

# **Village School PSA**

**September 10, 2013**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Opening**

Mr. Schillaci opened the meeting at 9:50AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dina D'Ambrosi then directed everyone's attention to the emergency exits.

### **Dina D'Ambrosi**

Dina started out by thanking everyone for coming. She welcomed all the new parents who came out to join us and also said thank you to the parents who returned for the new school year. She told everyone that Village is a wonderful school and she introduced the Teacher Reps, Christine Barbara, school counselor and Kara Devaney, kindergarten teacher. Administration, Brian Schillaci and Jessica Vierschilling. The Executive Board consisting of: Fundraising, Debbie Brew and Lori Umbrino. Herself, Communications, Vincent Daniele. Recording and Corresponding Secretary, Michelle Prager. Membership, Michelle Sottile and Treasurer, Jennifer Ryan. She explained for all the new attendees that the PSA is like the PTA but we are not subject to follow their rules and therefore we are our own entity. It stands for the Parent Teacher Organization. Our goals are: Fundraising and Enhanced Learning opportunities. Over the years we have gifted to the classrooms, sound systems, easels, etc. First and foremost we want to create memorable experiences for families and our children. Second, the staff and parents work together for Village to be as successful as it is. One of the highlights of last year for her was Village Idol and because of hurricane Sandy we all came together and put on a show to raise money. This is what it is all about. She also said that the PSA members will update the parents at our meetings and you will also hear from some outside committees as well. You will be informed all year as to what is going on in the school.

### **Principal's Report – Brian Schillaci**

Mr. Schillaci remarked at how important the PSA is for Village to be as successful as it is. The PSA consists of parent volunteers and we are always needed to make it a successful year. He commented on how successful and how smoothly the first few days of school were and he was so proud of the children. He knows everyone is nervous but it went very well. He thanked the staff and parents. There are over 800 students and 150 staff members. Thanked Katie Evans for organizing the bus service arrival volunteers for the first few days to make sure the kids arrived safely. He is excited for a wonderful school year. He also welcomed all the new comers and our returning parents. The children did not have recess for the first two days so that he and Mrs. Vierschilling could go over the rules and remind everyone of their expectations for the year. He announced that Mrs. Pugielli, Mrs. Varga and Mrs. Antonotti are back from Maternity leave from last year. He also welcomed new staff, Mrs. Prayham, special needs, Mrs. DeYoung/Sussino, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs. Derso, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ms. Murphy, 1<sup>st</sup>, Dan Frank, Physical Ed., and Rebecca Wadell, new Voyagers Program teacher for the gifted and talented. She was a teacher at Indian

Hill. He also remarked about the Village Idol(show) that the PSA, teachers and students did last year to raise money for an elementary school in Union Beach due to the damage from hurricane Sandy. He said that he, Dina D'Ambrosi, Ms. Devaney and Mrs. Barbara delivered over \$10,000.00 to an elementary school in Union Beach. To see the impact that the school took from the hurricane was an eye opener. They took a tour of the school and it was ready to go for this year. A question from the audience was asked "Is there a way to share the pictures with our children, online? He remarked, "Great question, we will see if we can get our hands on that. "

Next week the third graders will go to the office and take over the Pledge of Allegiance every morning.

Safety and Security will be a major focus this year. It will be on going and they will meet on a regular basis with the security division. There is at least one fire drill and one other drill that will be announced. A letter will go home so if you chose you could communicate with your child you can. We want the children and staff to be prepared for first drill after that the rest will be unannounced.

So excited we are off to a great start.

#### **Assistant Principal – Jessica Vierschilling**

She welcomed everyone back. Thank you to the volunteers for the arrival of the buses. This was her first time experiencing the first day at Village. She did not come until December. So she will continue to look to the veterans for advice. She was so happy with everything.

Back to School Nights are as follows: Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade are this Thursday, September, 12<sup>th</sup> and Second and Third Grades are Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Both at 7pm. They are taking place in this Gym/Cafeteria. Then you will go to visit your child's teacher.

She wanted to make everyone aware of the drop off process. Go around the circle if your child is ready please exit the car at the front door. If a child is slow, please do not drive around the stopped car. We don't want anyone to get hurt. Please have patience. Thank you.

Mrs. Redding was married over the summer. She is now Mrs. Wright and Ms. Sussino was married and she is now Mrs. DeYoung. Megan Vinzagara had a baby girl and so did John Nicaro and his wife.

Near and Dear to her heart is the Character Education program. Mrs. Vierschilling feels it goes hand in hand with the buses as well. We are always looking for positive ways to engage the children in positive behavior. She would like to reach out for new ideas. Please go to her if you have a fresh new idea for our Character Ed program.

#### **Teacher Representative – Christine Barbara**

We are only four days into school. This is the biggest turnout we have seen in a long time. She is happy and welcomed everyone. As a school counselor if there anything she can do to help anyone please let her know. Last year was one of the best school years with the PSA. Village Idol was amazing and she was happy to provide for the families that needed our help. The kids loved Idol so much that she will try to come up with something to top that this year. She

thanked you for Teacher Appreciation and Faculty luncheon that will be taking place this Friday, September 13, 2013.

