

Village School PSA

January 8, 2013

Meeting Notes

Opening

Dina D'Ambrosi opened the meeting at 9:43AM. She directed everyone's attention to the emergency exits and then began the Pledge of Allegiance.

Principal's Report – Brian Schillaci

Mr. Schillaci opened by officially welcoming our new Assistant Principal, Jessica Vierschilling. After a few words, the crowd welcomed her with a round of applause.

He then talked about how the tragic event at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut has impacted Village School. He started his discussion by sharing that the events impacted him in a big way both as a father of young children and a principal.

On the Monday following the event (12/17/2012), he met with the staff. They worked to make the environment as welcoming and comfortable as possible for the 800+ Village School students.

He mentioned that parents were supportive as well. Many discussed the events with their children and some did not. He acknowledged that this was a family decision and trusted that parents would address it as they thought appropriate. He shared that in his home, they discussed it with their 4th grader but did not discuss it with their kindergartner. He also shared, with gratitude, that many parents reached out to him by showing support, sharing suggestions etc.

Mr. Schillaci then focused on moving forward. He shared that as a district, administrators would be meeting monthly with the Holmdel police to discuss security issues and procedures. He then reiterated that the Village students and staff have been executing drills (fire, lockdown etc.) on a monthly basis. Moreover, he assured parents that the students and staff all know what to do, and they do it well.

Finally, Mr. Schillaci said that a team was put together to address safety and security from a "day to day" perspective. This team will consist of administrators, grounds people, and police representation. Their first meeting will be Thursday January 10, 2013.

Mr. Schillaci, with the help of Mrs. Barbara and Ms. Devaney, then fielded the following questions from parents:

- 1) **Ana Vander Woude asked if any new procedures were being implemented as a result of Sandy Hook.** Mr. Schillaci replied that there is now a greater police presence. Police are present at arrival and dismissal and they are performing walkthroughs. It should be noted that our Holmdel police liaison is Det. Sgt. Jeffrey Ackerson. He is not new. He has always worked with Village School for the monthly drills but is now even more involved at the school.
- 2) **Darlene Kiss asked why parking spaces were blocked off with police tape this morning.** Mr Schillaci did not know the answer.
- 3) **Denise Kline asked if the substitute teachers were familiar with the emergency procedures.** Mr. Schillaci responded yes. A parent, who is also a substitute, echoed the same. Mr. Schillaci then added that the Holmdel Schools have been executing lock down drills for seven years.

- 4) **Denise Kline asked if the teachers were told to look out into the hallways and pull lone students into their classrooms.** Mr. Schillaci and Ms Devaney both responded yes.
- 5) **Ann Marie Harrison asked if the children are told what to do if they are not in their classroom during a lockdown.** Mt. Schillaci responded yes.
- 6) **Another parent asked if students travel with a buddy.** Mr. Schillaci responded that the younger students do and the older ones do not.
- 7) **Another parent asked what is a child to do if there is a lockdown while they are in the bathroom.** Mr. Schillaci responded that they are to stay in the bathroom.
- 8) **Ana Vander Woude asked a two part question: 1) can we as parents be made aware of emergency procedures and 2) are the staff aware of when and where police are to be in the building?** Mr. Schillaci's answer to the second part of the question was yes the staff is aware. Moreover, he said the students should not be surprised to see policeman in the building since they are there regularly for drills.
- 9) **Another parent asked if there would be any changes to the visitor protocol as a result of the Sandy Hook events.** Mr. Schillaci responded that they are looking into it. One minor change has already been implemented. The office staff now queries each visitor before "buzzing them in".

Assistant Principal – Jessica Vierschilling

Mrs. Vierschilling opened by sharing that she was very happy to be at Village school and her first official PSA meeting.

She followed by announcing that a **Preschool Information Session** would be held on Thursday February 7 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

Lastly, she spoke about a **Good Behavior Incentive Program** that she was initiating to promote positive reinforcement of good behaviors. This program was started yesterday and is similar to the previous good conduct award. There is an individual award and a group award for entire classes.

