



SEPTEMBER PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, September 20, 2017 8:30 am, Cafeteria

Board Members Present: Aisha Johnson (President), Jerome Tagger (Treasurer), Genevieve de Gaillande (Recording Secretary), Christa Rimonneau (Co-VP of Development), Ann Henry (Co-VP of Development), Jennifer Skoda (Co-VP of Development), Nathalie Dessyn (Assistant Treasurer), Max Duykers, (Secretary of Communications)

(At least 8 association members, including a minimum of 2 board members and 6 parent members present; a quorum was reached.)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by the President at 8:32 am

MINUTES: Waive the reading of the minutes. Approval of the minutes as written, of the June minutes. There were zero (0) abstentions.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: presented by Aisha Johnson

- Introduction of the PTA Executive Board: Aisha Johnson (President), Jerome Tagger (Treasurer), Genevieve de Gaillande (Recording Secretary), Christa Rimonneau (Co-VP of Development), Ann Henry (Co-VP of Development), Jennifer Skoda (Co-VP of Development), Nathalie Dessyn (Assistant Treasurer), Max Duykers, (Secretary of Communications), Denise Stokes (VP of Community Involvement), absent
- What does the PTA fund:
- Art programs, supplemental theatre program supports, recess / lunch support, teacher support (grant fund for PD, classroom supplies, tech, classroom libraries). We raise over 200K annually.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: presented by Heather Foster- Mann

Welcome to returning and new families. Year has gotten off to great start,

Highlights:

- 800 students enrolled
- State test scores:
 - ELA scores raised to 52.2%- goal is 60%
 - Math scores were 45%- goal is 55%
 - Leadership will support by providing robust afterschool programs/ support to those we need it.
- Staff professional development: PD-
 - Math: Generation ready

FOR APPROVAL BY MEMBERSHIP

- Will be doing Number talks
- Guidance counselor Nicole McLeod- she will support 5th graders with middle school process, and also meet with 4th grade families.
- Continue coffee chat and Parents as learning partners
- This year's push is push in diversity
- Parent engagement begins in November- Tuesdays- 2:45- 3:20 pm

TREASURER'S REPORT: presented by Jerome Tagger

- P and L is split in different categories:
 - Teacher/ classroom support as mentioned above
 - Community activities
 - PlayLab- Last year 450K income with 100K profit.
- PTA fundraising:
 - Annual appeal- outreach for this will start in early October
 - Social events/ auction (May)
 - Bake sales, etc.
- This year is going to be similar in scope. What is changing this year is larger PTA involvement. We've been able to front some money to the schools with our surplus, which helps establish some programming up front
- Expenditures- aim this year is to spend less on accounting costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ***Communications committee: Max Duykers***
 - Overview of the website- dedicated emails, newsletters, and promotions.
 - Encourage parents to sign up for newsletter on website.
 - Seeking people who are good and can help with: copywriting, photography, graphic design. Email Max to sign up.
 - Facebook live- we stream the PTS meetings – no objections here.
Meeting is 9/28: 8:30-9:30 am
- ***Extended Day committee: Christina Prostano, acting VP of PlayLab***
 - Introducing Kimberly Gleason will be running for the VP of this committee. Vote will be at next PTA meeting. If others want to run or co- VP, reach out.
 - What is PlayLab? PTA-run afterschool program- enrichment based. Parent must register. There are 2 blocks- period 1 (until 4:25) and period 2 (until 5:30)
 - Affordability: we try to make them affordable- our prices are significantly lower than if you signed up outside of our program.
 - Scholarship program: have provided over 50 this semester.
 - Call for volunteers and committee members.
Meeting is 9/26 8:30-9:30 am
- ***Fundraising committee: Jen Skoda (annual appeal), Christa Rimonneau (partnerships), and Ann Henry (auction)***
 - Annual appeal will kick off soon. Goes to funding, arts, theatre, and recess support. Call for volunteers, assistance in spreading the word.

