



**PS 10 PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2013**

Location: P.S. 10 Cafeteria

Executive Board Attendees: Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Jing Jia, Simone Ollen, Rebecca Trevethan, Hope Moriki, Deborah Nocella, Nancy Berson, Velma McKenzie, Mike Andres, Tyndall Arrasmith, Jane Kotapish, Nikki Lucas, Omar Karim

Amy Schwartzman called the meeting to order at 8:55 am.

- I. Title One Funds - Ali Koziel (Joe Sacks and Gregg Bellows unable to attend due to conflicts.)
  1. Based on school lunch forms, the school reached a threshold a number of years ago where we began receiving federal Title One funds. This year the school received \$623,000. The next time we are surveyed using the school lunch forms, we expect to lose our Title One eligibility.
  2. Some Title One funds are used to pay school personnel. One percent of the Title One funds are to be used for Parent Involvement. We have a Title One committee to determine how to use these funds, which amounts to about \$6,000. In the past, these funds have been used to pay for the automatic calling system and math workshops. A survey should be completed by the committee in January.
  3. The Title One committee will be surveying parents and reaching out to different communities within the school to identify needs. Discussing running a series of parenting workshops. Will be conducting a workshop aimed at explaining the Common Core curriculum to parents.
  4. Suggestions from the floor as to ways to spend Title One fund:
    - i. Security for Parents as Learning Partners
    - ii. The suggestion was made that sometimes the approach to "Title One" funds can be condescending. Ms. Scott suggested leaving off the term "Title One" in reference to workshops.
    - iii. Kristian Orozco will be in touch with Gregg and Joe to help reach out to the Hispanic community in more effective ways.
    - iv. It was suggested to utilize the International Dinner night to collect survey information.
    - v. It was proposed that the school host bilingual conversations about the use of funds.
- II. The Minutes from the November 21, 2013 meeting were presented. Rachel Stack motioned to approve the minutes. Carolyn Hamilton seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. SLT Report – Rachel Stack
  1. Focus of the SLT over the last several weeks has been the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP).
  2. The CEP has two components, the Allocation of Budget/Implementation for Academics and the Parent Involvement Plan (PIP). The PIP outlines the school and community commitment to parent involvement. The PIP was catalyst for conversation about Title One funds. The PIP is a living document that continues to evolve and be added to.
  3. The CEP focused this year on three goals:
    - i. Writing Curriculum K-5
    - ii. English Language Learners and Special Needs population
    - iii. Integrate and align Common Core curriculum so that test prep is not done separately from regular academic day.
    - iv. CEP will be updated and posted online
- IV. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
  1. Thanks parents for involvement and participation. The holiday show and many other extras that the kids have is due in part to parent participation. The holiday show proceeds will be used to pay for new risers, which will cost about \$2,500.

2. Asks that parents thank teachers for their commitment to professional development. PS 10 teachers have been in attendance at all PD workshops and meetings, and are often instructing other teachers from across the city.
3. Security Committee – recent Board of Education Security department visit lead to the change in the way PS 10 is handling Parents as Learning Partners. The Board of Ed does not think that the current pass system is good enough, and would like more restrictions, for example more specific time frames. Because that will require everyone to show ID and sign in, the school has had to reduce the number of parents visiting the school at any one time.
  - i. Suggestion was made to investigate a computerized system – perhaps using surplus funds to make a one-time purchase.
  - ii. Security committee meets every other Wednesday and they would welcome any suggestions to fine tune or improve security system.
4. The process to hire an Assistant Principal will start up in January. Chris Napolitan is currently Interim Acting Assistant Principal. A committee will be formed to review resumes, etc. The committee will need 4-7 parents.
5. The Met Opera, Urban Voices (first grade) and Off the Page programs are up and running. Diana York and the show were fabulous

#### V. School Food Presentation - Beverly Graham

1. Breakfast/Lunch are free. Students can get school lunch, even if they have brought a lunch.
2. Students must take 3 out of the 5 items.
3. Protein, whole grains, fresh fruit and vegetables and water and milk are available.
4. For students to get the salad bar, they must also get school lunch. They will be changing the salad bar to lower it for younger kids.
5. Menus available online with ingredients (the K-8 menu). Menu will change next year, with the addition of new items. There will be fish on the menu next year.

#### VI. Treasurers Report – Jing Jia and Deborah Nocella

1. The November PTA budget's largest event was the Auction. More than \$50,000 was collected. On the income side, we are almost half way to our target of \$250,000. Through November we have collected \$120,000. On the expense side, we have spent \$78,000.
2. The November Afterschool program brought in \$25,000 and spent \$37,000. The expense side was higher this month because of insurance payments that were made in November. The afterschool program reallocated funds from a permit fee expense that was budgeted for that will not be needed this year to a scholarship fund.

#### VII. Old Business

1. Jodi Alperin - Book Drive for PS 67 was very successful. PS 10 donations exceeded expectations and were gratefully received. Book collection will continue on First Fridays. Emails will go out to class parents.

#### VIII. Committee Reports

1. Megan Nyhan motions to add a PS 10 Talent show to the PTA calendar. Jing Jia seconded. Passed unanimously.
  - i. Parent volunteers would be needed and parameters, auditions, etc. would need to be sorted out. Would also showcase visual arts. There will be no PS 10 Rocks Jr. this year.
2. Recess Committee - RoseAnn Ciarlante. New equipment has been purchased. The recess committee is still looking for a running coach to support a running club at lunchtime. The recess committee is also hoping to raise \$1,000 to add benches to the 'dirt pit' area of playground and picnic tables to the yard for quiet activities during recess. They also continue to pursue beginning large, group-led activities during lunch.
3. The International Dinner will take place January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Will be a potluck and include a DJ, food and dessert and dancing.
4. Afterschool Winter session begins January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and there are still some spots available.

#### IX. Presidents' Report – Amy Schwartzman

1. Survey Results – 166 participants, 83% were parents, 14% were teachers and 4% were other school staff
  - i. Overwhelmingly, survey participants wanted teachers to assist the classroom teachers. 43% of respondents put this as their first priority. The first priority that received the second most votes was the air conditioning. The air conditioning expense is \$84,000 just for the fourth floor alone. We are pursuing funding this through the participatory budgeting process.

- ii. The top second priority item is also assistance for the teachers, and the top third priority response is help for struggling learners outside the classroom.
  - iii. Results will also be posted on the website.
2. The ongoing nature of hiring assistant teachers is an issue with allocating the extra savings. This year's budget had \$40,000-60,000 for teacher assistance. As much as \$90,000 per year might be required for future school professionals.
  3. The Executive Board will now be discussing the results at the meeting in January. Will talk about how to allocate the use the funds, also including the idea of saving money for future Title One losses. The Executive Board will make a proposal to bring to the next General Membership meeting for voting.
  4. Fran Oramas is being hired to be in a classroom and is a PS 10 parent.
  5. Teachers Talk Testing event at PS 321. [Teacherstalktesting.com](http://Teacherstalktesting.com) has a petition asking Mayor de Blasio to end promotion tied to test scores. Teachers need parent support in this.

Mike Andres motioned to adjourn, Carolyn Hamilton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.