

**Meeting Minutes - Virtual Meadow Drive PTA Meeting
4/27/2020 at 7pm via Zoom**

Alecia Whitaker Pace invited you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Recording of this LIVE Meeting can be found on the website & PTA Meadow Drive Google Drive

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jmb-u0-hkYfMtdxfRQFy0y7Bjkd6zms/view?usp=sharing>

1. **Call to order** – Alecia Pace - 7:07pm, Melodie was given host rights to co-host a meeting with Alecia.

<https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/meetings-minutes/>

Welcome, brief intro. New platform, our new reality. Thank you to everyone who is attending; Dr. Nagler & the members of the school board - Thank you - attendance is very strong! Thank you!!! Thank you to Rose Giatanis who tirelessly designs and updates our PTA website. Thank you Rose...<https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/>

Alecia - shows how to access Agenda & January Minutes - follow along if you can.

Agenda

January Minutes - let's take a look at those...

2. **Recording Secretary's Report:** January Meeting Minutes from our website:

<https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Meadow-Drive-PTA-Minutes-Jan-20.docx.pdf>

(Alecia pulled up the January Minutes and we quickly reviewed highlights of the January minutes before we voted on them. Alecia:

From the Minutes, we reviewed:

Membership - 344, but let me mention... Mineola has 100% teacher involvement = outstanding. Very rare - thank you.

Several teachers joined committees this year - Thank you!!! So important.

Ms. Wolf - Hats for Hate, PARP and, last year Ms. Sanchez - family reading night TEACHERS can vote, chair a committee. Please - we appreciate your involvement.

Old Business - Some great assemblies:

Family STEAM Night & STEAM Museum, some canceled.

Health & Wellness committee - right on point, kudos to Ms.Ortiz, Ms. Bang &

Ms.McDermot for their foresight & support in this campaign

Family Game Show Night - great

PARP - Melissa Bory well done - thank you... our students were "Happy Campers" :)

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Family Reading Night - (Katherine Bennett & Alison Ambriose &) was canceled, but a Big thanks to Katherine Bennett for her amazing virtual family reading - Awesome job! Cool way to connect.

Approval of January Meeting minutes - Alecia: A vote of acclimation...(time of crisis). Alecia explained how to make a motion and have votes via virtual conferences. (Melodie reads CHAT responses aloud)

Alecia: Do we have a motion to approve the January Minutes?

First: Anyis Batista made a motion to approve,

Second: Sophia Palominos

Alecia: All in favor say "aye" responses...

All against say "nay": (none)

7:14 pm: January Minutes from last meeting APPROVED - 4/27/20

3. President's Report :

A. **Old Business** : discussed some "OLD" business during the review of January minutes (above) - see notes

B. New Business

- Senior Scholarships** Caroline Sarosy & Sofia Palominos (unmuted) - Caroline explains the District Council role and their meeting, one matter is senior scholarships Meadow gives out. Students submit entries (a short paragraph) - need a committee of volunteers to help read them over. Email, or comment on Chat - to be done by 5/5.

Alecia: There are 11 paragraphs to read. Will be on Google Drive, [I created] blind entries so they can be forward to volunteers. Need alternates - just in case. Thanks...

Volunteers to help with entries:

Katherine Bennett, Donna Patron, David Floccari, Cascille Hampton, Kelly G, Caitlin Moronta, Megan (on iPhone), Jill Henriksen

- Class Money/End-of-Year Gifts:** Hard to ask for money for gifts at this point in time. Alecia is it OK to "pay forward" the money collected for PNO (\$4.00 per family) will be used for teacher gifts and year-end thank yous? A discussion ensued about what to do with the PNO donation, class money (for parties) and baskets...
 - FYI - PTA budget is ok for year end gifts for the students/kids
 - Melodie: I like the idea of using the money for the teachers...Many others agree: (in CHAT) Nicole Barthelemy, Francesca Walker, Sara Davila-Hamue, David Floccari, Cascille Hampton, Cindy Z, Cascille Hampton
 - Various input from Kathleen Gentile, Janna Carbone, Alecia, Amy Levine (Treasurer): Would like to see class money go to THIS year's teachers, gifts whatever vs. NEXT year.