**Teacher Representative – Kara Devaney**

Thank you so much PSA for the Kindergarten Survival Guide. Our goal is to get the staff involved 100% in the PSA. We are also going to get the teachers to come to Ladies Night Out.

**Vice President Fundraising- Debbie Brew**

Debbie opened with *Market Day*. *Market Day* orders are due by Thursday 9/12/13 and online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com) on Friday 9/13/13 by 11pm. Market Day guides went home in the backpacks today 9/10/13. The PSA has earned \$4000.00 from *Market Day* last school year. Delivery will take place next Thursday 9/19/13 from 3pm to 4pm in the cafeteria/gym.

She also explained about our PSA shirts. Look for us in these designed logo shirts at every PSA event. Ladies Night Out is going to be an 80's themed dance party look for information coming up soon for that event. It will be in a bigger venue on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at Addison Park. There will be no assigned seating and an open bar. Last year it was sold out and we had to turn people away. Pre-sale packets of the auction tickets. We are looking for baskets. It is a good way to promote your business. Need volunteers.

**Vice President Fundraising- Lori Umbrino**

She spoke about the Kindergarten meet and greet event that will be taking place on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at Chuck E Cheese on 35 in Middletown at 3-9pm. This event is a way for parents to meet each other. There will be pizza, games, and tokens. In the past we had the parents meet down the hall in the conference room and we found that the only people who were there were the PSA members. Someone commented that this event is taking place on Indian Hill back to school night. It wasn't on the District Calendar when the event was planned Lori remarked.

**Vice President Communications – Vincent Daniele**

He talked about the October/November Newsletter which includes all the events that are happening at Village and also gives a recap of all the events that passed. He asked if we could get him all of the information before Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. He thanked everyone who was timely in getting him the stuff for the back to school packet. He thanked Lynn Saporito for helping him transition so easily to his new position from the website and facebook. He also asked for a volunteer to update the sign outside of the school once a month. He said it usually takes about ten minutes of your time so please volunteer and see him after the meeting. He also asked for us to make sure to visit our website at [www.holmdelparents.org](http://www.holmdelparents.org) and click on the link that you need. You could also print out the forms that you may need.

**Corresponding and Recording Secretary – Michelle Prager**

She talked about the first school store which was coming up next Thursday, September 19, 2013. Please put money in an envelope and give it to your children so they can shop. Prices range anywhere from 25cents to \$3.00. She remarked that the supply boxes went over very well this year. She thanked Lynn Saporito and Dina D'Ambrosi for helping her. We had over 250 boxes that were ordered. Every year the teachers get together and get a supply list that can be ordered and put in a box. It is delivered before the first day of school and it contains all of the supplies your child needs for the year. There is no waiting on lines and you could enjoy your summer. Your child will not have to come on the first day with supplies in their backpack. She also made mention that Huntington Learning Center would be at our next PSA meeting that will be taking place on October 16, 2013. They will be there to discuss what they are all about and how much time should your child spend on homework before you know they are struggling.

#### **Vice President Membership – Michelle Sottile**

She told us that we are trying to get 100% membership this year and one incentive is each class of every grade that has the most members will get an ice party. If you go online to pay you \$10.00 per family you could pay via paypal. The current leaders were: Mrs. Campbell 40%, Mrs. Devany's 28%, Mrs. Wright 30%, Mr. Dangler 30% Mrs. Andrews 28%. If you sign up you will also be entered in a raffle for a \$50 gift card.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Ryan**

Not much to report this month due to our summer vacation. \$48,155.43 are what we currently hold in various bank accounts and our current expenses are minimal at \$3,356.24. The income will be reflected in the October report.

Dina mentioned that Michelle Prager runs the Art and Chess camps after school. This should not be confused with the PrimeTime camps. Those camps are American Idol, Big Buddy, Tennis, and Legos.

#### **Appointed Board Reports**

##### **Scavenger Hunt- Laura Lavell**

The Scavenger Hunt is something new at Village and it will take place on Friday, September 27 2013. She is sending out a volunteer signup sheet. You can pay via paypal. The children will look for clues all over the gym.

##### **Historian- Karen Salerno**

Please submit pictures throughout the year. You can upload them this year. We have a new vendor. She also said if you become a PSA member you will get a free year book if not you will

have to pay. Dina said if you decide to help out as a photographer you get to go to the events that parents are not allowed to attend.

#### **Hospitality- Jamie Hynes**

The teacher's lunch will take place this Friday, September 13, 2013. They need people to bring in drinks, desserts, fruit or a cash donation is greatly appreciated.

#### **Holiday Shop- Vicki Diblasi**

She said she needs volunteers for the upcoming holiday shop. It will take place all week from December 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. It is not a fundraiser. Our little ones need help while shopping.

#### **Boxtops/Specialized Fundraising- Sandra Szilasi**

She asked that we save our boxtops and drop them off in the office. We get 10cents per boxtop and last year we raised over 4k for Village. She also collects Labels for Education usually on Campbell's Soup, ink cartridges, and old cell phones.

