



**PS 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

Location: P.S. 10 Staff Cafeteria

Executive Board Attendees: Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Nancy Berson, Velma McKenzie, Jing Jia, Rebecca Trevethan, Mike Andres, Nikki Lucas, Omar Karim, Tyndall Arrasmith

Amy Schwartzman called the meeting to order at 6:10pm.

- I. The Minutes from the October 17th meeting were read. Mochi Chen motioned to approve the minutes, Jody Alperin seconded. All were in favor.
- II. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
 1. Thank you parents for support, especially from staff for the fundraising effort to add push in teachers. The staff also wants to thank the parents and PTA for the conference feast! There is a card in the PTA office.
 2. At the goodbye breakfast that PS 10 hosted for Sara Gonzalez, she was asked about the status of the bathroom renovation funding. Ms. Gonzalez said that PS 10 should watch Schedule A, to make sure that things are moving along, but that the money is there for the renovation.
 3. The SCA (School Construction Authority) telephoned Ms. Scott to tell her they are looking at the auditorium for renovations. They are not looking at air conditioning at this time because it will take all of the school's resources and then some. Instead, they are going to focus on projects that can be accomplished.
 4. Thanks parents for support during the lock down drill that occurred during the last Parents as Learning Partners.
 5. Student Council is up and running and has two executive boards (Strawberry Fields and Banana Republic), to give more kids opportunity to participate.
 6. The school has received an "A" progress report.
 7. Ms. Scott addressed questions from parents regarding Wacky Wednesday. Wacky Wednesday will continue for another three weeks, and Ms. Scott would welcome parent ideas for the next activity for morning school on Wednesdays. Ms. Scott stated that the teachers need that time to collaborate and work on common core curriculum, so para-professionals supervise the time in the auditorium. Ms. Watson is also usually in the auditorium. Some parents feel that perhaps the time could be better spent either by not holding morning school on Wednesdays and having the time at home to sleep in, or in smaller group instruction. The suggestion that parent volunteers could assist was made.
- III. Tom Foley presented the Christmas Tree fundraiser. He sells trees at 8th Avenue and 8th Street. He will donate \$10 to the PTA for every tree he sells where the person identifies themselves as from PS 10. If we get 10% of our student population, or 80 trees sold, he will match the donation by 50%, which would then equal a donation of \$1200.
- IV. SLT Report – Rachel
 1. Meet Friday mornings at 7:45am in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend.
 2. The Town Hall meeting that SLT sponsored on October 29th focused on helping parents understand the new teacher evaluation program – "Advance" and what that means for the administration and teachers.
 - i. Parent concerns about how the additional assessments affect their children were addressed. The assessments do not ultimately affect the children's grades, but instructional time is lost.
 - ii. The burden on the administration to administer the observations, evaluations was also discussed.
 - iii. Next steps discussed were – how to support teachers, data usage, common core impact.
 - iv. Parents would like more town hall meetings, possibly on the Common Core, the impact of testing on the younger grades.
 3. CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan)
 - i. The SLT will review the Progress Report and establish goals to improve and work within the budget.

V. Treasurer's Report

1. Jing Jia presented two versions of the PTA budget – the old format, and new Quickbooks format of the approved October budget.
2. Velma McKenzie presented the afterschool budget. Year to date income is \$102,610, YTD expenses are \$31,355.

VI. Committee Reports

1. RoseAnn Ciarlante reported on Harvest Day. Delivered over 50 boxes of food to the Center for Family Life. Would like to take a collection and buy turkeys for the center. Kids enjoyed the live music and the art tree outside. All happened during recess, no instructional time lost.
2. RoseAnn Ciarlante reported on the Recess Committee.
 - i. Would like to start a Running Club. Need a parent volunteer, and to hire a running coach. Kids would wear vests, and take turns participating on sidewalk outside of yard fence. Looking into whether we need a permit for that.
 - ii. Proposing putting picnic tables on side of yard for kids who want to read/play quiet games during recess.
 - iii. Would also like to do a winter book club, possibly student led. Looking for parent volunteers.
3. Stephanie Hochman/Mike Andres reported on the Auction that took place on Nov. 15th. Thanks to everyone who participated and attended. They do not have all the financial numbers yet, will report on the totals when they have them. The teacher raffle made \$3,400. Winners have been notified. Any questions can be addressed at auction@ps10.org.
4. Have received a DOE grant to start a School Wellness Council. Anyone interested in participating can contact Stephanie Hochman or Dawn Gorberg. Will be sending out a survey, and student council will be participating.
5. Velma McKenzie - Afterschool winter session starts January 2. This session the catalog will be available early next week, and will be published online only. Flyers will go home with instructions on how to view catalog and register. Registration will be Dec 4-6 online, or in the PTA office. There are new classes that have not been offered before. Some outside vendors limit class size, unfortunately. Afterschool had a large number of financial aid requests in fall. Winter financial aid may be somewhat limited, and given on a need basis. Financial aid is first come, first served, so request early if you need financial aid. Full financial aid requests are usually referred to the free YMCA program that picks up at PS 10 and walks to PS 124. For information on this program, see Madeleine Seide.

VII. Presidents' Report – Stephanie Hochman and Amy Schwartzman

1. District 15 CEC is having a public meeting to talk about portfolio planning, and especially relevant to Sunset Park PS 20 Zoning issues. Please turn out to show support for fellow school.
2. PS 321 is hosting a Talk with Teachers December 3rd, discussing Common Core and teacher evaluations.
3. Diane Ravitch is discussing her new book, "Reign of Error" in Red Hook at PS 15 on December 11th.

VIII. New Business

1. The PTA Executive board is recommending the purchase of 8 sets of the Kimochi Teacher Kits to teach social/emotional skills to students. The school administration approached the PTA for funding for these kits, and teachers are enthusiastic about using them. Parent Kristian Orozco has volunteered to run sessions with teachers to show them how to use the kits. Kristian explained/demonstrated the kits. Jody Alperin motioned to approve purchase. Juliet Stams seconded. All were in favor.
2. The school is requesting that the PTA help with purchasing paper for copying. The PTA has a budget for printing costs, and can use that money to buy paper for the school. The PTA has been using the school to do more copying. Will also ask for donation requests from parents. The suggestion to sponsor a class or grade competition to raise the paper stack was made by Jen Leone, who will spearhead this effort.
3. Jody Alperin and Vicki Finney proposed a book drive for PS 67. PS 10 Cares. Will send flyers home the second week of December. Need volunteers to sort. Great service opportunity for kids. PS 67 also has an Amazon wish list for new books.

IX. Old Business

1. Special Savings Surplus
 - i. Will launch survey soon and create a priority spending list.
 - ii. Teacher emphasis is classroom and professional support
 - iii. Survey participation can be either online or in the PTA office.
 - iv. Hope to have information gathered by the next meeting or in January.
2. Participatory Budgeting
 - i. PS 10 is physically in Carlos Menchaca's (formerly S. Gonzalez') district. We have a parent representative actively participating in Brad Lander's participatory budgeting process.
 - ii. Proposals are brought forth from the floor at meetings, delegates evaluate proposals from the floor, Narrowed proposals are put forth for a vote. The vote occurs some time in March, and anyone over the age of 16 can vote.
 - iii. Possible PS 10 proposals would be the bathroom renovations, electrical system and air conditioning overhaul and soft or cool paving for the school-yard.
3. Evaluation of outside fundraisers.
 - i. The PTA is working on evaluating outside fundraisers, like Square One Art. Some outside vendors take 25-30% of sale revenue. The PTA is trying to maximize our intake.

Julia Stams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Nancy Berson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.