The individual award is a daily one. The winners are chosen by their lunch supervisor and presented by Mrs. Vierschilling. The rewards include good conduct stickers and Holmdel Hornet pins. Children can receive awards for exemplary behavior or for improvement in a behavior. Five or six children earned awards yesterday.

The group award is a weekly one. Each week up to two classes can earn the award. The reward is a certificate.

Teacher Representative – Christine Barbara

Mrs. Barbara talked about a quilting project the staff (w/o the students) is undertaking in the wake of the Sandy Hook elementary school tragedy.

Mary Simpson (1st grade teacher and accomplished quilter) is leading the effort. The design will consist of 26 squares arranged in the shape of a heart. Each square will be contributed and signed by a group of Village staff or the PSA. The quilt will bear the message "To Sandy Hook Elementary – You are in our hearts. Love your Village School Friends".

They expect to complete this project by February and hope to display it at Village School for or a short period of time before they send it to Newtown, CT.

Teacher Representative – Kara Devaney

First, Ms. Devaney shared some upcoming school spirit information. On Friday January 18, students and staff will be dressing in their respective grades' hallway colors. (That is the colors that are painted on the bricks in the hallways that direct visitors to a particular grade's hallway. The colors are:

- PreK – Yellow
- Kindergarten - Green
- 1st Grade - Orange
- 2nd Grade - Red
- 3rd - Blue

Second, Ms Devaney announced a fundraiser the Village staff was putting together to benefit the schools impacted by super storm Sandy.

It is a staff performance called “**Village Idol**”. The host will be “Brian Seacrest”. It will take place on Friday February 22. There will be two shows at 5PM and 7PM. Tickets should go on sale by January 21st. The Village PSA will be assisting with the ticketing.

BOE – Ana Vander Woude

Ana opened by wishing everyone a happy new year.

She then shared the highlights from the last BOE meeting held on 12/19/2013.

First, as a result of the events at Sandy Hook Elementary, Bill Balicki, Director of Plant Operations and Maintenance, spoke about updated safety and security. It should also be noted that Det. Sgt. Jeffrey Ackerson of the Holmdel Police Department is responsible for juveniles and is consequently the police liaison to the Holmdel District Schools.

Second, the *Marley’s Mellow Mood* incident was discussed. Two representatives from Chartwells (district food service subcontractor) were represented. They noted that the Chartwells’ manager responsible for the Holmdel Schools, Laura Blasucci, has been removed. Her replacement is Craig Lanzner.

Third, Ana reported that as a result of the super storm Sandy, the Holmdel school district has adopted the Keansburg school district.

Fourth, Ana reported that the Solar Panel project was supposed to be completed by the end of 2012 but it was not. There was no update on a new target date.

Fifth, Ana reported that the BOE approved Mrs. Marilyn Bellis to be the new district Humanities supervisor. Mrs. Bellis was previously the district’s Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator.

Sixth, Ana shared the results of the most recent HIB (Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying) report. They are as follows:

School	Reported	Substantiated
Village	0	0
Indian Hill	0	0
Satz	0	0
High School	3	2 (Resulting in 1 day suspension w/ counseling)

Seventh, Ana reported that the next board meeting would be Wednesday 1/9/2013. This will be the annual

reorganization meeting in which contracts are approved, new members are sworn in and new leadership is elected.

Eighth, Ana reported that there was discussion of ethics issues. She added that she could not personally comment. She recommended interested parties to read the meeting minutes or attend the meetings.

Finally, and on a lighter note, Ana shared that January is board member recognition month.

President's Report – Dina D'Ambrosi

Dina opened by saying that with the help of the executive board she has revised the PSA bylaws. The reason is twofold. First, the bylaws were somewhat ambiguous. Second, they will be helpful for the upcoming elections. These bylaws will be placed on the PSA bulletin board and mailed out to members later in the week. They also will be posted on the **Holmdelparents.org** website.

