



PS 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2013

Location: P.S. 10 Cafeteria

Executive Board Attendees: Amy Schwartzman, Stephanie Hochman, Irene Chae, Velma McKenzie, Lisa Vincenti, Jing Jia, Hope Moriki, Rebecca Trevethan, Mike Andres, Jane Kotapish, Onawa Gigliotti, Deborah Nocella

The meeting was called to order at 8:52 am.

- I. The Minutes from the September 17th minutes were distributed. Joe Sacks requested an edit to the number of New Parent board members recorded in the minutes. Jane Kotapish motioned to approve the minutes. Irene Chae seconded and the minutes were approved.
- II. Presidents' Report – Amy Schwartzman and Stephanie Hochman
 1. Website has been redone – thanks to those who worked on it. We welcome any feedback or suggestions on how to continue to improve.
 2. Stephanie reported on the District 15 President's Council meeting.
 - i. CEC (Community Education Council) will be having a special public zoning meeting regarding rezoning Sunset Park, Tuesday October 22nd.
 - ii. Middle School Principals' Forum to hear about middle school options in District 15 on October 28th.
 - iii. NYC Parent and Community Involvement in Public School Handout – at the school level there is the PTA, SLT and our Title 1 Representative. At the district level there are the CECs, District Leadership Council, District Leadership Teams and the District Title 1 Representative. At the citywide level, there is the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP), which includes 8 representatives appointed by the mayor and one by each of the Borough Presidents. The Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council, the Citywide Council on Special Education, the Citywide Council of High Schools and the Citywide Council for English Language Learners are all also at the citywide level. There is also a District 75 Council.
 - iv. Superintendent of District 15, Anita Skop, wanted to let parents know that they are still awaiting school progress reports. District 15 did well on ELA and math tests, 4th highest district in the city. PS 10 in top 20% of schools.
 3. Other resources parents may be interested in:
 - i. DOE website, Parent Leadership portion of website has a lot of information relating to PTAs
 - ii. Citywide Council for English Language Learners – if anyone is interested in serving, let Stephanie know.

4. Safety is a priority – talk to kids about walking and biking safety, especially at dismissal. Grace Freedman mentioned the issue of double parking causing additional hazards for walkers.
5. Bill introduced in the state legislature by Velmanette Montgomery and David Weprin about school governance reform. Their proposal relates to mayoral control of the schools. Currently, the mayor appoints the majority of the PEP representatives. The proposed changes would allow one representative to be appointed by each borough president, the city council would appoint four representatives, including a representative of a college, a member of a parent organization, a member of a parents' educational council and a member to be appointed at large. The mayor would appoint four members, at least one of which would have to have a child in NYC public schools. PTA will try to keep parents informed about the bill.

III. Principal's Report – Laura Scott

1. Reiterated the importance of safety, at dismissal and in the yard.
2. There was a drop-in visit by Superintendent Anita Skop yesterday, and she was impressed with school, the way students are engaged, the arts and parent involvement.
3. There is a new interim acting Assistant Principal, Christine Napolitan. She was previously the reading coach, and is now taking on a more interactive roll with the children. In addition to PS 10 now being at 925 students, the new teacher evaluation process requires observation of 66 staff members, as well as oversight of local assessments. Having a new assistant principal will help facilitate this process. The administrative process needs to take place to confirm her as a permanent Assistant Principal.
4. Class Size
 - i. PS 10 has grown from 897 to 925 and is still climbing. Parents can transfer their children from low performing or unsafe schools. We may receive additional students before the end of the year. A parent asked Ms. Scott what the school population could 'top out at'. Ms. Scott answered that the facilities plan states PS 10 can accommodate 1,100 students. This would mean losing all cluster classrooms, so she does not want that to happen.
 - ii. Ms. Scott has hired additional teachers to push in to grades 2, 4 and 5. Those are grades in which the registers were at or above 30 per class. Each of those three teachers cost \$15,000 of the PTA money set aside to help manage the issue of large class sizes.
 - iii. Additional PTA 'class size' money that was raised totaled approximately \$60,000. Ms. Scott was able to use the balance of funds on Teachers College units of study to assist teachers with incorporating Common Core curriculum for \$5,000; a Lehman College writing project, through which consultants will be coming in to assess and help with improving student writing; as well as Math Metamorphosis, Cathy Havileck's math support program for \$4000.
5. The SLT has suggested a Town Hall meeting, which will take place on October 29th at 8am. Notices will be going home with students in the next few days. Parents will be able to submit questions and comments to shape the discussion. Topics to be addressed include: morning school, testing and the common core curriculum.

6. Auditorium renovation is on the back burner, and we are trying to work out whether the air conditioning can be replaced at a cost that the school can fund. It seems most likely that air conditioning replacement funds can best be raised through our participating in the Participatory Budgeting process either in Brad Landers' or Sara Gonzalez/Carlos Menchaca's district.
7. Bathrooms on hold until after the Sara Gonzalez/Carlos Menchaca transition takes place.
8. Director of The Center for Arts Education came to PS 10 and did a walkthrough. He is thinking about recommending PS 10 for a \$50,000 grant for a dance program. He was impressed with the school and will hopefully advocate for PS 10. If that happens, the school would receive the money in September of 2014. Dance would start with kindergarten.
9. Morning school questions will be addressed at the Town Hall meeting. Morning school is Monday-Thursday, starting at 8am for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Younger kids who have been recommended for morning school by their teachers should report as indicated on the paper sent home by their teachers.
10. Friday, the band Perhaps Contraption will be here to celebrate Honk NYC and surprise the kids.

