General Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025

Minutes recorded by April Lazarus, Recording Secretary

Quorum present

Called to order 7:34pm by President, Rose Stein
Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:
Rose Stein, President
Katie Beleckas, 1st Vice President
Maureen Romano, 2nd Vice President
Colleen Clagnaz, Treasurer
April Lazarus, Recording Secretary (absent)

Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the September 2025 meeting were reviewed and stand as written with no questions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Colleen presented the financial update for the period ending September 30, 2025.

- Starting Balance: $3,526.28
- Ending Balance: $3,471.59
- No questions were raised regarding the report. The Treasurer's Report was received and filed for audit.

New Business & Action Items
Election of the 2025-26 Nominating Committee

In accordance with the Massapequa Council PTA bylaws, article 13, section three, the election of the Nominating Committee was conducted. The bylaws stipulate that a seven-member committee must be elected from the voting body at a regular meeting at least 60 days prior to the election meeting.
The floor was opened for nominations, and the following seven individuals were nominated and formally accepted their nominations:

- Colleen Clagnaz
- Kelly Rowland
- ***Kristine Riggio***
- ***Kate Stone***
- Gina Courchesne
- Tracy Sonntag
- Deidre Shattuck

The slate was presented and the seven nominees were elected to serve on the 2025-26 Nominating Committee by acclamation.

District Administration Reports

MHS - Main Campus

Mrs. Lowell reported a smooth and successful start to the school year. Key activities and dates include:

• **Student Activities:** A well-attended Homecoming Dance marked a highlight of the new year. Spirit Week is currently underway, leading up to a Pep Rally and the Homecoming Parade. A "Safe Halloween" event is scheduled, and the school is actively seeking candy donations.

• **Academic & Arts:** Upcoming events include the Tri-M Honor Society induction and the Drama Club's production of "Clue" on October 30th.

• **Key Dates:** The first academic quarter concludes on November 7th.

• **Fundraising:** The Junior/Senior class was acknowledged for raising approximately $700.

MHS - Ames Campus

Ms. Wilman provided an update on several key initiatives and activities at Ames Middle School:

• **Academic Initiative:** The school has launched a "One Book, One School" program featuring the book *Ground Zero*. This initiative will be supported by an assembly with guest speakers who were voices from 9/11 and a planned trip to the 9/11 Museum.

• **Student Wellness:** Workshops were conducted by the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICAD) covering critical topics such as cyberbullying, digital citizenship, privacy settings, and the dangers of vaping.

• **School Life:** Ninth-grade attendance at the Homecoming Dance was very strong. The school also held a successful "Go Pink" day fundraiser. A Chromebook swap is planned, allowing students to receive new devices that will last until graduation.

• **Parent Involvement:** A call was made for a parent volunteer to join the Shared Decision Making Committee.

Berner Middle School

Mr. Esposito highlighted the successful transition of 6th-grade students into the middle school environment, noting their high level of engagement and positive adjustment.

• **Student Engagement:** A significant number of 6th graders are actively participating in after-school clubs, extra help sessions, and intramural sports. Students are quickly learning to manage their responsibilities, including using their Schoology pages and monitoring the parent portal.

• **School Culture:** Positive school spirit was evident during Spirit Week, and there is considerable excitement for Halloween activities.

• **Upcoming Event:** The school is preparing for its upcoming musical production of *Matilda*.

PSATs

Parents raised a concern regarding the scheduling of the PSAT on Columbus Day weekend.
The administration explained that the College Board provided two potential dates: October 11th and October 18th. After reviewing district athletic schedules, the administration determined that the October 11th date had fewer direct conflicts with school-sanctioned *games* than the alternative. The administration acknowledged that this scheduling could conflict with non-school activities, such as travel sports tournaments. A follow-up answer will be provided regarding the specific eligibility criteria for students to take the makeup test.

Homecoming

The council extended its formal thanks to the administration for including 9th-grade students in the Homecoming Dance, noting the positive impact on attendance, which increased from approximately 375 students last year to 435 this year. A proposal was made to live-stream the high school pep rally into Ames classrooms to allow 9th graders to participate virtually. The administration outlined several current obstacles, including technological limitations and logistical concerns. While not feasible for the current year, the administration committed to exploring future options. The following details were provided for participation in the Homecoming Parade:

- **Theme:** Nostalgic Video Games
- **Participation:** The parade is open to all clubs and groups. Interested parties should contact Mr. Brazinski or Ms. Lowell.
- **Lineup:** Participants should line up at 12:30 PM in the lot behind Johnny McGori's/Town Hall.
- **Start Time:** The parade begins at 1:30 PM.
- **Game Time:** The football game kicks off at 3:00 PM.

Bicycle & E-Bike Safety

A discussion was held regarding parental concerns about unsafe student behavior on bicycles and e-bikes within the community. The administration provided the following comprehensive response:

• **Jurisdictional Limits:** The administration clarified its official position, emphasizing that school-issued consequences can only be applied to incidents that occur on school property or have a direct and verifiable connection to a school event. The school's authority does not extend to general community behavior outside of these parameters.

• **Proactive Education:** The schools are taking proactive educational measures, including holding assemblies with police officers to discuss civility and safety. They are also reinforcing state laws, such as the minimum age of 16 and helmet requirements for operating e-bikes.

• **Ongoing Efforts:** Berner Middle School is actively searching for an appropriate and age-specific bike safety assembly program to present to its 8th-grade students.

Following the in-depth discussion on secondary school matters, the meeting moved to reports concerning the wider district.

Elementary Schools Report

Dr. Walsh reported that the elementary schools are currently focused on core teaching and learning to establish a strong academic tone for the remainder of the school year.

MFT Report

Positive feedback was shared from teachers regarding the recent BMX assembly and the installation of book vending machines. Annual unit checks will be mailed to each PTA unit next week. A request was made for a parent representative to serve on the Massapequa Teacher Resource Association (MTRA) Policy Board. This position involves attending one monthly meeting, typically held at 4:00 PM on Mondays and lasting approximately 30 minutes. Council member ***Jennifer Bernstein*** volunteered and was accepted for the MTRA parent representative position.

NYS PTA Convention

Niagara Falls from November 14-16.

• **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Rose Stein.