#### **Spiritwear/Games/Toys- Suzanne Gestrich and Lynn Saporito**

Suzanne said the deadline for orders will be October 2, 2013. The products are the same as last year. There are sweatshirts and t-shirts. The prices are cheaper than last year and there are samples that you could look at. She brought them so you could see the sizes. You can also order online or from our order form. This year we are carrying magnets as well. Dina told us that the deadline for Toys and Games is this Friday, September 13, 2013. Please put your recycled toys and games in the big box by the front office. The children use these games for indoor recess.

Dina commented on Red Ribbon Week since Jen Rainess was not there. It is sponsored by the Drug and Alcohol Alliance and there would be more to come in October. People like to volunteer for this since they get to spend time at their child's lunch time. She also mentioned that Katie Evans was the Bus Safety Coordinator and thanked her for a wonderful job. She said everything went smoothly on the first few days of school.

#### **Go Green-Vanessa Merhi**

Wednesday, September 19, 2013 would be waste free Wednesday. It will take place once a month. We don't use styrofoam trays anymore at Village but compostable trays. All of Holmdel schools trying to get this. Dina Hamwi remarked that she was trying to get this for years.

Dina talked about the BOE Representative, Dennis Pavilik who could not be here today. He will come every month and update us on the events that take place at their meetings. There will be a BOE meeting on September 19, 2013 at 8pm.

### **HFEE- Michelle Sottile**

There are two new co chairs on the Board, Brian Kennedy and Tom Minerva. Brian Kennedy will be speaking at both back to school nights. Michelle stated that the Holmdel Foundation for Education Excellence is looking for donations. They will also be hosting a dinner dance on April 5<sup>th</sup>, more information to follow.

Dina mentioned that Ana Vander Woude was not there from ARISE. They are a parent support group for parents with special needs children. ARISE stands for Advocating Rights in Special Education.

Dina also mentioned that in order to be in the School Directory for the year you have to go online by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Follow online directions. She asked that we please like the Facebook page and usually our meetings consist of an hour or less.

She ended will thanking Suzanne Gestrich for putting together a great time at the Red Oak Diner in June. Debbie Brew and Lori Umbrino for a wonderful Carnival that raised the most money ever, Vin Daniele for the great Back to School Packets and Michelle Prager for the supply boxes.

Dina said that it is very important to get involved in your child's life and we only have one chance. Please come and help out.

### **Closing**

Judi Rabkin (#18) was drawn in the attendance raffle. The meeting was adjourned with motions from Lisa Litman and Lynn Saporito at 11:00am.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A- Treasurer's Report

Appendix B- Attendance

**VILLAGE SCHOOL PSA**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
*Account Activity as of 8/31/2013*

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Checking (Primary) Account	\$	30,221.91
Checking (Raffle) Account	\$	4,223.38
Checking (Go Green Grant) Account	\$	860.00
PayPal Balance	\$	84.69
Savings Account	\$	12,765.45
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>48,155.43</b>

**INCOME**

Membership

**TOTAL INCOME**

**\$ -**

**EXPENSES**

Gifting	2,781.49
Ladies Night Out	500.00
Student Directories (2013-2014)	74.75
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 3,356.24</b>



## Attendance - Sept. 10, 2013

1. Jennifer Baker
2. ~~Synum ~~Waters~~~~
3. Donna Curcio
4. Dianna Davis
5. Lynn Saporito
6. Vanessa Granata
7. April Camarda
8. Eileen Pellegrino
9. Lourdes Murphy
10. Kathleen Pellicone
11. Jean Berardi
12. Laxmi Chen
13. Mariah Dubin
14. Laura Shay
15. Erica Xenakis
16. Shiela Scarpino
17. Nicole Kennedy
18. Judi Fabkin
19. ROBERT LUNDH
20. Jenn Rainess
21. Anna Kennedy - Azzaoui
22. Allison Dailey
23. Tonya Romano
24. Amira Khohy

25. Jun Hou
26. **Danielle Volpe**
27. Maggie Purcell
28. Keri Todisco
29. Laura Bachmann
30. Susan Hammer
31. Jaimie Hynes
32. Sandra Szalai
33. KAREN SALERNO
34. ANISSA DEERK
35. ~~Vanessa Merhi~~
36. Alia Aziz
37. Laura Lavell
38. Michelle Barker
39. Janice Petretti
40. Toral Patel
41. Tara Shinde
42. Maria Curreri
43. Denise Kline
44. Carol Kidorf
45. **Jennifer Reddy**
46. Vasilisa Louapoulos
47. Jennifer Vallillo
48. Carolyn Ruolo
49. Maria Campitlag

49. Yvonne Chiu-O
50. Lisa Ippolito
51. Erika Roth
52. Tammi Stanziale tlstan233@aol.com
53. LISA NICEFORD LITTMAN
54. Toyin Adeyeri
55. Alychia Buchan
56. Danielle Impreve duto
57. Christina Avella chastnaavella@gmail.com
58. Michele Samson
59. Tara Adesina
60. Colleen Corbett