



PS 10 PTA
General Session Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Location: PS10 Auditorium

Executive Board Members in Person: Mike Andres, Tyndall Arrasmith, Nancy Berson, Irene Chae-Encarnacion, MariBeth Dono, Stephanie Hochman, Ali Hodin-Baier, Jane Kotapish, Hope Moriki, Dempsey Rice, Amy Schwartzman, Lisa Vincenti and Nadine Wallace

The Meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.

- I. Approval of Minutes from the May 15, 2013 Meeting. Nadine Wallace made the motion; Melissa Green seconded. No amendments, no objections.
- II. Treasurer's Report: MariBeth Dono (PTA) & Nadine Wallace (Afterschool)
 1. PTA report – An income and expense report of actuals through 5/31/13 was distributed and reviewed. Overall, it was stated that the PTA was ending the year well and on budget. Key notes:
 - i. A majority of PS10 Rocks revenue was received in June and therefore not reflected in current actuals.
 - ii. Large expenses that were realized in June and not yet reflected in budget totals include: TERK and handwriting books (\$1,800) and a charge back to Afterschool for the percent of the Recess Coordinator covered by the general PTA (\$13,000).
 - iii. The expectation is that the PTA will end June with a net profit of \$35,000 and a total FY13 year-end balance of approximately \$140,000.
- III. Afterschool report–A Budget versus Actuals report through 5/31/2013 was distributed. It was reported that Afterschool is expecting another \$50,000 income and should end up bringing in more total revenue than the budget projected. Overall, FY13 was a very successful year. Carrying a large balance into the coming fiscal year is always critical for Afterschool, as there are expenses over the summer and start-up costs at the beginning of the year as well.
- IV. Principal's Report: Laura Scott & Denise Watson
 1. Follow-up on UFT proposal to modify the school schedule - Proposal is to incorporate 3 half days (10/23/13, 2/3/14, 3/3/14) into the 2013-2014 school schedule in order to accommodate additional professional development. This will be directly related to common core and would not impact the overall school year. The PTA needs to approve it before the Chancellor can review/approve it.
 - i. Issues discussed included:
 - Whether the Afterschool Program could support care for families that don't have other options on these new half days. Although this is not typical for Afterschool to cover, the PTA was asked to consider this recommendation. Ms. Scott said she would also investigate how to help the PTA provide Afterschool on these days.
 - A request that the administration consider limiting the amount of instructional time being used on other days for extra activities that could be held outside of school hours (carnival, harvest day, grade picnics, etc.). Ms. Scott said she would consider the idea to compensate for instructional time lost.
 - ii. Motion to approve the proposed half days was made by Stephanie Hochman; seconded by Nancy Berson. 4 members opposed and none abstained.
 2. Carnival and Butterfly Day were super successful. And the kids loved the flash mob; they were talking about it all day long.
 3. Graduation details: Pre-K was today, Kindergarten is tomorrow, the 20th, and 5th Grade is this Friday, the

21st.

