannot be held, members of the Executive Board may participate in and act at any meeting of the Executive Board by conference call, teleconference, or other electronic media where all participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time as permitted by applicable law. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting. Any voting that must take place should be a platform that allows for all Executive Board members to participate.
4. Unit Bylaws Pattern Pg.10 Article XI- Meetings of the Association New Section 4 - the subsequent sections will be renumbered Section 4. In the event that a live in-person meeting cannot be held, members of the Association may participate in and act at any meeting of the Association by conference call, teleconference, or other electronic media where all participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time as permitted by applicable law. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting. Any voting that must take place should be a platform that allows for all Association members to participate.

DRAFT

Family Fun Night: Items should be going home this week and include a different game per grade, a McDonald's Happy Meal Toy, a printed at-home Scavenger Hunt and a voucher for a Kid's Meal. Unqua PTA would like to thank McDonalds (Massapequa location) for the Happy Meal toy donation and Chick-fil-A (Farmingdale location) for the printed scavenger hunt and meal voucher donations. Remote Learners will have their stuff delivered by tomorrow morning. Any twin only that would like to swap out their PTA gift, please contact me to make arrangements.

PARP: Unqua PTA PARP has come to an end and we are happy to announce our grand prize winner...the 3rd grade! Each student in that grade (remote learners too) received a \$5 Barnes & Noble gift card for reading the most days. Mrs. Abbate's class will get a small surprise from the PTA for having 90% of students hand in reading meters. What a great two weeks we had!! Thank you to our co-chairs Cathy Gorton and Sarah Klein for all your planning and hard work. Everything including the creative theme, decorated bulletin board, kick off prize, activity and trivia questions, prizes, Color Wars Day, library visit, parent read aloud and Book Fairies (in which we donated 34 large boxes of books to those in need) made PARP such a success. We even made the district Facebook page!! Thank you to all who participated, including the kid's reading partners! Hope everyone enjoyed!

Book Fair: Our Scholastic Book Fair was online this year from January 25th to February 7th. We had \$2,109 in sales. Just a reminder any books ordered will ship directly to your home. Thank you to co-chairs Katie Beleckas, Maryanne Leszczak and Vanessa VanRoten for organizing. Scholastic Dollars: Using previous already existing scholastic dollars, PTA purchased a variety of books for students to enjoy.

Box Tops: We received our check for the Fall Submission in the amount of \$181.80. Please download the Box Tops app and scan your receipts (or send your receipt in to be scanned by the committee.) There is currently a sweepstakes running through 2/28 - 5 schools will each receive 5,000 box tops. All you need to do is scan one receipt with an eligible box tops item. Please enroll your ShopRite card in the ShopRite for My School program for bonus box tops. The Bonus Box Tops earned from your purchases will be automatically credited. Please drop off any physical box tops or receipts to the Rocky mailbox. Our spring submission is due on March 1st, so please submit your box tops!! Thank you to all who have been using the app. Thank you Christina Dell'Anno and Stacey Saieva-Hock for their ongoing work with this committee.

Reflections: Still haven't heard back from Nassau Region to see if any of Unqua's 9 entries are Nassau County finalists and will advance to represent the county at the state level competition. We are working on any awards ceremony and a way to recognize our participants. Details regarding some type of recognition ceremony will be shared with parents. Thank you Kelly Workman for chairing this committee.

SEPTA: SEPTA met on January 13th, Ms. Kristen Catalano Massapequa CPSE/CSE chairperson presented an overview of the district's CPSE services. Dr. Lynn Mancinelli, Director of Brain Balance Achievement Centers also presented. In lieu of the Annual Resource fair, SEPTA has a virtual resource fair running in the month of February. There are multiple Google meet topics throughout the month, as well as additional resources on the website and FB pages. Please see the website for a calendar of events. World Down Syndrome day is 3/21, which will be celebrated in schools on 3/22. Socks from John's Crazy Socks will be on sale for \$10. Our next meeting will be March 10 at 7pm, Diane Ripple will be presenting on Continuum of Services. Please RSVP to get the log in information prior to the meeting.

Arts in Ed: As per district, we are able to look into booking Virtual Arts in Ed programs. Our chairs will research what's available and we are hoping to incorporate these educational and fun programs to our school real soon.

Apparel: We will be offering Spring Apparel. Order online and pickup at our vendor. Watch for flyer within the next few weeks. We will offer to incoming kindergarten students as well.

DRAFT

School Supply Kit: Chair Melanie Geier will be emailing the order form to those that registered for Kindergarten Registration to offer the school supply kit to our incoming students. The supply kits will be available to the rest of the school as well. Watch for flyer in backpacks in early March. Orders will be placed online and delivered directly to your home in June. Orders will be due at the end of April. 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.

Blood Drive: The blood drive is scheduled for 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. Keep your eyes out for a Flyer and link to register for the blood drive that will be sent out in a few weeks. Any questions please reach out to Kate Martin 917/941-3201 or Mary Jo McBride 516/660-4855 and let them know.

Spring Plant Sale: We are so excited to be able to have our Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser! Flyers will be going out the 1st week of March and the deadline to submit all orders will be Friday, April 9th there will be no late orders allowed as this is a deadline from the Farm. This year all orders will be submitted via member hub as there will be no exchange of money. The link will be provided on the flyer and via email. Pick up will be in early May after school-outside in the back of Unqua. More to come! Any questions please reach out to Kate Martin 917/941-3201 or Jessica Cona 516/639-1807.

Because of this unexpected income from the Plant Sale and not having a Student Plant Sale this year, I motioned to use that generated income to purchase a small plant for each student, motion seconded and carried. If the income does not cover the cost of the plants, we would move money from Enhanced Student Promotions Line.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Painted rock path: We are still collecting rocks for our painted rock path in the Habitat. This is a great activity for those cold, winter days! They can be dropped off either in the bin at 446 Unqua Rd, or in the mailbox and all rocks will be sealed before being placed in the Habitat.

Unqua Newsletter: The 5th issue of the Unqua Update was emailed out earlier this month. The next issue is scheduled for March 1st. Any upcoming PTA news will be included there.

National PTA Safer Internet Week: National PTA is hosting an entire week from February 8-12 of digital safety experiences to help PTAs and families create a safer, kinder, more inclusive online community together. Please visit PTA.org/SaferInternet for more information.

Go Red: Friday, February 12. Please wear red to celebrate Valentine's Day and for Go Red Day to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease in women.

CLOSING

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 10th at 9:45 am. Guest Speakers include Lucille Iconis & Alan Adcock to present the District Budget Presentation and Melissa Gatto to discuss our upcoming Blood Drive.

If there is no further business, meeting is adjourned at 8:22 pm.