



**PS 10 PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2014**

Location: P.S. 10 Auditorium

Executive Board Attendees: Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Nancy Berson, Irene Chae-Encarnacion, Velma McKenzie, Lisa Vincenti, Hope Moriki, Jing Jia, Rebecca Trevethan, Mike Andres, Tyndall Arrasmith, Jane Kotapish, Onawa Gigliotti, Deborah Nocella, Nikki Lucas, Natiea Cannon

The meeting was called to order at 8:53am.

I. Treasurers' Reports

1. Jing Jia – PTA Budget

- i. At January's General Membership meeting, an additional \$34,000 was approved for Student-Teacher Ratio support, which increased the total budget to \$74,000.
- ii. The PTA took in an additional \$2,800 in direct appeal donations.

2. Deborah Nocella – PTA Afterschool Budget

- i. January includes Winter Registration payments. Biggest expense was the permit and salary. The afterschool program took a loss of approximately \$2,000.

II. Principal's Report – Laura Scott

1. Thank you parents for support, especially in response to the Community Award she was given by Assemblyman James Brennan.
2. Brainstorm USA came to the school last week. The company had approached many District 15 schools over the summer to talk about their scholarship and tutorial program. The company representative that came to the school was not supposed to go into the classrooms, but through an administrative mix up, was allowed to. Ms. Scott instructed the teachers to shred the applications that were submitted, and teachers had a conversation with the students about why PS 10 will not be doing business with them. The company has been reported to the Special Investigations Unit of the DOE.
3. Mandatory morning school for grades 3, 4 and 5 will remain on the Tuesday –Thursday schedule, as parent feedback has been very positive on the new schedule. Please get students to school on time those days.
4. Chancellor Farina has included PS 10 in new programs as an example of best practices for other schools to learn from and follow.
5. If Ms. Scott can eliminate one kindergarten class for the fall, she will be able to add one pre-k class. As an alternative, the principal from MS88 has offered her first floor for a PS10 pre-k annex. Ms. Scott is exploring that possibility.
6. Saturday school (by invitation only) will start in March and run into April to support struggling learners for the ELA and Math test.
7. Parent Teacher Conferences will begin March 11<sup>th</sup>. Morning school will be canceled that week to accommodate early morning conferences.
8. The recorder program has begun for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.
9. Ms. Scott attended a caucus in Albany where Assemblyman Samuel Roberts from Syracuse was looking for a partnership school in New York City for their hydroponics program. Upstate Downstate Hydroponics Connection will start in June. Ms. Scott is looking for funding from various sources.

III. Assemblyman Jim Brennan

1. Would like to invite parents to attend a meeting about the State Education Budget on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> at PS 230 at 4pm. The discussion will include funding for Universal Pre-K as well as State aid for education. Mr. Brennan would like the public, especially parents and teachers to be informed about the Governor's proposals, which includes a 2.8% increase in aid to the NYC public school system.

2. Campaign for Fiscal Equity – after finally winning their legal battle for additional funding for NYC public schools, the State still owes the city significant amounts of money toward education.

#### IV. SLT Report – Marie Edesess

1. SLT is involved in the upcoming C30 process to formally hire the assistant principal position.
2. They are also discussing possible solutions to recess issues.
3. SLT is continuing discussion on the use of Title 1 funds.

#### V. New Business

1. PTA proposes to approve an additional \$400 expense for laminating materials requested by the administration.
2. Amy Schwartzman motions to approve. Marie Edesess seconds the motion. All were in favor.

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

1. Formation of the Nominating Committee – RoseAnn Ciarlante
  - i. Two volunteers are needed to join RoseAnn on the committee. Nominations will occur at the May 15, 2014 meeting, so before that notices, nomination forms, etc. need to go out and the election needs to be run according to the Chancellor's Regulations.
  - ii. Marie Edesses, Jean Nornton and RoseAnn Ciarlante were nominated to the Nominating Committee by Amy Schwartzman, Jodi Alperin, and Stephanie Hochman, respectively. Motions were seconded and all were in favor.
2. Participatory Budgeting Process update
  - i. Our air conditioning capital improvement proposal is moving forward in the process for participatory budgeting in Carlos Menchaca's District 38. The proposal is for \$140,000 to undertake the building re-wiring required to add 25 air conditioners to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - ii. Volunteers (6-8, ideally) are needed to publicize our project and campaign to get out the vote. Anyone in the district over the age of 16 is eligible to vote. Allison Milgrom and Jen Leone volunteered to serve on this committee.
  - iii. Voting will be between March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>.
3. Title 1 report – Stephanie Hochman
  - i. 1% of the Title 1 funds allotted for parent education amounted to \$6,280. As of now, funds have been spent on Parents as Learning Partners, Parent Coffees, and the automatic message system (robo calls). Title 1 money also funded the recent Common Core workshop as well as math workshops that happened earlier in the year. Ideas are being discussed for how to spend the balance of the money (\$2574). The funds are mandated to be spent on parent education, so most likely will be used to support parents with strategies for students with promotion in doubt letters.
4. Conflict of Interest disclosure
  - i. The administration has asked the PTA to allow the use of the Principal's Fund money to pay PS10 Parent Kristian Orozco for workshops he will be running. The PTA discloses to general membership anytime PTA funds are used to pay a parent.
5. Affinity Banking with TD Bank
  - i. TD Bank at Prospect Park Southwest will donate \$10 for every new account to the school at the end of the year. New or existing personal (not business) accounts can register with code will AF671.

#### VII. Committee Reports

1. RoseAnn Ciarlante – Recess Committee
  - i. The recess committee is addressing several issues related to the administration's concerns regarding safe, structured play including mapping out the playground, solicitation of parent volunteers and offering more activity options both inside and outside. In addition the recess committee will address parental concerns voiced during this meeting including better snow removal plans and parking in the school yard.
2. Book Drive – Jodi Alperin
  - i. Books are still being collected for PS 67 during Parents as Learning Partners, but can be dropped off at any time, just let the PTA office know.
  - ii. The school also has an Amazon wish list.

3. PS10 Rocks – Velma McKenzie
  - i. March 28<sup>th</sup> is the date for PS10 Rocks, and the committee is welcoming new volunteers.
4. Dance – Jane Kotapish
  - i. Belly Dance this Thursday
5. Talent Show will be at the end of May. More information will be going out in the next couple of weeks.
6. Past and upcoming events:
  - i. Literacy week, the Hoe Down with PS 154 were successful events.
  - ii. Read A Thon is going well.
  - iii. Grandparent day will be May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - iv. Information on the casual spring photo fundraiser will be coming soon.
  - v. Crossing guard, Liz, will be retiring at the end of the year. PTA would like to do something special for her, so we will be brainstorming and welcoming suggestions and ideas.

VIII. The Minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. RoseAnn Ciarlante motioned to approve, Lisa Vincenti seconded. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.