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- Donna Patron: Give money to teachers, working so hard
- Alecia clarified...We will be voting on what to do with PNO \$4 donation ONLY, we will revisit class (party) money and basket once we know for sure if school's are officially closed. As of now, schools are closed through 5/15.

- Class Money & Basket: As for what you have leftover for class parties, we should wait. If school returns, you ought to work with your teacher to have an awesome return party! If school is closed for good, we would love to hear from you with ideas. Please send any ideas to meadowdrpta@gmail.com or Class Parent Liaison Katheleen Gentile at meadowdrcpc@gmail.com . More TBD...

- Virtual Teacher Appreciation Week** - (*flyer on homepage of PTA website*) Alecia: we coordinated efforts with Hampton St and Jackson Ave PTA's to show our teachers appreciation while providing Choice to parents and students. This also ensured that families with multiple children, at different schools were not "losing their minds" with so many different activities. <https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/> Kathleen Gentile spoke about, as Alecia presented the flyer for Teacher Appreciation Week: quickly reviewed the optional activities, we made sure 1st graders/parents could access Flipgrid.
- Canceled due to school closure:**
 - Parents' Night Out** - rescheduled for the Fall 2020, and will now take place in the fall moving forward. We can not have 2 PNO in the school year. This may work out better in the future, as PNO funds most of the year's PTA activities at Meadow. We will now hold PNO in the fall. Planning will start in August & September. We will keep any of the donations and items for the Fall. Vendors/sponsors will not be notified of the change and thanked for their contributions and continued support.
 - Book Fair: canceled**
 - Plant Sale: canceled**
- Pending:** Field Day, Unity Day at Jackson, and Summer Reading/School Supplies
- Alecia: Honorary Life Awards (Jenkins)** (chair -Stacey DeCillis)Winners over the last 50+ years: <https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/your-impact/>

Questions Received from Parents/families:

- Square 1 Art:** Susana de Sousa - HI, supposed to be delivered in the beginning of April....4/20 extension. We do not have a definite answer, right now about delivery. One option is to have them mailed to my home, then depending on class orders and # of items, I will set up a date & time for ind. Classes (Kathleen Gentile - CPC will help to organize) pick up at Susana's house. When she knows more about # of boxes etc... she

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will update us. Questions, email us at meadowdrsquare1art@gmail.com. Any NEW orders will be shipped directly to your home.

- ❑ **Memory Books:** Danielle Kuhn - taking the delivery - Thank you. The PTA will be gifting the second graders their Memory books. Other orders are due by the week's end (4/29). Information to follow about how we will give them out. **2nd grade class photo.** Did not get the photo, but now we will start doing that photo in the FALL!
- ❑ **Storage of items:** TBD, Alecia Pace please just hang onto any items you have from a committee. Right now we are in limbo, so sit tight with whatever you can. We appreciate your patience. If other people can help with storage, let us know....
- ❑ **End of Year / Second Grade Ceremony** - Alecia: recognizes Dr.Nagler & B.O.E., and admin in attendance... PTA would love to work with you/ district to recognize the students somehow, whether it is in August or the fall, the last days at Meadow are so sweet, sad to think they won't have those moments.

Next Meeting: June 8th - maybe zoom... but def want to recognize volunteers & start chairperson volunteers, budget as well as now the fall regatta.

Chairpeople / Volunteer event - Sophia P. to chair this event. Also need this meeting to finalize budget and plan summer packet & fall event, now PNO in October.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Amy Levine spoke about (in detail) the balancing this year's budget: She mentioned unreconciled items, as well as all the outstanding expenses and expected costs to occur this spring.

