



**PS 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
September 19th, 2013**

Location: P.S. 10 Auditorium

Executive Board Attendees: Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Nancy Berson, Irene Chae-Encarnacion, Velma McKenzie, Dempsey Rice, Jing Jia, Hope Moriki, Simone Ollen, Rebecca Trevethan, Mike Andres, Tyndall Arrasmith, Jane Kotapish, Deborah Nocella

The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

- I. Introduction to the PTA by Amy Schwartzman and Stephanie Hochman
 1. Invitation to receive comments, ideas from the general membership.
- II. Brad Alperin presents “What is this PTA thing anyway”.
 1. Summary of brainstorming session results. The PTA: bridges between parents and school, fills in holes school can’t fill, disseminates information, is open to all, helps kids.
 2. Single statement to describe the PTA’s mission: “Grow participation to enhance the educational experience.”
 3. Rallying cry: something to remind us of our mission. “We are 10!”
- III. Principal’s Report – Laura Scott
 1. Thanked parents for support and participation.
 2. School organization:
 - i. Last year student population was 897, this year so far we are at 925. Expect to be around 950 by October/November.
 1. A question was raised about the 2nd grade class size. At the June PTA meeting, Ms. Scott expected 2nd grade to be around 29 students per class. This fall, they are around 32 students per class. Ms. Scott stated that the school had received 16 “No Child Left Behind” students, most of whom were in the 2nd grade. This accounted for the change in class size.
 - ii. Hired four new teachers, two in 3rd grade, one in 2nd grade and one in 5th grade.
 - iii. Curriculum meetings for parents are coming up the week of September 23rd, teachers will talk about the Common Core Standards.
 - iv. Safety measures – please sign in, kindergarten parent passes will be handed out next week, Parents as Learning Partner passes will come home in yellow folder two days prior.
 - v. Expect students to be on time. Grades K-2 days are 8:40-3:00, Grades 3-5 8:00-3:00 M-Th, 8:40-3:00 on Fridays. Attendance is important.
 - vi. Morning school will be studying common core concepts, vocabulary. Rolling out new concept of “Wacky Wednesday”. Ms. Scott apologized that parents were not allowed to watch. They are working out the ‘kinks’ and have changed the format slightly to include only 1 representative from each grade to participate in the game show format. Students will find out the morning of who the representative will be. Noted that they could use louder buzzers/better lights.
 - vii. Lost and found – please label anything that could potentially be lost.
 3. New teacher evaluation system: 60% based on observation, 20% on test scores, 20% on local assessment. Has everyone ‘on edge’. Ms. Scott will be emphasizing to teachers and staff the need to model calm behavior in front of the children.
 4. Dance is the one art that PS 10 does not have, the PTA is working on bringing a dance program to the school. Please support the PTA in this.
 5. Middle School fair at PS 10 will be October 9th at 9am, October 17th 5:30-7:30pm at MS 88. October 3rd there will be a middle school meeting at PS 10 with Ms. Watson.
 6. Ms. Scott emphasized her ‘open door’ policy – anyone can come and speak with her.
- IV. Ms. Treinen asked for parent volunteers to help prepare material for her art students.

- V. RoseAnn Ciarlante spoke to the process for nominating and electing 3 New Parent Members for the Executive Board. Any parent new to the school this year is eligible to run for one of the two positions available. New parents will speak to the needs of kindergarten parents and/or students coming from other schools. Nominating forms may be submitted via child's yellow folder. A vote will be taken at the next meeting, which will be at 8:45am on October 17th.
1. Of the two new parent board member positions, one position will focus on technology. Experience with Sumac would be helpful.
 2. A third position will be as a parent representative to help the administration decide how to spend the 1% of Title I funds allocated for 'parent involvement and education'.
- VI. Ali Koziel gave a brief informational report on what the SLT is/does.
1. The Student Leadership Team (SLT) is a committee of parents and staff that meet every other week to discuss school policies and form the Comprehensive Educational Plan (CEP) for the school, as well as work on shaping the budget.
 2. The first meeting is tomorrow at 8am (Friday, September 20, 2013). All are welcome to attend as observers.
 3. Testing, Common Core material will be discussed. The school Report Cards have been redesigned to align more with Common Core Standards.
 4. Money that the school receives from the DOE is based on the "Snapshot" that the DOE takes of the school population on October 31, 2013, but the funds will not be received until later in the school year.
- VII. The Minutes from the June 19, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Meredith Davis motioned to approved the minutes with an amendment to reflect that the administration (Ms. Scott) spoke to the fact that she would pursue investigating adding instructional time to compensate for the three half days for professional development that were added to the calendar (10/23/13, 2/3/14 and 3/3/14). At that meeting, Ms. Scott also said she would investigate providing after school child care for those three half days. Mike Andres seconded the motion.
- VIII. Treasurers Report – Jing Jia, Hope Moriki
1. Presented budget that was passed in June. There will be proposed amendments brought to the general membership to be approved at later dates.
 2. Highlights – Celebrate 10 (formerly Save the Arts) and Direct Appeal at biggest fundraising items.
 3. Craft fair, fashion show not finalized yet.
 4. The PTA welcomes thoughts or suggestions on how budget should be allocated. Amendments will be posted on website, distributed through backpack mail.
- IX. Afterschool Treasurers Report – Deborah Nocella
1. Will have new Afterschool budget at October meeting to be voted on.
 2. Highlights – the biggest expense are the salaries of two employees, Charles Jeffries, Program Director and Marvin McCollum, Program Assistant and Recess Coordinator. Afterschool pays half of Marvin's salary, the PTA pays the remaining half.
 3. Treasurers would like to have everyone pay for September Smash before the Fall program begins.
 4. Suggestions were made from the membership that registration be in the evening rather than morning and parents would like to receive invoices earlier.
- X. Report on high student/teacher ratios
1. At the June, 2013 PTA meeting, the membership approved using \$40,000 of PTA funds to address the issue of high student/teacher ratios. An additional \$5,000 was raised over the summer specifically for this use.
 2. Mel Hess, a retired elementary school teacher with 26 years experience, was hired as a School Professional at PS 10 with PTA funds. He spoke about his background and role in the classroom. This year he will rotate between four 5th grade classes, spending about 2.5 months with each.
- XI. Introduction of Executive Board Members present
- XII. Committee Volunteer opportunities:
1. Executive Board Members briefly listed existing committees, opportunities, welcomed any volunteers.
 2. Selina Alko spoke about the Author Committee, which needs volunteers. All authors already booked for year.
 3. RoseAnn Ciarlante spoke about the Recess Committee, which needs volunteers in the lunchroom.
 4. Suggestion was made for a centralized place to find out about available volunteer opportunities.
 5. Madeline Seide spoke briefly about Parents as Learning Partners and the Parent Coffee that immediately follows as ways to be involved in classroom/school and find out about volunteer opportunities.

6. Other ways to get connected with opportunities were mentioned:
 - i. Sign up for the weekly Newsflash email (link on website)
 - ii. Email the general PTA email (ps10pta@gmail.com)
 - iii. Regular PTA office hours are 8:00-9:30am

Dempsey Rice motioned to adjourn the meeting, Guiliana Reitzfeld seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.