



**PS 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2014**

Location: P.S. 10 Auditorium

Executive Board Attendees: Amy Schwartzman, Stephanie Hochman, Jing Jia, Deborah Nocella, Rebecca Trevethan, Nancy Berson, Jane Kotapish, Lisa Vincente, Velma McKenzie, Tyndall Arrasmith, Natiea Cannon, Nikki Lucas, Mike Andres

The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm.

- I. Nancy Berson motioned to approve the Minutes from the April, 2014 meeting. Rachel Stack seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- II. Treasurers' Reports
 1. Jing Jia presented the PTA budget to date. The online auction recorded income of approximately \$3,000. PS 10 Rocks also recorded income in April in the amount of \$8,000. Donations to the PTA through direct appeal is still running a deficit of approximately \$16,000-\$18,000.
 2. Deborah Nocella presented the PTA Afterschool budget. The past month, Afterschool took in \$56,000 and spent \$33,000. Year to date, Afterschool is up approximately \$30,000, and will hopefully end the school year around \$40,000 above expenses.
- III. New Business
 1. Amy Schwartzman presented the PTA Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The budget will be voted on at the June General PTA meeting. The budget will be posted on the web site, and sent out via class parents for parent review.
 - i. Amy highlighted certain line items, including the projected auction and direct appeal income. Spoke generally regarding changes expected for next year, and prioritizing push in teachers for each grade. Specific questions from parents will be welcomed and addressed at the June meeting.
 2. Nominating Committee member Marie Edesess presented the 2014-2015 Election Ballot. There were no nominations from the floor. Secretary Rebecca Trevethan motioned to elect the entire uncontested slate. All were in favor. The 2014-2015 PTA Executive Board was elected.
 - i. 2014-2015 presidents Tyndall Arrasmith and Velma McKenzie introduced themselves briefly.
- IV. Special Guests – Jim Brennan and Felix Ortiz
 1. Brooklyn Volunteer Fair, “Lend a Hand” will be taking place May 29th at the Park Slope Armory.
 2. State Aid to Education makes up 40% of the New York City Department of Education budget. The State has given NYC a 5.5% increase, for about \$435 million additional funding.
 3. On the Ballot in November is a bond issue called Smart Schools, Smart Kids. This calls for New York State to borrow \$2 billion (NYC would get an approximately \$800 million share) to fund new advanced technology for schools.
 4. Felix Ortiz will continue to work with Mr. Brennan on the above bond issue, as well as with a proposed legislation package to mandate a social worker and mental health provider in every school in New York State. He also has proposed legislation to mandate 30 minutes of physical education every day in schools. Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Brennan will continue to work together to bring arts to schools through art, acting and music.
- V. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
 1. Ms. Scott thanked the current PTA board, especially Amy and Stephanie for their hard work.
 2. If parents would like to opt their children out of the field testing, there is still time to do so. PS 10's status as a Universal Feeding site through 2017. This means all children in the school will continue to receive free lunches. Since this is usually connected to Title 1 status, Ms. Scott is optimistic that PS 10 will maintain its Title 1 status for at least another 3 years.
 3. Next year, PS 10 will have 7 kindergarten classes, with approximately 25 children in each class. Grades 1-5 will have 5 classes per grade, with 30-32 students in each class. While Ms. Scott would prefer to have smaller class

sizes, every year she tries to make classes smaller, the DOE sends her more students to fill those spots. This year, she is trying to fill classes with just PS 10 students.

4. PS 10 has many events coming up – parents should be sure to check their child’s backpacks for information.
5. The greenhouse project (for the roof) is moving forward. Funding needs to be found. PS 10 is being considered by the chancellor to be a host school to help other schools in improving their parent involvement.
6. Ms. Scott was pleased with the middle school placements for the 5th graders.
7. The PTA has projected that it will be unable to fund the move of the computer lab that Ms. Scott would like. She has written a grant proposal, and is hoping to find funding through another source.
8. The school is considering a 4th grade lunch release for the end of the school year. Most likely this will take place in June. The 5th grade currently is allowed outside the school 2 days per week.
9. Unfortunately, Ms. Scott had to eliminate the 2nd grade chess club, due to the large number of students who wanted to participate and the lack of staff available to supervise. Chess club continues for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades.

VI. SLT Report – Rachel Stack

1. The School Leadership Team meets every other Friday in the library at 7:45 am. All are welcome to attend.
2. The SLT is discussing how to integrate cluster curriculum across the school.
3. SLT will revisit the Comprehensive Education Plan at the end of the school year to see how well goals were met.
4. Once the SLT knows and understands more about the UFT contract, they will share that information with the PTA.

VII. Presidents’ Report – Stephanie Hochman and Amy Schwartzman

1. The Presidents’ Council meeting report – the city might cover the cost of compostable lunch trays.
2. Construction will begin at the end of June on the auditorium (seating and stage), bathrooms (first floor gang bathrooms), air conditioning (wiring for 4th floor funded through participatory budgeting). Most likely, construction will continue into the fall. A booklet regarding Safe School Renovations is available in the PTA room for parents concerned about environmental impacts.
3. Community Education Council of District 15 and the District 15 Presidents’ Council are hosting a legislative breakfast for the members of PTAs and SLTs. Eric Adams, both Assemblymen, as well as State Senators will be in attendance. Any questions that a parent would like to ask can be forwarded to the PTA room for our members to bring to the meeting.
4. Carmen Farina recently spoke at a Community Education Council meeting. Most of the issues addressed did not directly affect PS 10. The main topics addressed were overcrowding, testing and pre-k. Ms. Farina also spoke to the misconception that District 15 does not have enough good middle schools, when in fact, there are many good middle schools in District 15.
5. The next Community Education Council meeting will be in June. Brad Lander and Steve Levin will discuss the issue of diversity in the New York Public School system.
6. In the next fiscal year, the PTA will be purchasing the air conditioning units with money previously approved by membership for the 4th floor. Participatory budgeting funding only pays for the wiring infrastructure.

VIII. Committee Reports

1. Afterschool will be sending out registration for September smash mid-June. They are expecting to implement a new registration system, which will also help with easing the credit card processing system.
2. The Auction Committee will hold it’s first meeting for next year’s auction on Monday, May 19th at 8:45am in the cafeteria.
3. The Talent Show auditioned over 150 kids (over 80 acts) and needs help during lunch periods to help polish the acts. Help is also needed for the dress rehearsals on May 27th and 28th.
4. The Parent Teacher Action Committee on testing is looking for a time to hold its first meeting when teachers are able to attend. They would like to review this year’s testing process during their first meeting.
5. The Movement Series has a few weeks left. They meet Thursday mornings at 8:45am.
6. The Author Visit Committee is looking for new parent involvement. Typically, they have two meetings, one at the beginning of the school year, and one at the end of the year.

Jody Alperin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Megan Lappin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.