Highlights: Current balance is \$24,949, \$7,000 in outstanding checks, \$5600 is Holiday Boutique, and PNO reimbursements - Online/memberhub PNO orders were refunded already. Currently have \$17,900 available funds.

Accounts receivable: Some money from Square One will be coming in,
Outstanding/payables we have: Scholarship/Jenkins, NYS insurance, and year-end gifts. Possible expenses: field day - if at all, budget will be small (not the usual \$7k budget) and we won't have items, also have installation dinner, volunteer appreciation & teacher lunch etc. **Estimated carry over is \$15,000.** Thank you Amy

5. **Nominating Committee Report - ELECTIONS** (*NOTE: NY State and National PTA has relaxed the procedures for voting due to the global pandemic. We still need a quorum, but since we are not having a ballot vote, we are permitted to do it now via acclamation.*)

<https://www.meadowdrivepta.com/board-members/>

Alecia introduced Jan Corbo, Chairperson of Nominating the Committee

Jan Corbo: In November 2019 the committee was formed, we attended training. We met 2/18/20 to go through the nominations. Jan read the slate of nominees to serve as officers of Meadow Drive PTA for the 2020-2021 school year:

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The following names are placed on the 20-21 slate to be voted upon...

President: Melodie Kraljev

Vice Presidents: Kathleen Gentile and Sofia Palominos

Corresponding Secretary: Megan Romito

Recording Secretary: Anyis Batista

Treasurer: Nicole Barthelemy

Alecia Pace: Alecia asks incumbents to be muted and to raise their hands, and accept the position they are nominated for...

Melodie, Kathleen, Sophia, Megan, Anyis & Nicole all accept...

Alecia: Do we have a motion to accept the slate as it is and pass/elect the new members of our Executive Board?

Alecia: Jan - correct, we did not have any member run from the floor.

Jan: Correct, no other correspondence.

Alecia: Do we have a motion to accept the slate as it is and pass/elect the new members of our Executive Board?

First: David Flocarri

Second: Sara Davila Hamue

Alecia: By vote of Acclimation (everyone UNMUTED) - Those in favor of the incoming officers, say aye: ayes have it...

Welcome! Congratulations to President: Melodie Kraljev, VPs: Kathleen Gentile and Sofia Palominos, Corresponding Secretary: Megan Romito, Recording Secretary: Anyis Batista and Treasurer: Nicole Barthelemy.

Alecia: Wanted to do this in person...but for those parent of second graders whose children are transitioning to Hampton, it's a great opportunity for you to meet the PTA president at Jackson and we also have a few board members here with us as well, Please welcome Kim Barrett, who is president and Donna Patron who is the Chairperson of the nominating committee at Jackson and District Council Delegate at Jackson and a Meadow mom... Thanks ladies.

6. Jackson Avenue School Report - Kim Barnett, PTA President, spoke about the Jackson Avenue PTA and welcomed any "new" parents who will be headed to Jackson next year. Great school, can join PTA starting in July. Info to follow about chairing events. It's a "quick" school,

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so sign-up. Any special talents you can share, do bulletin boards etc... Please help out. Looking forward to working with all of you.... It's a great school, and we make the best of it.

Alecia: introduces Donna Patron....Donna Patron, I am Chairperson of the nominating committee at Jackson Ave. PTA, looking for 2nd grade parents, looking for more to get involved... only 3rd and 4th graders. In addition to the officer positions we are looking for 2 district council Delegates who would attend the district meeting as Caroline said earlier, a forum for all the PTAs to come together to share best practices. Attend a few meetings throughout the year, then turn-key info to Jackson Ave PTA. We are accepting nominations through May 8th. Please email Jacksonaveelections@gmail.com. If you already submitted a nomination prior to remote learning, we have it already, no need to resubmit. Thanks!

