

**Scarsdale High School PTA Meeting
Thursday, October 30, 2015 at 7:00 pm
Room T8, Scarsdale Middle School**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Nineteen members were present surpassing the number needed for a quorum. (Attendance list filed in the Secretary's binder.)

Motion: The minutes from the last membership meeting on May 7, 2015 were distributed. A motion was made by Eileen Donovan and seconded by Mary Blum and approved by all to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Margaret Smith presented the Treasurer's Report since Jennifer Constantin was unable to attend the meeting. About 950 PTA members are signed up to date. Margaret reviewed the expenses paid to date, which included those for the NYS portion of our PTA dues, hospitality, speaker and Scholarship Fund. Questions were asked about the benefits of being part of the State PTA which include our 501c3 and insurance coverage. Also Scholarship Fund expenses were discussed, there are two types: the costs of fund-raising such as mailing expenses and Paypal and also the SHS PTA donation to the fund.

Audit Report: Amy Song stated that the auditing committee, comprised of herself, Suzanne Glaser, Margaret Smith, and Seema Jaggi, has examined the records of SHS PTA for the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 and found them to be correct. A motion was made by Tracy McCarthy and seconded by Pam Fuehrer and approved by all to accept the report. The Audit Report for FY 2015 was filed in the Secretary's binder.

Student Wellness Initiative: Oren Iosepovici presented an update on the Student Wellness Initiative being undertaken at SHS. Last year a large group of faculty, about 60, chose student wellness as an area on which they wanted to work. They were divided into three groups, which looked at the student, teacher and parent perspectives. About 8-9 areas were identified with three being approved for further work. About 15 teachers, along with Oren and George Olivier are working with Challenge Success (which is affiliated with Stanford University) on customizing a survey for our students. Challenge Success has worked with schools similar to ours and has looked at student experiences and ways to improve it. The survey will cover things such as homework, extra-curriculars, sleep, stress, teacher support etc. A test run of the survey is being conducted in one of George's English classes first, then it will be administered in all the English classes and the results will be available about six weeks later. There are also plans to integrate parents, teachers and students to work on the issues. There will be an email request for parents to volunteer for this. The survey does not cover social, drug and alcohol issues.

Legislative Committee Update: Nan Berke, SHS PTA Legislative Co-chair, spoke about current issues including the loss of local control particularly with the tax-cap. A super-majority is needed to override the cap, which may be necessary this year due to the very low CPI (the tax-cap could be under 1%). She also discussed the mandated standardized testing and the many hours of class time it takes without the results being able to inform instruction; teachers can't see which questions the student got wrong and often don't get results till the following school year. APPR was another topic mentioned and its use of these test scores. Often the tests used for the evaluation aren't in the teacher's same subject matter and the current APPR has not been vetted nor is it based in

sound research. The Legislative Chairs will be providing ongoing information through the PTA weekly e-blasts.

Scholarship Fund: Suzanne Glaser spoke about the SHS PTA Scholarship Fund. It is entirely need-based and grants are given for freshman year of college to SHS graduates who demonstrate need. Eighteen grants totaling \$86,000 were awarded last spring. Funds are raised through an annual appeal to the community; gifts from the PTAs; holiday cards, in honor of cards and graduate card sales; as well as through a few fundraisers including Bingo Night and a tennis event.

President's Report: Margaret reviewed the PTA events that have taken place this year as well as previewed upcoming ones. The student directory was completed and distributed on the two conference nights. The SHS PTA will be undertaking a review of its IT systems this year to try to streamline it for the user while still capturing the information needed. The SHS PTA is on Facebook and Twitter. She also mentioned that if anyone is not receiving the electronic newsletter, they should go to the website and sign up.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Attendees then went to the SMS Auditorium to hear the speaker for the joint PT Council, SHS PTA, SMS PTA meeting, Jessica Lahey, who spoke on parenting to foster autonomy in our children.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Glaser
Secretary, SHS PTA