



## January PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, January 23, 2018 at 8:30am - cafeteria**

### **Board Members Present:**

Aisha Johnson (President), Max Duykers (Treasurer), Jen Skoda (Co-VP of Development), Kim Gleason (VP of Extended Day), Alison Galiley (Co-Recording Secretary), Ann Henry (Co-VP of Development), Tyeesha McDonald (Co-VP of Development), Tim Wilkins (Co-Recording Secretary)

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

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by President, Aisha Johnson, at 8:33 am

### **2. VICE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-** Sha-Wanda Williams-Credle

- We currently have 95% family participation on Parent Square. Thank you all for signing up! The teachers are pushing it. Please update your personal information with the office if it has changed. The February school calendar is up.
- For spanish and arabic translation, click on the "language" feature.
- Translation is not available for "real time" or emergency messages.

### **3. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-** Heather Foster-Mann

- Progress reports will go at the end of the month. Separate letters are going home to families of students who are not performing well.
- We are at the mid-way point in the year.
- Human Roots sessions continue, we have one tonight. We need more people attending these sessions. They are focused on inclusivity and diversity.
- Brain Power sessions will start on February 1st. Focus is on teaching the teachers mindfulness techniques for the students; activities such as "brain breaks", mindfulness and yoga which help with focus in the classroom. "It's fun!" More information to come next Friday during Coffee Chat.
- The school is in jeopardy of losing our Title I status. For 12 years we have been a "Universal Free Meals" School for children who qualify. We have a 31% participation rate presently. We need 60% to qualify. The school stands to lose substantial funding without Title I funds. We are "grandfathered" in until 2021.
  - In the Spring we will be sending out lunch forms to fill out. Please be sure to fill out this form regardless of your income.
  - The more that qualify, the better.
  - Ongoing goal to maintain diversity in the school.

## TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP

- Going forward we continue to push the number of seats for enrollment across grade levels.
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### READING + APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2018 MEETING MINUTES

No abstentions or objections.

#### 4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### **Fundraising committee- Jen Skoda, Tyesha McDonald- [development@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:development@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- Annual appeal at 75k plus. Still collecting matching gifts and there is still time to donate.
- Spring Auction is May 11th. Need to focus on community outreach: camps, restaurants, etc.
- Bake sale and Read-A-Thon needs volunteers!
- Next committee meeting 2/4 after drop off.

##### **Extended day committee- Kim Gleason [extendedday@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:extendedday@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- Registration for next term is closed, however there are some spaces. If you have a need or request, please email [playlab@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:playlab@ps133brooklyn.org).
- You must register for a class in order to be put on the waitlist.
- Rock climbing has been very popular.
- We are looking to save Broadway Bound (K-2).
- This Friday is the PlayLab Showcase at 6PM.
  - If your child is performing, we are asking that you stay through until the end. Kids need the support and leaving is disruptive.
- Belting Ceremony is now on a different day from the Showcase.
- Next meeting 2/11.

##### **Grants Committee- Kara Zimmermann- [garden@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:garden@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- Grants are available on a rolling admission. Next round is due on Monday 1/28, then Monday 2/23.
- Funded by the PTA, funds available \$8,500/ year.
- \$1,200 utilized so far this year.
- Urge teachers to apply.

##### **Communications Committee Update- Amber Graham- [communications@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:communications@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- We have reached 700 likes on Facebook, big milestone for us!
- Twitter account is still up, but we are more active on FB and Instagram.
- We are sharing information and getting the word out to families about our school. We want to recruit more DLP and ELL families.
- If social media is a skill for you, please volunteer and share your skill with the committee.
- We will post your next meeting or event on social media.
- Next meeting TBD.

##### **Garden Committee (remote report by Esra Dayani, Parent Volunteer Coordinator)- [garden@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:garden@ps133brooklyn.org)**

## *TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP*

District 15 launched a “Garden Train” program and last year we were included on it. They have been helpful with our garden. It was in the New York Times and now D13 is working on getting one going as well.