Alecia: Thanks Donna. Also some Jackson officers to say hi... VP Jamie Loehner (Hi everybody). Caroline Sarosy, (Hi) and Amy Levine., and Karen Rubino. Thank you all so much.

7. **SEPTA Liaison Report from** Christina Feit (on iPhone), Christina reports: each year they host at event with each school, all are welcome, this year pancakes fundraiser at Applebees in February, Parent Social at Copperstone in February as well, and a movie night at the Middle school in March. Unfortunately, family reading at Meadow and Zumbathon at the HS were cancelled; Last meeting was January 27th, packed... Guest speaker Dr. Fred Holtz - Psychological Director on LI (?) presented and discussed anxiety in children, passed out resources. Very helpful. Not much else right now, but if you are interested in joining SEPTA, go online. Thanks.

Alecia: adds... SEPTA still looking to fill a few officer positions, so you can go online to find out more about that. Thank you Christina, our PTA has been very connected this year. Thanks.

8. **B.O.E. Representatives: Patrick Talty, Dr. Nagler, Margaret Ballantyne (Maugie) and Christine Napolitano.**

Patrick Talty spoke first: can't believe it's been 7 weeks of distance learning. So grateful he had the opportunity to read to Ms. Castello's class during PARP. Always great to visit the schools, and he can't wait to do it again. At our last meeting there is still no date for the school budget, TBD. And voting may be in person or via absentee ballot, so look for information on that. Our State aide figures are also unknown, Governor Cuomo indicated a 20% cut, about 1.6 million, which is about 1.6% of our budget, and dealing with a 2.74% tax increase, it's difficult

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for us. But all of this still has to play out a bit more. The deadline for school taxes has been extended through June 1st; giving us a few more weeks for decisions to be made.

Over these past 7 weeks, the district has provided more than 18,000 meals to families. Reminder to anyone who needs food, to visit one of the school locations to pick up food, and Friday's for the weekend meals too. School's are doing a fabulous job servicing our community, so THANK you. People are asking what they can do to help and my mind immediately went to legislative issues facing NY. NYS/the Governor stated NY is facing substantial decrease in tax revenues, 15-16 billion from business closures. So I encourage people to communicate with our state leaders; representatives: specifically; Senators Schumer & Gillibrand, Representatives Tom Suozzi & Kathleen Rice (specifically covers areas around Meadow).

Any special connection in Kentucky...to speak/reach out via letters, phone call, email, twitter etc... to speak to the Senate majority leader about his funding for NY/ to express our needs. Federal government has fiscal and monetary tools in their toolbox that states do not have. I feel very strongly that it is the role of the federal govt to step in when states need assistance. To go bankrupt and jeopardize funding for schools, police, the people on the front lines; This is not a political issue, it's a moral issue. Anything we can do to reach out to local and federal legislators will help our community.

5/7 next BOE meeting; will be on Webex, link will be posted on the district website. Thank you and be well everyone.

NOTES from Mr. Talty:

Past B.O.E Live Streamed Meetings can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/mineolaufsd>
Senate Majority leader McConnell (KY)

Dr. Nagler spoke about, first, Thank you to everyone, staff, very aspect of our staff, our parents our kids. I did some form of teaching, at Meadow & Hampton today, and boy was that exhausting. (LOL) I am super proud that we were able to hit the ground running, I proud of all the resources, teacher. I know some of you are teachers, and know other teachers and they are doing it much differently. Even my own 2 children have a different experience as my Mineola kids have and I am grateful for that! A newfound respect for teachers I hope, and for parents who are teaching at home.

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As I have said several times...At this point, I have no ideas about the future, any more than you do. I take direction from the governor and when he decides about school reopening. Our primary goal, if and when we come back, will be to truncate all the time and events that we missed into whatever time is available to us. Our primary concern is our HS senior, it's a terrible way to end their HS years. They are missing major events, grad, prom, awards ceremony that we are currently brainstorming solutions for. As Ms. Ortiz and her staff, and all the other principals are doing their calendar. So as far as the original question about a moving up ceremony, yes, if it makes sense, when it makes sense, we will do it. Even if that means moving them up in September. We will do our best to make sure that no one gets short changed on things they were looking forward to; within reason. We all feel terrible that this is happening to our kids.