4. Kindergarten orientation is at 9am next Tuesday.
 5. ELA Prep scores are in; these tell the school and teachers who they need to work with more. The good news is that students did really amazing (only 2 students in 3rd grade, 3 in 4th grade and 2 in 5th grade). 1 student required summer school. Ms. Scott thanked the parents for cooperating and helping the staff and administration prep the school for the testing period.
 6. Auditorium renovation – a shout out to Dempsey Rice, Chair of the PTA’s development committee, for helping the school solicit support from BP Marty Markowitz for new seating and air conditioning. Word just came in that this is happening.
- V. Co-Presidents Report: Stephanie Hochman & Amy Schwartzman
1. Special thanks - Stephanie:
 - i. Read-a-Thon: Shout out to Ursula Ocampo, who coordinated the activity and arranged the kid parties last minute.
 - ii. PS 10 Rocks: A sincere thanks to all of the volunteers and musicians who helped with the evening, with major kudos to Velma McKenzie for coordinating the entertainment, Roseann Ciarlante and Irene Chae-Encarnacion for managing the Café, and the new host, comedian Carolyn Castiglia, for the laughs and good fun. PS10 Kids and the Café were also very successful.
 2. Financial interest: Amy - There was a necessary financial disclosure that was overlooked earlier this year and should be discussed/recorded in the Minutes. MariBeth Dono, current Co-Treasurer of the PTA, was invited to speak. She disclosed that she had been a teacher for one cycle of the Afterschool Program, and was compensated for this service in the same way/amount as other teachers. Robin Epstein made a motion to recognize this financial disclosure; Mike Andres seconded it. No members objected and 2 abstained.
- VI. Comprehensive Review of By-Laws: Ali Hodin Baier –
1. As Committee Chair, Ali thanked Ledra Solomon, Marie Edesses, Christine Connor, Amy Schwartzman, and Stephanie Hochman for the considerable amount of time each spent helping to make recommended amendments and make the document as simple, understandable and transparent as possible.
 2. A page by page review of major changes was conducted, with amendments falling into one of 3 main categories:
 - i. Changes that were required to comply with Chancellor Regulations;
 - ii. Changes that were made due to the incorporation of key definitions and operating protocols into the document;
 - iii. Other recommended changes for PTA consideration.
 3. The results of the meeting schedule survey were discussed, and it was agreed by majority vote that the most ideal time for meetings would be the third Thursday of each month, with times alternating between 6:00 pm and 8:45 am EST to allow for maximum membership participation. Furthermore, if the day of a meeting falls on a legal or religious holiday, the meeting shall be held on the following or previous Thursday, as determined by the Executive Board.
 - i. The motion to approve the amended By-Laws as provided in draft form was presented by Dempsey Rice and seconded by Katrina Jones.
- VII. Revised Organization/Budget for 2013-2014: Laura Scott
1. Ms. Scott explained that the tentative organization prepared by her office on May 31, 2013 and subsequently reviewed with the DOE had to be revised due to budget restraints and DOE mandates. She distributed a chart that noted the number of students projected per grade, the original number of classes and proposed class size plans, the DOE mandates she’s being told must be met and the adjustments that must be made as a result. Like parents, she was disappointed that the DOE was forcing the school’s hand in certain places that she would have liked to handle differently, but ultimately these are mandates that schools all over will have to accept and she feels there is little room

for further negotiation.

- Given the new # of classes and class sizes accepted, she has developed a prioritization in regards to which grades need the most assistance should the PTA be able to set aside private dollars to cover professional resources. The details are as follows:

Grade	New # of Classes Negotiated	New Class Size Accepted by DOE	Priority for Additional Assistance (PTA Resources)
K	7	25	1 st
1	5	30	2 nd
2	5	29	4 th
3	6	28	
4	5	31	3 rd
5	4	30	

NOTE: Per the DOE, money is only released for another teacher/class if the school has 16 students above the cap for class size. According to Ms. Scott, we're not at this level of overcrowding.

- Ms. Scott said that she recently spoke to 4th grade teachers – whom she realizes will be in great need of extra help because this is the most important testing year for kids – and their response was that they would like experienced class supports but don't feel the PTA should pull back on arts funding to make this happen. If the PTA could afford arts and more support, the academic supports they feel are most important relate to meeting the new academic standards and connecting classrooms to the new changes. Most helpful would be classroom push-ins, a consultant to come in 3 times over the year to help the teachers understand TERC (cost is \$2,500/visit), and an ELA expert (cost is \$1,200 per day/meeting).
- It was emphasized that teachers only see a benefit in knowledgeable, experienced "F" status (retired) teachers who are able to work 3 days per week (cost would be \$50,000/year) or 2.5 days per week (\$40,000/year).
- Parents had many questions about how the school's budget works, how push-ins support teachers, the basis for the grade prioritization, etc. A lengthy discussion ensued. While this was only a preliminary discussion about a major issue, parents and the Administration agreed on a few points:
 - The PTA needs to make a more compelling argument for fundraising dollars.
 - Parents need to do what we can to galvanize against large class sizes.
 - As a starting point, the PTA's FY14 budget should allocate \$40,000 (\$20,000 from the general budget and \$20,000 from the Afterschool budget) as a "Fund for Dealing with the Staff/Child Ratio." Motion proposed by Amy Schwartzman; seconded by Robin Epstein. 1 opposed, 1 abstained.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm. Motion by Mike Andres, seconded by Jody Alperin.