Dina then announced that there are four open executive board positions for the 2013/2014 school year. They are Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Vice President of Membership and Vice President of Communications. The term is two years. Dina will also be putting together a nominating committee and letter of intent in the very near future.

Next Dina announced that the PSA was sponsoring a sweat pant drive for the Village school nurse. Sweat pants can be dropped in the main office through the end of the month.

Finally, Dina thanked the following people for their efforts:

- **Holiday Lunch** (12/11/2012) – Suzanne Gestrich
- **Holiday Shop** - Lori Umbrino, Vicki DiBlasi and other volunteers
- **Newsletter** - Vin Daniele – for the Newsletter
- **Market Day** - Lori Umbrino and Debbie Brew
- **Original Artworks** – Michelle Prager

Treasurer's Report – Purvi Shah

Purvi was absent but her report is included in Appendix A.

Linda Fernand motioned, and Michelle Prager seconded, approval of the Treasurer's report.

Vice President Fundraising – Lori Umbrino

Lori began by announcing that the **Holiday Shop** was very successful. This was the second year that *Penguin Patch* was the supplier. Their product selection had improved. Despite the fact that gifts were sold without markup, Village School earned \$2000. In addition, the PSA collected \$500 for super storm Sandy relief. This \$500 will be pooled with monies from other Sandy fundraising efforts and then be donated to area schools impacted by super storm Sandy.

Vice President Fundraising – Debbie Brew

Debbie opened by thanking those that helped with *Market Day*. The new *Market Day* guides have recently been distributed. The last day to place orders for January is 1/18/2013. These orders will be delivered to Village School on 1/24/2013 from 3-4PM in the new gym. So far this school year, Village has earned \$2057 from *Market Day*.

Debbie then talked about **Bingo** and **Carnival**. **Bingo** is not a PSA fundraiser. It is a "family night of fun". **Bingo** for kindergarten and first grades will be Friday 3/1/2013. For the second and third grades, it will be Friday March 3/8/2013. Those who want to help with **Bingo** or the **Carnival**, should contact Debbie Brew.

Debbie closed by saying that Satz School is sponsoring a clothing drive from 1/21/2013-1/26/2013. On school days clothing can be dropped off at door 26 between 10-11:30AM. On Saturday, the hours are from 9AM to 1PM.

President – Dina D’Ambrosi

Dina announced that the Holmdel Public Library is collecting books.

Dina also announced that the district is looking for someone to work on the annual **Student Directory**. This person would work as an apprentice during the 2013/2014 school year and then take full responsibility for the 2014/2015 directory. If you are interested, please contact Dina.

Appointed Board Reports – Darlene Kiss and the Appointed Board

Specialized Fundraising/Box tops – Sandra Szilasi and Nicole Salzano

Sandra and Nicole spoke again about the *Bo xtops for Education Pizza Pajama Party* contest.

Details are in the handout in Appendix B.

A collection sheet will be emailed later.

Check the PSA *Facebook* page for updates.

In addition, Sandra shared that several retailers (*A&P, Pathmark, Foodtown*) are offering bonus box tops this week.

Bus Safety – Terri Ferguson

Terri shared that the next bus safety walkthrough would be Wednesday January 16th after school. Katie Evans will be taking over this job and anyone who has volunteered should expect to receive an email from her.

Liaison to HFEE – Ann Marie Harrison

Ann Marie said that the HFEE annual giving letter was distributed via kid mail over the past week. If you have any questions please talk to Ann Marie.

Liaison to HCAA – Tammi Stanziale

Tammi talked about the Satz school play *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Showings will be at 7PM on February 1 and 2 and at 3PM on February 2. At the matinee show, there will be special seating for Village School students.

Newsletter – Vin Danielle

Vin was not present but he reported via Darlene that the deadline for the next newsletter would be January 24, 2013.