As Patrick said about the budget... This is grim. Especially if we don't get the federal funding that Patrick spoke about. The state budget came out in April, and there is a line in the budget that said Mineola Covid-19, minus \$200k, and there was another line item that said federal money plus \$215k. So it was a complete wash, so whatever came out of the state was replenished by the fed. I don't think that will happen again when they adjust the budget. And if we have to reduce \$1.6 million, which is 20% of just our state aid, then that's a big hit. There is no way you can take that amount of money out without a negative aspect. Now we do have a lot of different possibilities that we will try, because we do have a savings account that we can backfill. The problem with that is I don't know when the state's going to give us this money back. If they were able to tell us "it's a year" that would be a lot different. The last time this happened, in 2008, we didn't get our state aid back for 8 years! So any money we try to plug to fill that whole, you have to have for a long time. So with all that said, when we present our budget, because we have a lot of good things in our budget, including some capitol work at Meadow. I just want to go over quickly, because there is some controversy... The bus lane at Meadow. Basically we are redesigning the front of Meadow. Parking spots out, trees out...replaced with a bus lane close to the building and a new sidewalk. And in between the lane and sidewalk would be new trees. Buses would come in off of Willow, make a right turn and all the buses will be parked in front. So kids can safely leave/get on and off the buses. There will be a sidewalk where the cars are now. So we will gain an entire curb in the front of the building - that seems logical.

The issue with Willow residents is where do we put the parking lot. My reco, take out the swings and add parking there. Add a play space outside the new music room where it seems to be dead space away. Leave the baseball field intact - do not touch that. Some residents want the parking to be through the field and park in the back by the supermarket. That would limit green space for the kids, so not in favor.

Not a ton of street parking, people may disagree, but I know I don't have enough parking for my staff. 25 spots short in front, so they park on the street, spots on Willow or Meadow. Not

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enough spots for families and visitors. I know when I go I have limited parking too. We will discuss more with the PTA & community more.

Other things we are planning.... Jackson - creating a science, music & art wing at Jackson. Same as Meadow. Requires moving some classrooms around (3rd graders move)...

Finish door replacements at Middle school and Jackson.

Capital work will probably be reduced next year, but we still need to propose it in the budget. If we want to do it in the future, we need approval now.

Any questions... budget etc...

Alecia: Question we are hearing... Will Pre-K have a bus.

Dr. Nagler: Bus line will help with Pre-K drop off and pick-up, but no buses for pre-k. Parents would be allowed to use the lane.

Alecia: Parent would

Dr. Nagler: Don't be surprised if we talk about not having a full day Pre-K. That's how devastating it may be. There are so many unknowns, don;t even have a date. We did take the state numbers and took out about ½ million, but if that turns into 1.6 million, we are in trouble. We worked very hard to get a lot of great things out of the budget, long term not good, short term should be OK.

Alecia: Please let us know what we can do to help.

TAKE ACTION TUESDAY is the simplest way for us to advocate for our children.

<https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/take-action>

“Take Action – Additional Funding for our schools. If you have turned on the news you know that besides the pandemic we are currently facing, the financial impact will stay with us for years to come. NYS PTA sent out an email asking to TAKE ACTION and request that our members support the bipartisan proposals to deliver \$500 billion in federal assistance to states, local governments, and school districts.

If you want to do more - reach out to myself or Caitlin Moronta

Alecia recognizes BOE -"Thank you to... Margaret Ballantyne (Maugie) and Christine Napolitano.

Other Questions:

Kim Barnett: I have a budget question, Is there anyway to use “tax levy” to offset the loss.