- Meeting for this will be on 1/28 at the Unison School on 170 Gates Ave @ 5pm. Children welcome. Email Betty [bfeibusch@gmail.com](mailto:bfeibusch@gmail.com), Youth Education and Cultural Affairs Committee leader.

### **Language and Diversity Committee- Ana Bartolome and Tim Wilkins- [escuela@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:escuela@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- Peace and Nonviolence Observation Day is January 30th.
- Attached to this month’s “Did You Know?” is an activity for families to do at home. Print it out and complete the question: What does peace mean to you? What can you do to foster non violence in our community?
- Monthly “Did You Know?” series to continue, volunteer parent, Alison Galiley, to write the series going forward. Plans for each month include topics that spark social awareness.
  - Will go in the newsletter, on the PTA board and on Parent Square.
- Breakfast series events for Arabic, Spanish, and French families will also be happening. Committee needs volunteers for these events.
- Reminder: Human Roots is tonight and next week in the library, from 6-8:30pm. Kids 8 and up are invited to attend next week’s session based on the book, “Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness” by Anastasia Higginbotham. Sign up on Facebook.

### **3. TREASURER’S REPORT- Max Duykers / [ptatreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:ptatreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org)**

- Annual appeal amount is not up to date on the financial report due to timing. \$58,000 in December, but multiple donations came in at the end of the year.
- Waiting on matching donations and sustaining contributions to come in.
  - An email letter is going out to families for tax purposes. You should see it by December 31st. If you don’t, check your junk mail or spam. It will be coming from [assistanttreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:assistanttreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org)

Financial report circulated:

- First two pages are activity during the month of December only, the last two pages are activity through the entire year.
- Our fiscal year starts in July and goes through December 31st.
- All money goes back into the school for enrichment, we don’t make any money.
- Our goal is to be able to write a large check to the school at the end of the year. This is itemized on the report, under student enrichment.

Motion, second, no objections or abstentions. Motion passes.

### **Learning Diversity Committee (LDC)-Ana Bartolome**

- Committee offers resources for parents of children with learning differences that are not being fostered.
- School based support team is there to support you, Ms. McCloud is the point person.
- Solace Band available for students who may find it useful while sitting and listening in class. Can use it around legs, or play with it between your hands. Can improve focus.
- There is equipment available from a grant received last year. Much of it is being used.

*TO BE APPROVED BY MEMBERSHIP*

- Urge teachers to write another grant!
- Brooklyn Public Library is hosting an event with Henry Winkler on February 3rd at 4:00pm, book is “Here’s Hank: Everybody is Somebody”, about a boys struggle with dyslexia. It is the 12th and final installment in the “Here’s Hank” series with co-author Lin Oliver.

***Performing arts committee- Esra Dayani / [performingarts@ps133brooklyn.org](mailto:performingarts@ps133brooklyn.org)***

- Ms Wylies’ One Vision dance troupe has started their rehearsals for their spring show. Its’ Wednesday, k-2, and Fridays for 3-5 grade. Dismissal at 4.
- Urban Choir Project had their show for 4th grade last week on January 16th. Our second year in a row with Urban Choir.
  - I took an informal poll after the show and many parents are not aware that every residency we have here at the school (ie. Studio in a School, Creative Stages, upcoming puppetry workshops in the Spring for K) is funded by the PTA.
  - Spread the word about this at the next school creative event that your child is in, have it said in Spanish and French by another parent!
- Invite family and neighbors now to the musical which will be on May 16th and 17th at 6:30pm. Especially if people are coming from out of town.
- We support Ms. Wylie’s One Vision troupe and we will look for ways we can support Ms Hutchins and music here at the school as well.

Next meeting: TBA

**NEXT MEETING:** February 20, 2019, 6:00 pm Auditorium

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:30 am by the President.

Minutes compiled by Alison Galiley, Co-Recording Secretary

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