Original Artworks – Michelle Prager

Michelle reported that the PSA earned roughly \$1300 from this year’s *Original Artworks*.

School Store – Michelle Prager

Michelle reported that the next school store would be 1/24/2013.

Spiritwear/3rd Grade T-shirts – Darlene Kiss

Darlene Kiss reported that she and Ruth Davis met Sunday and agreed on 3rd grade field day t-shirts. All 3rd graders will get a free field day t-shirt compliments of the PSA. Forms for the t-shirts will be going in the

teachers' mailboxes on March 4th. Parents will have two weeks to return the forms.

Miscellaneous Announcements – Darlene Kiss

The Indian Hill PLG Boardwalk will be on 2/1/2013.

The next booster club meeting will be at 6:30 PM in the Holmdel High School Library.

PSA President – Dina D'Ambrosi

Closing

Mary Rice (#6) won PSA attendance raffle. The prize, a set of scrolled glass candle holders with votive candles, was donated by *Market Day*.

The meeting was adjourned with motions from Jenn Rainess and Denise Kline at 10:51 AM.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Treasurer’s Report

Appendix B – Box tops Pizza Pajama Party Handout

Appendix C - Attendance

VILLAGE SCHOOL PSA
TREASURER'S REPORT - January 8, 2013
Account Activity as of 12/31/2012

CURRENT ASSETS	
Checking Account - Wells Fargo	\$24,555.32
Checking (Raffle) Account - Wells Fargo	\$3,644.70
PayPal Balance	\$2,349.49
Savings Account - Wells Fargo	\$12,762.86
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$43,312.37

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Opening Balance **\$23,839.93**

INCOME

Holiday Shop	12,271.00
Market Day	72.78
Original Artworks	5,146.50
PSA Holiday Luncheon	347.40
Sandy Relief Fund	501.50
Spiritwear	66.00
Student Directories	25.00
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	\$18,430.18

EXPENSES

Holiday Shop	11,919.20
Hospitality	22.02
Ladies Night Out	35.57
Original Artworks	3,819.43
Red Ribbon Week	200.50
School Store	160.75
Student Directories	1,284.00
Teachers' Reimbursement	215.92
Bank Fees	57.40
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	\$17,714.79

Ending Balance **\$24,555.32**



collect Box Tops to win a

Pizza Pajama Party

Collect as many Box Tops as you can by February 15, 2013.

One class in each grade will win!



Here's how:



1 Glue or tape Box Tops to an official collection sheet.



IMPORTANT!
2 Write your grade and teacher's name on your collection sheet (Kindergartners, specify AM or PM)



3 Send your Box Tops into Village school from January 14—February 15!



Check the **posters in school**—
and watch for updates from the
Village School PSA
on Facebook—
to see how many
Box Tops your
class has
collected!



Please Remember!

If you want all of your Box Tops to count...

- NO expired Box Tops.
- At least one of the expiration dates must remain intact after cutting, and the box top must be mostly whole.
- NO Labels For Education on this sheet.
(Although we continue to collect Labels for Education, they should not be affixed to this sheet and will not count towards this contest.)



for a full list of participating Box Tops products, and for a PDF of the collection sheet, visit
holmdelparents.org/holmdel-village-school/fundraising or email Sandra & Nicole PSABoxTops@live.com



this fundraiser is not endorsed by the Holmdel Township Board of Education

PSA MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET

DATE: _____

	NAME
1.	Jessie Kling
2.	Lisa Kemmerer
3.	Traci Price
4.	Linda Jackman
5.	Jean Kainess
6.	Mary Rice
7.	Ann Vander Lunde
8.	Loraine Earning
9.	Kathleen Pellicone
10.	Judy Rappin
11.	Linda Fernand
12.	Nicole Salzano
13.	Terri Ferguson
14.	Harisa Krichatun
15.	Jodi Adams
16.	Shavak Shah
17.	Michelle Prager
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