

DRAFT



Minutes of Virtual General PTA Meeting

October 14th, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

President, Cindi St. George presided over the meeting: Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Welcomed all to our first evening PTA meeting of the year and noted that quorum was met to conduct business. Introduced officers:

Kate Martin, Vice-President

Jessica Cona, Secretary

Nicole Annunziata, Treasurer

Minutes of the last General PTA meeting were approved as written and filed.

By-laws were emailed out with the agenda.

TREASURER REPORT:

This report will cover the month of October 2020.

The Unqua Elementary School PTA bank account had \$25,359.67 on September 30, 2020. The bank reconciliation for September 2020 reconciliation was completed. The books (accounts receivable/payable/reconciliation) were reviewed by Rose Versaggi on Sunday October 11, 2020. There were no inconsistencies found.

The following payments were made at the end of September and beginning of October: Membership 334 Members \$1,336, Cindi St. George for Student Promotions (Welcome Back Students) Mask Extenders for \$31.96, County Graphics (Admin) Save the Date Flyer & Monthly Spirit Flyer for \$25.80, County Graphics Student Promotions (Welcome Back towel labels & welcome back tags) for \$17.64, Massapequa Council of PTA's Annual Council Dues for 2020-2021 for \$650 and County Graphics Forms Mngmt, LLC for Apparel Flyer \$72.

Direct deposits for Membership have been made from the end of September through the beginning of October in the amount of \$1,480. A deposit in the amount of \$780 was made by me (Nicole Annunziata to the bank directly for membership). To date we have received a total of \$3,130.

Cindi added that as long as our PTA meetings continue to be virtual, we need one person to volunteer to reconcile the books each month for the next meeting. If anyone is available to do so, please contact Nicole Annunziata one week prior to the next PTA meeting. If Nicole doesn't hear from anyone to reconcile, she will reach out to a parent so we are prepared for the next meeting.

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

We currently have 391 members. Thank you to Ms. Sondo for helping us get our teachers and staff to join. Only current PTA members will receive emails with important information and events happening at Unqua. Please send your membership form and dues in if you have not yet joined or pay online at our memberhub store.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Mrs. Catapano thanked the staff, students and parents for all of their cooperation with wearing masks. On the days there is extra help, she asked to please wait for your children to enter the building before leaving. The security guards are there to help direct traffic and buses. Unfortunately, there will not be a Halloween parade due to COVID restrictions. The children will have class parties with no class parents in attendance. Parents are welcome to bring in individual wrapped goodies but no goodie bags to take home. Regular and speciality teachers have been reviewing with students how to log in to their chromebooks and access PSL pages should we have to switch to distance learning. She reminded parents to please do the same at home with their child. Mrs. Catapano paid tribute to Chris Pendergast, founder of ALS ride for life who passed away after battling ALS for 27 years.

TEACHER REP REPORT: Ms. Sondo and Mrs. Pass are our teacher reps and were unable to attend the meeting tonight. Ms. Sondo still has PTA dues coming in but has already collected from a majority of the teachers/staff so far. Added a general “thank you” for all the PTA does.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent/Council Meeting on 9/21/20: If students wear masks, is there any intermingling at recess yet with other classes? Not at this time. Week 3 some schools brought out balls and equipment, which will be disinfected in between classes. Goose poop and outdoor learning? District has tried everything, including TOB geesepeace and environmental specialists. District purchased a wind storm machine which looks like a lawn mower and blows the poop away. District is looking into seating under the tents so kids don’t have to sit on the floor. Mrs. Dano is the supervisor of remote learners, which is housed at McKenna for elementary remote students. Teachers are now in separate locations for the noise factor. There are 15 teachers in total, including teachers and service providers, who provide direct and small group instruction. Specials are asynchronous. Magnet Program will start by mid-October. School-wide enrichment will begin soon with themagnet teacher. No group photos for 5th grade and remote students will be included for School Photos. PTA parent volunteers are very limited inside the school building. Arts in Education will start slow this year. We cannot process anything through BOCES for any in-person programs. Superintendent/Council Meeting on 10/5/20: If any positive COVID cases in a school, parents will hear from Mrs. Iconis, our COVID-19 Safety Coordinator, before the Department of Health for contact tracing due to the overwhelming number of calls the DOH gets. I-Ready Assessment is not on the portal yet. Will be reviewed at parent-teacher conferences scheduled for December. The wind storm machine has been used to blow away the goose poop and seems to be helpful. Remember that students need to wear masks on buses and sit 2 to a seat. Between each run, the buses are sanitized. SADD Halloween is cancelled as there is no way to do it safely.