IV. SLT Report – Rachel Stack

1. SLT is the School Leadership Team. The SLT is a group of parents, teachers and administration members. They meet every other Friday at 7:40am. Meetings are open to guests.
2. The SLT pays close attention to shaping the school budget, so they welcome parent input.
3. The Town Hall meeting will be October 29th at 8am. They want most parents to be able to attend, so will look into adding an additional evening time. The suggestion to film the Town Hall Meeting and post online is being considered.
 - i. The Town Hall meeting will focus on two new initiatives
 1. Teacher Evaluation
 2. Common Core curriculum
 - ii. Notices will be going home with students, please respond with questions/comments to help craft the agenda for the meeting.
4. An additional point of discussion for the SLT is how to support our teachers/administration during times of change.

V. Committee Reports

1. RoseAnn Ciarlante
 - i. Recess Committee – The committee meets at 8:40 am the second Friday of every month. Volunteers to work in the lunchroom are always welcome. Working on new ideas for recess activities including the possibility of a running club. The PTA would like to hire a running coach to facilitate this, but it is dependent upon finding a location. Also, reading and game clubs are being considered.
 - ii. Harvest day – November 19th. Will be during lunchtime only. Planning a band or DJ and a large outdoor art project. Looking for volunteers to help. There will also be a food drive outside in the yard that will benefit the Center for Family Living.
2. Jane Kotapish

- i. Dance – Adults only movement series that takes place in the gym on Thursday mornings. 100% of amount charged goes to the PTA. The first session will be October 24th from 8:45-9:45.
- 3. Velma McKenzie - Afterschool
 - i. Bylaws require the disclosure of the 4 parents that are being employed by the Afterschool Program: Guiliana Reitzfeld, Maribeth Dono, Deandra Henderson and Trisha Anderson.
 - ii. Half-day coverage for October 23rd 12-6pm. \$20 for 12-3pm or \$30 for 12-6pm. Open to entire student body, no registration required. Families already registered for Wednesday afterschool will be compensated.
- 4. Mike Andres
 - i. Auction – November 15th 7:00-11:30pm at the Prospect Park Picnic House. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$60 closer to the time of auction. It is adults only. Volunteers needed to help set up, starting at 3pm on November 15th. Volunteers are also needed to collect donated items, process payments for tickets. Email auction@ps10.org.
 - ii. Green Committee – Need volunteers for the salad bar – parents who volunteer for lunch/recess can work at the salad bar.

VI. Election of New Parent board members

- 1. Nominees for the New Parent Board Members are Natiea Cannon and Omar Karim. Title 1 Parent Representative nominees are Joe Sacks and Gregg Bellows. Nikki Lucas nominated herself for New Parent Board Member from the floor.
- 2. Joyce Nelson motioned to have Co-Technology Board Member team. Velma McKenzie seconded.
- 3. The Secretary proposes the slate. All were in favor, none opposed.
- 4. Elected: New Parent Board Member: Nikki Lucas, New Parent Co-Technology Members: Natiea Cannon and Omar Karim. New Parent Title 1 Co-Representatives: Joe Sacks and Gregg Bellows.

VII. Budget – Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Jing Jia

- 1. Jing Jia reviewed the treasurer's report.
- 2. Fundraising report from Tenstock is available in the PTA office, and will be posted on website.
- 3. Presented proposed 2013-2014 budget. Budget handout compared 2012-2013 to 2013-2014.
- 4. Meredith Davis raised the issue of whether the PTA should have a benchmark for what percentage of fundraising profit the PTA makes on each activity. For example, the Square 1 Art costs parents \$8,000, of which the PTA keeps only \$2,200.
 - i. Mike Andres agreed this is an issue the PTA Executive Board should discuss, but mentioned that the amount of time parents have to invest in each activity should also be taken into account.
 - ii. Grace Freedman raised the issue that the Read A Thon makes over \$10,000 with very little expense or parent time commitment. The PTA should consider promoting the Read A Thon more heavily.

5. Kristian Orozco asked whether the PTA could put a list of all fundraisers on the website so that parents can budget their financial contributions.
6. Jody Alperin mentioned that the Family Giving campaign is starting next week, 100% of contributions go to the PTA. She also proposed that we approve the budget as it is now, and if we later find a better alternative to Square 1 Art, for example, we can amend the budget.
7. Grace Freedman motioned to pass the September 2013 PTA Budget. Johanna Schiller seconded the motion. Passed with all in favor, with the exception of 1 abstention.

VIII. PTA Surplus Money

1. Distributed chart on Surplus Spending proposals. Will be translated into Spanish, distributed via backpack mail as well as posted on website. Parents asked to include the projected costs to the chart.
2. PTA will hold a series of special meetings to talk about how to spend the \$100,000 surplus before the next general PTA meeting.
3. Meredith Davis proposed the PTA have more than just meetings about the spending proposals. Possibly a ballot vote or survey via surveymonkey.com.
4. Discussion of the Participatory Budgeting process – City Councilmember Brad Lander’s deadline is Nov. 3rd.

IX. Adjournment.

1. Stephanie Hochman motioned to adjourn. Jody Alperin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.