

ISLAND PARK PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

ISLAND PARK, NEW YORK

MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ISLAND PARK PTA duly called and held on Thursday, June 8, 2017 in the Francis X. Hegarty cafeteria. Jean Leo, Co-President, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Jean Leo, PTA Co-President

ATTENDEES FROM THE PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Mrs. Jean Leo, Co-President
Mrs. Ralitsa Sundquist, Recording Secretary
Mrs. Toni Egan, Treasurer
Mrs. Domenica DeBellis, VP of Fundraising

ATTENDEES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Dr. Rosmarie Bovino, Superintendent of the Island Park Union Free School District
Mr. Jacob Russum, Principal of Francis X. Hegarty Elementary School
Dr. Laurie Scimeca – Pupil Personnel Director
Mrs. Kathleen McDonough - Board of Education Trustee
Ms. Maureen G. – Island Park Library Representative

READING OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Jean Leo to waive the reading of last meeting's minutes, seconded by Domenica DeBellis. All in favor, reading of minutes waived.

Presiding officer's welcome remarks: we would like to welcome everyone to our last PTA meeting of the 2016-2017 school year.

REPORTS FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Bovino started off the meeting by saying that this is a busy but very exciting time of the year. She reminded everyone about the upcoming community day, Saturday June 10th 10:30-1:30 p.m., where there will be alumni games, entertainment, inflatables, etc. for all Island Park students and scholarships will be announced at 1 p.m.

Dr. Bovino discussed open positions in the district: LOMS Principal; FXH computer teacher; 5th Grade teacher; Kindergarten teacher; Special Ed teacher; 2 ESL teachers.

Mr. Randazzo will be moving up to Assistant Superintendent thus vacating the Principal of Lincoln Orens position. We received over 30 resumes and screened 16 candidates. The top five were interviewed by a panel of 2 school administrators, 2 teachers, 2 parents and Ms. Joanne Moustakos, who is the Secretary to the Principal of LOMS. We had the top candidate do a demo and believe that

he would be a great fit for the position. There was a consensus among the interviewers about this candidate and we will proceed with making him an offer and if accepted, we will be able to announce and introduce the new principal at the Board of Education meeting on Monday, June 12th.

We have been looking for a computer teacher for Hegarty for over a year and have found it very hard to find someone with a Master's degree in Computer science, who is also a certified teacher. After many rounds of interviews, we finally have a possible candidate who requires relocation, but we are hopeful that we will be able to bring this teacher to our district.

Ms. Weiss will be retiring so we will have an opening for a 5th grade teacher. This year the anticipated enrolment for the Kindergarten class is high and we will need to add one more Kindergarten teacher. The Special Ed teacher was a leave replacement and the original teacher decided not to return, so a permanent position is now open. There are about 25 new children in the community who were not enrolled in the UPK program and after the kindergarten screening we will know if an ELL teacher will be needed.

UPK registration dropped to 56 due to two families moving out of the district. There are two potential families with pending closings on new homes that hopefully will be registered in time.

Dr. Scimeca reported on the fun activities and school work that the PreK students have been working on. She noted that they went on two field trips and added that the children have grown so much over the past school year and that most of them are leaving PreK reading and ready for Kindergarten.

Mr. Russum spoke on behalf of Mr. Randazzo, stating that LOMS was awarded a \$5000 grant and thanked the PTA for their work and contribution throughout the school year. He also discussed some disturbing new chain mail messages and advised parents to be extra vigilant about social media use. Mr. Russum noted that some children have been discussing the Blue whale challenge, which poses serious risks to our children by engaging them in daring and dangerous behavior such as hurting themselves and even suicide.

On a lighter note, Mr. Russum reported on all the fun things happening at Hegarty, such as field trips, stepping up ceremony for 4th grade - we have exactly 100 students moving to middle school. He thanked the PTA for their contribution throughout the year and said that there's a happy buzz around the school and kids are cheerful and excited this time of year.

Ms. Maureen spoke about upcoming library programs, such as the Summer Reading Program Building a Better World, registration for the program will begin on Monday June 19th. On Saturday July 29th the library will Skype with Eric the Reptile Guy from Madagascar. She discussed safety at the library and Dr. Bovino expressed her interest in collaborating with the library director on internet safety. Ms. Maureen encouraged parents to foster love of reading at home and to make sure that kids read during the summer.

Domenica DeBellis thanked Ms. Maureen for always helping the kids in the library, even using books on tape to encourage love for books.

SPECIAL GUEST:

Mayor McGinty thanked the PTA for inviting him to the End of Year dinner. He also thanked Mr. Russum for bringing the Green club to Village hall and planting a tree. He discussed flooding issues around Hegarty and said that the village successfully completed Phase 1 of the drainage study, saving 1.1 million dollars on it. Phase 2 still needs to be done but the first ever mapping of the drains in Island Park was completed. Village officials are awaiting plans to be finalized, which should be about 6

months, and they are expecting a possible start date in September of 2018. The flooding issues on Deal road should be fixed within one year of the project start date. The mayor is also working with the Library to bring some programs to Masone Beach.

Mayor McGinty reported that we have more police cars patrolling the area due to a great relationship with the PBA. He answered questions from the public.

GENERAL PTA BUSINESS:

Domenica DeBellis read all correspondence, including Thank you letters from the principals.

Ralitsa Sundquist reported on the success of the Beautiful Me workshops – over 70 girls have attended the self-esteem workshops to date, which is more than 20% of the female student body. We will hold two more workshops and urge everyone who is interested to register. About 30 parents attended the Raising a beautiful child seminar by the Hance foundation and we received a very positive response from both parents and students on the whole program with many parents contacting the PTA to thank us for bringing the seminar and workshops to our district.

On behalf of the PTA Executive Board, Jean Leo congratulated Mr. Randazzo on his upcoming promotion to Assistant Superintendent and said that we look forward to working with him to achieve great things for the children of Island Park.

The annual End of Year PTA dinner was a great success. We received an amazing support from our schools, administration, teachers, local businesses, organizations and parents. We had over 120 raffles, photo booth, dinner, DJ, and a lot of fun for all who attended.

The Mixed Bag Fundraiser just finished and we are at about a 45% return.

The PTA is currently looking for volunteers for 7th & 8th Grade Awards Night on June 14th, LOMS Field Day June 16th, and 8th Grade Graduation for June 21st. We will set up and serve refreshments and if anyone would like to volunteer, please see us after the meeting.

Our final Pretzel Day for the year will be Wednesday, June 14th.

Jean Leo thanked the administration and members of the public for their continuous support of the Island Park PTA and wished everyone a great summer!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Ralitsa Sundquist, Recording Secretary.