FOR APPROVAL BY MEMBERSHIP

- Partner vendors: Amazon associates, you shop through our link. This makes a few thousand on this each year. Mabel's labels, Might Nest. Info on how to do this will be on the web site and in newsletter.
- Auction: Kathryn Mora will chair the auction. We will secure location in October and reach out with more info on this in coming meetings.
- We need help with our activities: bake sales, photo day, read-a-thon. If you have ideas on how to support, please reach out to the committee. Emails as on the web-site..
- Need Chairs for the following:
 - bake sales- happen each first Friday.
 - Fifth grade graduation
 - Movie night: happens once a month on Fridays.Meeting date: 10/5 8:30 -9: 30 am
- ***Garden committee: Ezra Dayani, in place of Denise Morales***
 - We will have a learning garden- the focus will be on edible plants and using sustainable methods.
 - 2016 garden was rebuilt with funds from SCA.
 - Aspiration is for this to become an outdoor classroom- across all subjects.
 - Encouraged parents to come and help out- please attend the meeting on the 9/29.
 - Fall festival- we use items from the garden for some of the baked items.
- ***Language and Cultural Diversity, presented by Tim Wilkens, co-chair***
 - We are a proud multi-cultural and multi-lingual community. Committee is focused on supporting our efforts around ensuring and sustaining our multi-culturalism. It also serves to answer questions to language learning as well as to foster our multi cultural community.
 - We are a proud Title 1 school- supporting economic diversity.
 - Dual language coordinator: Deliliah Rabsatt- please reach out to her with any questions on the program. Her info is on the website.
 - Events:
 - Movie night (details to be shared in newsletter)
 - Breakfast in Spanish for our Spanish speaking families on October 10th
 - Library open reading hours- parents can come and read in different languages.Meeting is 9/27 8:30- 9:30 am

REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE!

- ***Performing Arts Committee: presented by Esra Dayani***
 - 4th year hosting- would love a co-chair.
 - Goals:
 - make sure all of our kids have arts enrichment during the day, either first and or second semester.
 - Continue to search for external enrichment activities and support our internal initiatives (Ms. Wylie dance show)
 - Theater for a new audience initiative (4th year for 4th and 5th graders)
 - 5th graders: World theater project- Fall
 - 4th graders: New voices: Spring- how to write you own plays.

FOR APPROVAL BY MEMBERSHIP

- Creative stages: 3rd grade: takes a folktale and adapts it and then kids perform it.
- Lower grades: have Ms. Davis or supplemented by residencies.
- Ms. Davis is doing a musical for 3rd year in a row. This year is 'Broadway Bound', for 4th and 5th graders.

Meeting is 10/2 8:30-9:30 am- please come!!!

OLD BUSINESS: we need to revise and approve our by-laws. Call for those who can assist here. We must come to consensus on this. Need to be in compliance with A660.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fall festival is October 14th. This is not a PTA activity but we are one community so we need support- volunteers. Need volunteers to move the class basket: think of your fun basket themes.
- Esther Kaplan - translation needs – we should translate all materials. DOE translation office does not support us. Found a collective in Sunset Park- less than 3,000K we could have Spanish translators at coffee chat, tours, PTA meetings. PTA to discuss supporting these efforts at next meeting 101/3.
- PTA Calendar- you can download it to your device. Click on the “subscribe” button and pick your device.
- SLT: Mandatory members: UFT chapter chair- Ms. Quinonez, Principal-Heather Foster Mann, 4 Parent members: Anna Bartholome, Joanne Benoit, Tim Frasier, Naomi (last name) and 4 teachers. If you want to participate- contact Deliliah Rabsatt, chair of the SLT

MEMBER QUESTION AND VOICES:

- Is there a button on the website to lead us to volunteer? YES- On home page, on right side bar- there is a volunteer interest survey link. There is also a volunteer button for specific events.
- 5th grade committee: starting an ad hoc one this year to help what the teachers are doing- collaborate, take burden off teachers.
- Grant writing: how do we help? Please reach out to the development committee.
- Lunch committee: we need support here: big initiative is recycling this year.

NEXT MEETING: **October 18th, 6-7 pm. Child-care and pizza with sign up.**

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:37 am by President.

Minutes compiled by Genevieve de Gaillande, Recording Secretary

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