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NEW BUSINESS/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

NYS PTA Annual Meeting and Convention: On November 13 – 15, NYS PTA Annual Business Meeting will take place virtually. This is where advocacy work is done and Massapequa Council and PTAs will have delegate(s) attend the virtual meeting. Emailed with the agenda for tonight's meeting, were the Proposed Resolutions to be presented at the NYS PTA Annual Business Meeting. There are 2 new resolutions being submitted, 10 retentions and 11 updates that will be voted on at the meeting. There are no rescissions. Motion made, seconded and carried regarding the proposed resolutions. In addition, if anyone from Unqua PTA attends, we give our delegate(s) a "vote of confidence". This will allow them to make decisions based on changes that may occur as a result of debate. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Bylaws: Unqua PTA bylaws may be revised or amended at any regular meeting of the association by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present and voting, provided that 30 days' notice has been given. At our November PTA meeting, I will have an amendment to our bylaws that we will need to vote on regarding our number of Council Delegates.

Box Tops: Box Tops - Fall submission is due November 2nd. Please drop any physical box tops or receipts that need to be scanned in the Rocky mailbox. Please download the Box Tops app and scan receipts within 14 days. Scan your receipt on the Box Tops app for a chance to win 5,000 Bonus Box Tops for your school. Sweepstakes begins 10/01/20 and ends 11/01/20. You can also enroll your ShopRite card in the "ShopRite for my School" program, <https://www.shopriteformyschool.com>. This will earn bonus box tops with your purchases, on top of scanning receipts. Any questions, please contact co-chairs, Christina Dell'Anno or Stacey Saieva-Hock. **Habitat:** We are in the process of cleaning the Habitat up, and then will be starting to install our colorful rock walkway/kindness path. We are still collecting painted rocks, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. You can drop your rock(s) off in the bin at 446 Unqua Rd.

Unqua Apparel: Our apparel store closed on September 30th and we sold almost 590 items. An email will go out from our vendor, New Wave Sports Outfitter, letting parents know when their orders are ready to be picked up (curbside or in the store) or shipped depending on what method they selected. Orders should be ready in about 3 weeks (early November). Thank you Jessica DiLucci and MaryAnne Leszczak for organizing and selecting great merchandise to offer our Unqua families.

School Pictures: Individual photos were taken on Thursday, October 8th & Friday, October 9th. Our remote learners were also informed of a day/time to come in. At the moment, our vendor is not offering any type of digitally enhanced or collaged class photo. Retake day, group photos and class photos will be taken at a later date if permitted. Thank you to co-chairs Nicole Annunziata and Yasmin Fleming for organizing these days and getting the picture day envelopes out so quickly.

SEPTA: 1st meeting of the year was 9/30. The Special Education administrative team attended to welcome all members. District Social Workers Joanne Waters & Marissa Boulukos presented on struggles with our new learning environments. Representatives from Long Island Advocacy Center presented on special education issues and COVID times, especially virtual IEPs, CSEs, compensatory services. SEPTA's fundraiser is still running on Member Hub, which includes Massapequa Gators, coolers, calendars and Silipint hot/cold cups. If you haven't already done so, please consider joining SEPTA, membership is still ongoing. Massapequa SEPTA

invites all to participate in Unity Day on October 21. Please wear ORANGE on 10/21 and stand “together against bullying, united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion”. Our next meeting is Wednesday 11/18. Faith Borkowsky will be presenting the Author of “Failing Students or Failing Schools?: A Parent's Guide to Reading Instruction and Intervention”.

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Red Ribbon Week: Unqua will be kicking off Red Ribbon Week on Friday, October 23rd. This year's theme is BE HAPPY.BE BRAVE. BE DRUG FREE. Dress-up days to include:

Friday, October 23rd: RED DAY - wear red to kick-off Red Ribbon Week

Monday, October 26th: EMOJIS - wear emojis and be happy

Tuesday, October 27th: CAMO - wear camo and be brave like our soldiers

Wednesday, October 28th: VACATION or ACTIVITY - dress for your favorite vacation or activity and be happy.

Thursday, October 29th: ESSENTIAL WORKER - dress like an essential worker to honor their bravery Friday,

October 30st: HALLOWEEN COSTUME - wear your Halloween costume to say “BOO” to drugs A packet for Red Ribbon Week should be in backpacks this week. Students will be encouraged to sign a youth pledge and color a “red ribbon” and we will line the main hallway with these sheets. All students will be given a twizzler.

