



**PS 10 PTA  
General Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 24, 2014**

Location: PS 10 Lunchroom

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Stephanie Hochman, Amy Schwartzman, Hope Moriki, Rebecca Trevethan, Nancy Berson, Simone Ollen, Deborah Nocella, Tyndall Arrasmith, Natiea Cannon, Jing Jia, Velma McKenzie, Mike Andres, Jane Kotapish

The meeting was called to order at 8:55 am.

- I. Approval of the March General Meeting Minutes. With one spelling correction, Lisa Vicente made a motion to approve the minutes. Emily Morgan seconded. All were in favor.
- II. Special Guest: NYS Assemblyman Felix Ortiz
  1. Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)
    - i. Assemblyman Ortiz is the Chairman of the NYS Assembly's Committee on Cities, which reviews legislation affecting New York State's cities.
    - ii. The state budget gave an additional \$300 million to NYC for UPK expansion. As a proponent of UPK, Ortiz and the Committee on Cities is watching to make sure money is used as intended for this Pre-K program.
    - iii. Laura Scott reported that PS 10 was turned down for a Pre-K class because our school could not offer a classroom with a bathroom.
  2. Since 1985 Ortiz has been working on a new piece of legislation regarding schools. There are five components that are important for all schools. They are: 1) Mental health providers in school, 2) Music, 3) Art, 4) Acting, and 5) Guidance counselor. Chancellor Carmen Farina is supportive.
  3. Ortiz also supports an Education Bond Act for the purpose of infrastructure upgrades for buildings, internet, computers, etc.
  4. Question and Answer:
    - i. Amy Schwartzman: "How can we help you?" Assemblyman Ortiz: "Reach out to us. Write letters, e-mail petitions, be visible. Share news and efforts with us."
    - ii. Amy Schwartzman: "There has been much real estate development recently. Do we need more schools?" Assemblyman Ortiz: Mayor DeBlasio has a capital budget in place and has asked to build more schools. The school construction authority is already looking at 2 sites for 2 new schools.
  5. Vision Zero. Increased traffic law enforcement, including the no speeding in front of schools 7am – 6pm. There are 12 schools on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave in Assemblyman Ortiz's district, 11 of them elementary schools.
- III. PTA Treasurers' Report (Jing Jia and Hope Moriki)
  1. There were many events in March. Read-a-thon was the best event raising \$18K, \$6K more than anticipated!
  2. Individual Institutional Support took in \$1,000 last month. This is \$17K short of our target.
  3. PS 10 Rocks was successful and we'll see the money for that once April is finished.
- IV. Other
  1. Question was raised regarding prizes for the bookmark competition that was part of Read-a-thon. Ursula Ocampo answered that \$25 Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the winning class for each

grade. Also the three highest individual earners will get gift certificates. All kids that participated will have parties in the next few weeks.

V. Principal's Report: Laura Scott

1. Thank you for all the support and help fundraising, which allows PS to have a fulltime guidance counselor.
2. Testing. It is preferable that students do not opt out of standardized tests in general. There are, however, some upcoming field tests. For opting out of these, please let the administration know soon.
3. Computer lab needs to be moved. Looking for people with technology expertise to help with this.
4. Kindergarten. Some kids were mistakenly accepted to the wrong schools, including some PS 10 sibling families and zoned families. If parents need help, please see Ms. Scott.
5. Hydroponics Grant. Though we are not sure where the money is going to come from at this point, our custodian is going to Albany to advocate for a greenhouse to be on PS 10's roof. Also, a non-profit organization called NY Sun Works offers grants for greenhouse projects in schools. A PS 10 paraprofessional is working to apply for this.
6. Orchestra Sings Program. PS 10 was chosen out of all schools in NYC to perform at Carnegie Hall on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Ellis will accompany 70 children singing and playing recorders.