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Dr. Nagler: It's a slippery slope, our allowable is 2.99 this year, and we are going out with 2.74, we are a little less, trying to be a little sensitive to the fact that people are out of work. We can break the tax cap at this point. Next year is ok... I'm worried about the 2021 school year.

Alecia: Any other questions (none).

9. Principal's Message, Mrs. Sara Ortiz, BIG Thank you to all. Ms. Ortiz spoke about how exhausting this all is; working and teaching from home. Very grateful to teachers in the virtual room. You are phenomenal keeping the children of NY learning. Our staff is amazing. Video (yet to be seen) is amazing - Thank you to Ms. Castello and Ms. Wolfe. What an uplift, and the fact that our staff is going out of their way to do this on top of everything else is amazing. The best part of my day is being on Webex with kids. Snack with principal, The kids are so positive and resilient - amazing kids. Want to share, Ms. Brennan's kids and their recycling program is donating their cashed bottle money to families & hospitals for supplies and needs for first responders. Also making cards, they are so great!!! and being a supporter of the community - thanks!

Thank you so much parents for keeping up with this. Please do what you can, and do what feels comfortable, Don't stress about. Trying to limit emails, trying for 1 email a week. All the virtual connecting is overwhelming, planning 1 week at a time. Biggest thing, most important thing is that during this time when we are forced to distance, our community is still connecting more than ever. Thanks! Questions...

10. Teachers' Rep Message Ms. Castello or Ms. Sanchez or Ms. Wolfe.

Hi Everyone, It's Ms. Sanchez - From week 1 - trying to get on Webex, until now, our greatest joy is seeing and learning with your children. It's been great, really a joint effort and we appreciate all that you are doing at home to keep the kids engaged. We truly thank you for all the cards, photos, emails and such, the outpouring of love and support has been amazing.

Ms. Castello - and piggybacking off of her, let me share its so nice to see you all, we miss seeing your faces. We hope you all safe and healthy at home. None of this would be possible without you all, so thank you. We are here to help if need anything, happy to help.

Ms. Wolfe - It is so great to see your faces, but even more excited to see the little ones walking by. I miss lunch duty and the community of our school. I was so excited to see their faces....

We are here for you, anything we can do, please don't hesitate to reach out for whatever it is you need.

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Alecia: We love the video - Thanks ladies.

Ms. Sokol - Again - parents, you are doing a phenomenal job. Kids are on webex, on time and excited to be there to learn. Credit too to the kids, because it is hard thing for them to understand, crazy schedules, mom and dad at home, but they continue to learn and be here. So kudos to them. If it wasn't for them we would be crazy by now. Thanks for coming together...We're all in this together, stay home and stay safe.

Ms. Wolfe Adds: and a quick Thank you to Ms. Ortiz, she has been amazing and the glue of our building. She is our rock and is quite a way to become a building principal. We're proud of her. And thank you Dr. Nagler for your kind words and support.

Alecia: Big thank you to all the people who made it. Congratulations again to our new officers. Quick note, if you look at the agenda you can access the BOE meetings & conference calls, there is a video that explains the bus loop Dr. Nagler spoke about. That's it...so if you have any questions or comments.

Flipgrid - parents of 1st or 2nd graders please stay on so we can review flipgrid.

Thanks to BOE, etc...

Review of Flipgrid Friday's for teacher appreciation week. Alecia walked through steps to log-on and create a flipgrid. (showed flyer, and walked through steps of grad year etc...)

Sara Davila Hamue: Tries out flipgrid, tries code for Ms. Sanchez. Be sure you're not in your child's teacher's account.

Alecia: Please feel free to include family and past students in the messages to staff and teachers. Make it a family thing.

11. Closing Remarks, Questions/Comments, **Meeting Adjourned by Alecia Pace at 8:40pm**

Last call for questions

Thanks for calling, Good night y'all.