The outdoor trees will be decorated with red ribbons, the youth pledge and colored red ribbon will be hung in the hallways and each student will be sent home with a twizzler. Please be sure to send your youth pledge and ribbon back to school by the due date if your child wants them displayed in the hallway. If not, feel free to hang at home. Next week, red tulips will be planted around the school by the trees, flagpole and along the front of the building and when they bloom in the spring, we can remind our students why they were planted and the importance of staying drug-free. There will also be morning announcements related to Red Ribbon Week for 1 week. Remote learners will have their packet and twizzler left in their home mailbox this week. Thank you to Christina Dell’Anno and Kelly Collins for organizing this week. Reflections: PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. Students in all grades and abilities are invited to reflect on a theme and create original works of art in the categories of:

Dance Choreography - Film Production – Literature - Music Composition – Photography - Visual Arts
2020-21 THEME: “I MATTER BECAUSE....”

Students may submit their artwork and student entry form. Students must follow the requirements and instructions specific to each arts category and division. Students with disabilities may receive accommodations by entering the special artist division. A complete list of rules and additional information can be found at:

<https://nyspta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Entry-Form-20-21.pdf>

Entries may be dropped off on Tuesday, November 17th from 3:30-4:30 outside of the Unqua Auditorium (by the main lobby and under the mural). Students will receive a special treat when they submit their artwork. All participants will be recognized at a Reflections Ceremony. The top entries in each category will advance to represent Unqua at the county level, with the potential of advancing to the state and national levels. Please contact Reflections chair Kelly Workman with any questions or if you cannot make drop-off date/time. This year, we are asking our students to come up with a theme for the 2022-23 Reflections Program which would

be used across the country and there is a cash prize if selected. One theme idea will be selected by National PTA to spark fun and creativity during the 2022—2023 Reflections program. The student who submits the winning entry will receive a \$100 prize from National PTA. Entry form and more information can be found at the link below, including past program themes.

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To participate, complete an entry form and submit to New York State PTA by October 23, 2020. NYS PTA, One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205-3830 Attn: Reflections Theme Search

https://nyspta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/theme-search-packet_reflections_2022-2023.pdf
f (downloadable PDF).

https://nyspta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/virtual-theme-search-entry_2022-2023-fillable-form.pdf
f (fillable form)

Unqua PTA is happy to announce that NYS PTA has selected a student artist (Nicholas S.) from our PTA to participate in the 7th Annual NYS PTA Celebration of the Arts. Their award-winning 2019-2020 Reflections entry “Look Within” will be part of the NYS PTA Virtual Celebration of the Arts on December 5, 2020.

Holiday Fair: Cindi St. George is working with our vendor to determine when the on-line Holiday Fair Boutique will be up and running. Students will have about one week to shop for family members once the date is announced. We are still working on delivery details, but most likely, all items will be shipped to Cindi’s house and she will ask class parents to help with class pick-up or delivery.

Unqua Newsletter: Due to the uncertainty of PTA events and programs, Cindi St. George created a brief newsletter called the Unqua Update, to keep parents informed of PTA happenings and will email out and post to our Facebook PTA page the 1st of every month. A hardcopy will not be going home in the backpacks. A calendar that is updated monthly will also be emailed with the minutes every month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Go Gold Day: On Friday, September 25th, Unqua PTA invited students and staff to wear gold for awareness of childhood cancer. Thank you to all who participated.

Think Pink Day: Friday, October 16th. Come to school dressed in pink for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

SEPTA Unity Day: Wednesday, October 21st. Please wear ORANGE and stand “together against bullying, united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion”.

Hope for a Cure: On Friday, November 13th, we invite students and staff to wear light blue and gray to raise awareness for juvenile diabetes. Still have a few more Hope for a Cure shirts available for purchase from a past fundraiser. Contact Cindi to inquire.

Massapequa Homecoming: Due to the uncertainty of a fall sports schedule, the homecoming football game and parade originally scheduled for Saturday, October 24, are postponed until a fall sports schedule is available.

SADD Halloween: Unqua PTA was budgeted to donate \$50 worth of candy to Massapequa’s SADD Halloween. Unfortunately, this year due to the COVID -19 pandemic and the health and safety protocols set forth by the state, the district is unable to hold the SADD Safe Halloween event on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Cindi St. George would like to purchase \$50 of non-perishable goods and donate to the St. Rose food pantry. Motion made, seconded and carried.

CLOSING:

Our next meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 9:45 am.

If there is no further business, meeting is adjourned at 8:01 pm.

After meeting was adjourned a parent put a message in the chat inquiring about class tee-shirts. Class shirts are coordinated by classroom teacher and not through the PTA. Please inquire with your teacher. Page 5 of 5