VI. SLT Report: Marie Edesess

1. SLT meets every other Friday at 7:45 in the library. It is open to everybody.
2. Recent worthwhile topics have included:
  - i. Concerns regarding cluster curriculum interfacing with the regular curriculum
  - ii. How can SLT bring new faces to PTA meetings?
  - iii. Fourth grade lunch release.
  - iv. High stakes testing

VII. Afterschool Treasurer's Report (Deborah Nocella)

1. The afterschool program is doing well and is on track.
2. \$4,000 was made during the month of March.

VIII. Motion for New Committee: Jody Alperin

1. Explanation of Field Tests. Testing company Pearson plans to try out questions for next year's test on PS 10 students, grades 3 - 5.
2. If a student chooses to opt out of these field tests, this is very different from opting out of the regular tests. There are no ramifications to the child or to the school for opting out of field testing.
3. Jody Alperin made a motion that the PTA forms a Parent-Teacher Action Committee in order to explore other things to do besides just opting out of testing. Lindsay Putney seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. This new committee was formed.

IX. Old Business

1. Stephanie Hochman: Many parents of graduating students are leaving PS 10. The PTA will need new people to help organize events, sales, etc. Tenstock and Auction volunteers are needed right away. Soon it must be determined if the auction is to be in the fall or spring of next year.
2. Megan Nyhan suggested putting together a list of vendors, etc. for each event so that new people will know how to organize and manage events more easily.

X. Committee Updates

1. Recess Committee (Roseanne Ciarlante)
  - i. Parent Colin Powers made a short documentary about 'Playworks,' a company that trains coaches, kids, teachers and parents how to play and organize games and community at recess. PS 10 has been awarded a \$3K grant that will be used to train 15 people through Playworks.
  - ii. Running Club. PS 10 parent Jing Jia contacted Road Runners and with Ms. Scott's approval, the "Mighty Milers" club has been started. Students must be in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above.
2. Nominating Committee (Roseanne Ciarlante)
  - i. Thank you to this year's current Executive Board!

ii. We now need new members for the board next year.

iii. There is a conscious effort to stagger the years going forward, so that not all the board members will be completely new every two years.

XI. Presidents' Reports (Stephanie Hochman and Amy Schwartzman)

1. Participatory Budgeting. We got the money for the AC rewiring of PS 10! PTA will contribute an additional \$20K for the AC units themselves (which was previously approved), or possibly a little more.
2. Charter School Demonstration. Amy Schwartzman reported that recently there was a demonstration protesting charter schools. Governor Cuomo allocated more money for charters so that charter schools "have been given carte blanche" to push out other public schools and expand into their space. Those who disagree should write to our state legislators to try and change this.
3. Presidents Advisory Meeting. Stephanie Hochman attended this meeting recently and is sharing a poster from it that describes how NYC public schools work: schools, districts, city, and districts. This poster will be posted in the school lobby.
4. Chancellor's Town Hall Meeting. District 15 Community Education Council (CEC) with Chancellor Carmen Farina on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm. All parents are encouraged to attend; email the chancellor with any concerns.
5. The Fair Student Funding Formula is being changed. These formulas are used by the DOE to allocate revenue for NYC school districts and schools.
6. The Campaign for Educational Equity (of Columbia University Teachers College) produced a research brief called "Know Your Rights: School Libraries." The project found widespread violations of many students' educational rights.
7. Students need to be reminded that the bathrooms are not meeting places.

XII. Upcoming Events

1. PS 10's Got Talent (Megan Nyhan)
  - i. Deadline for application is Monday, April 28. Artwork submissions are still needed.
  - ii. First committee meeting is tomorrow, Friday, April 25. Volunteers are needed to help.
2. Grandparents Day is Friday, May 9.
3. Green Raising Day. Purchase sustainable goods and foods at [www.greenraising.com](http://www.greenraising.com) to help PS 10 earn funds.
4. Stomping Ground Photo. Deadline is Monday, April 29.
5. Adult Movement Class. Next week is Pilates. Suggested donation only \$5.
6. PTA Fun-Run is on Saturday, May 10. The more registrants PS 10 has, the more money we can earn for the school.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 am. Jane Kotapish made the first motion. Jing Jia seconded.