



**P.S. 10 PTA**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 18, 2014**

Location: P.S. 10 Lunchroom

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Hope Moriki, Nancy Berson, Simone Ollen, Deborah Nocella, Tyndall Arrasmith, Omar Karim, Megan Nyhan, Velma McKenzie, Lisa Vicente, Onawa Gigliotti, Lisette Castro, Andrew Rosenberg, RoseAnn Ciarlante, Jane Kotapish, Mike Andres, Hatshepsut Shaw

The meeting was called to order at 8:38 am.

- I. Approval of November Minutes. Megan Nyhan made the first motion; Carolyn Hamilton seconded. All in favor.
- II. SLT Report—Rachel Stack
  1. Parent Involvement Policy (PIP) is a statement detailing what PS 10 provides to parents and what parents are responsible for. A recent survey of parents resulted in some additions and changes made to the PIP.
    - i. 5<sup>th</sup> Grade support for middle school. PS 10 setting up tours as a school.
    - ii. Parent welcome committee to identify and facilitate early involvement for those families who need outreach (PreK – Grade 1). Including bilingual class parent.
    - iii. Title One Committee is exploring ways to make the survey more effective. Title One Representative Caroline Dorsen will be asked to attend a future meeting to update the PTA.
    - iv. Suggestion of holding gatherings in the homes of PS 10 parents to reach more parents.
    - v. Final bullet point in PIP regarding parents being responsible for finding funding to be rewarded or removed.
- III. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
  1. A donation of \$7,000 was received to support academic intervention. Thank you for your support!
  2. Class size cannot be controlled. Principal Scott tries to keep class size low but NCLB (No Child Left Behind) Program will send kids to fill up spots.
  3. Parent Question: Could there be an AS program for developing talent for middle school applications and interviews. Laura Scott Answer: PS 10 has kept all the cluster classes and has arts programing to accomplish this. Also, Mr. Oramus will begin talking with 4<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare them for middle school interviews.
  4. Kids In The Game recess program is going very well.
  5. Electrical work for the Air Conditioning upgrade project will begin soon.
  6. Renovation of the girls and boys bathrooms has already started.
  7. The auditorium at K280 has been added to the PS 10 lease, so that we may use it for PS 10 Rocks, STEAM, graduation and other events.
  8. NYC Council Member Carlos Menchaca honored PS 10 with a certificate acknowledging our school as a close-knit community achieving wonderful things.
  9. K280 is starting a PTA modeled on PS 10's.
  10. Gifted and Talented testing for admission to public Pre-K and private schools is being held starting on January 8 at PS 10.
  11. A quality review is happening now to see how PS 10 is doing as a school and community. To make sure parents are engaged and getting what they need.

#### IV. Treasurers' Report—Andrew Rosenberg

1. Auction Income. We are still on target to make over what we budgeted for this event.
2. Direct Appeal will start to pick up in January.

#### V. Afterschool Treasurers' Report—Deborah Nocella

1. There are many expenses in November and December. November show -\$46K balance because of these expenses.
2. Afterschool is still on track to make what is budgeted this quarter.

#### VI. Old Business

1. Medal winning author Jacqueline Woodson came to PS 10 last Friday for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. Thank you for your support. Thanks to Marie Edesess for her help.
2. The Thank You Breakfast for politicians was a great event. Thank you parents Neil Kleiman and Dempsey Rice for organizing.

#### VII. New Business

1. The NYS Department of Labor audit is over.
  - i. The issue was that the PTA had paid some school professionals directly instead of going through the DOE as is required.
  - ii. The fine will be less than \$1,000. The Executive Board will discuss whether we protest the fine or pay.
2. Math Binders.
  - i. Over the summer teachers met and developed a math curriculum together, creating student and teacher binders with Xerox copies.
  - ii. Teachers paid for the binders and are asking the PTA for \$1800 to make the copies. The Executive Board recommends this expenditure.
  - iii. An idea was presented that class parents organize scanning the material so that willing parents can sign off saying they agree to print the work at home.
  - iv. Marie Edesess made a motion to approve the \$1800 for the binder copies. All were in favor, the motion passed.
3. Family Giving.
  - i. Currently this figure is \$17K and our yearly budget is \$60K.
  - ii. Please think about giving now.

#### VIII. Committee Reports

1. Afterschool. New session begins February 5.
2. Barnes and Noble Fundraiser—Megan Nyhan
  - i. This event was very well attended, thank you volunteers.
  - ii. Glee and others performed and parent author Selina Aiko did book signing.
  - iii. There is one more day of the fundraiser online.
3. Farmigo—Jane Kotapish
  - i. First two deliveries have gone very well.
  - ii. All are encouraged to try; it is a very user-friendly site.
  - iii. For orders exceeding \$500, PS 10 earns 10%.
4. PS 10 Rocks—Hatshepsut Shaw
  - i. Event is February 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. There is a new platform this year to reflect all the PS 10 has to offer.
  - iii. More planning to start in the new year.
5. STEAM—Megan Nyhan
  - i. Event is May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. Will be a maker fair with possible street closure.
  - iii. Please join the Steam Committee. Looking for engineer types and big thinkers.
  - iv. STEAM may collaborate with the Science Fair but will not replace it.

6. Website and Technology—Omar Karim
    - i. Afterschool registration is going very well.
    - ii. As we modernize the PS 10 website, a Short Message System (SMS) may be implemented.
  7. Christmas Tree Fundraiser
    - i. For every tree purchased from the vendor named Foley, located on 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 8<sup>th</sup> Street, a portion of the proceeds are given to PS 10.
    - ii. We are 27 trees away from earning the higher 15% level donation for each tree.
  8. Amazon Affiliate Programs
    - i. PS 10 earns 6-8% of money spent through the Amazon affiliate program. Customer must always start at the PS 10 website or change their referral page to earn these commissions.
    - ii. PS 10 earns 1% of money spent through the Amazon Smile program. This happens automatically.
    - iii. Commissions are paid to PS 10 in gift certificates not cash.
- IX. Presidents' Report—Tyndall Arrasmith and Velma McKenzie
1. Youth Vision Zero Alliance is a new movement of kids getting together to support Mayor DeBlasio's Vision Zero initiative.
  2. PS/IS 437
    - i. New all-inclusive school located on Caton Ave. in District 15, opening Fall 2015.
    - ii. School will house Grades 3-5 and also Middle School (Grades 6-8).
    - iii. The CEC (Community Education Council) is pushing for this to be a lottery school.
  3. Gowanus United
    - i. A parole mega-center is set to open at 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Gowanus.
    - ii. "Gowanus United" is made up of residents concerned for the safety of this area. There are many school and preschools nearby the probation site.
    - iii. The organization is asking for more support for the community.
  4. "What's on Your Mind?" This new portion of the PTA meeting to allow more parents to communicate and share their thoughts.
    - i. Silence Before Lunch.
      1. A parent asks for 5 minutes of silence at the start of each lunch period so that the children will actually eat their lunch. The Recess Committee discussed this in the past, but such a decision must come from school administration.
    - ii. Afterschool Program.
      1. A parent is concerned that the AS program is a negative work environment and that staff are leaving because of this.
      2. Velma McKenzie of the AS Committee encouraged talking with the AS Program Chairs. The committee is aware of these issues and continues to work on them.
      3. New changes to the AS Program this year include more students, new staff, and the unavailability of certain classrooms and teachers.
      4. Another parent noted that transparency is important in this and all school issues.
      5. AS is working on a survey to go out soon to gather feedback from parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am. Hope Moriki made the first motion. Mike Andres seconded.