



**P.S. 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 26, 2015**

Location: P.S. 10 Lunchroom

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Hope Moriki, Tyndall Arrasmith, Simone Ollen, RoseAnn Ciarlante, Cozbi Cabrera, Megan Nyhan, Velma McKenzie, Andrew Rosenberg, Jane Kotapish, Katherine Kercher, Shaila Rao, Hatshepsut Shaw, Lisa Vicenti

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

- I. Approval of January Minutes. Marie Edesess made the first motion; Josh Skaller seconded. All in favor.
- II. Principal's Report—Laura Scott
 1. Girls' bathroom to open next week. Will be talking to kids in school about respecting the bathroom, please reinforce bathroom etiquette with your children.
 2. MS 839 Principal will hold information sessions at area elementary schools about this new middle school. The session at PS 10 is on March 5 from 6:00 – 7:15 pm.
 3. Science Fair starts on March 10, 6 – 8 pm. Pick up projects at end of the week.
 4. AIS teachers are working out very well, thank you!
 5. PS 10 Quality Review is on March 11. The central office will evaluate the entire school. Questions to be asked: Are kids happy? Are parents happy? Is attendance high or low?
 6. Saturday school for test prep is happening. Kids are grouped based on their needs. Yellow group this Saturday.
 7. Pre-K registration is open 3/16 – 4/24.
 8. Kindergarten registration closed 2/18.
 9. Please thank a teacher; they work so hard for our kids.
- III. Teachers' Position on Cuomo's Education Reform—Special Guests Heidi Bookman & Ralph Dalonzo
 1. PS 10 is about passion not politics. Governor Cuomo's legislation is an attack on public schools. Budget is slated to be passed on April 1. Help is needed to fight these reforms.
 2. Teacher evaluations will drastically change with this new reform.
 - i. High stakes testing will account for 50% of evaluations (currently its 20%).
 - ii. 35% will come from an independent evaluator that will visit the school for only one day.
 - iii. 15% will come from a school supervisor.
 3. Cuomo is being funded by privatization and is making it so hard that no one will go to teach in areas of poverty. He has linked these reforms to the budget approval so voting down the budget is the only way this legislation can be stopped. He changed the constitution to do this.
 4. PS 10 staff is forming an Action Committee and is asking parents to do the same. Ways parents can help include:
 - i. Contact your Assemblyman. Letters should be short and to the point, let politicians know we have their backs and will not vote them out of office for fighting Cuomo.
 - ii. Go to Facebook and communicate to friends.
 - iii. Tweet your thoughts to #AllKidsNeed on Twitter.
 5. Protect Our Schools rally at PS 10 on March 12. Everyone will hold hands around the perimeter of the school building. T-shirts are being made for the event, will cost \$5 each.

6. Trip to Albany on March 4. Mr. Dalonzo and other teachers travelling to the state capital for lobbying day. Success Academy is closing their schools and bussing up all parents and kids on that day.
 7. PS 10 parent Josh Skaller stated that he is available to help get a more direct line to representatives. He is a District 39 City Council Representative.
- IV. School Leadership Team (SLT)—Marie Edesess
1. The last meeting discussed the current education reform issue, as well as the connection between high states testing and the opt out option.
 2. The next meeting is tomorrow, Friday 3/27 at 7:30AM in the school library.
- V. Parent Mobilization Committee Against the Governor’s Proposal—Amy Schwartzman
1. It is very important that we as parents voice our opinions and that we are separate from teachers. We are parents, not special interests.
 2. Drafted letters are available for parents to sign to the legislature, the Governor, and to the leadership of the Assembly. Also postcards from children.
 3. Sign up if you’d like to join the committee and help organize.
- VI. Christmas Tree Sale—Tom Foley
1. Mr. Foley runs a PTA Christmas Tree Fundraiser during the holiday season on 8th Ave & 8th Street.
 2. He presented the PS 10 PTA with a check for \$655 for this year.
 3. Next year he can do a presentation in November in school to show how PS 10 can make even more.
- VII. PTA Treasurers’ Report—Andrew Rosenberg
1. January was a quieter month than December with \$24K taken in and \$14K going out of the budget.
 2. Fall Class Photos (line item 5840) was finally cashed last month.
 3. The Miscellaneous Fundraising line item, \$2300, was the Barnes & Noble fundraising event.
- VIII. Afterschool Treasurers’ Report—Hope Moriki
1. Budget is on track. \$36K income in January.
 2. If signing up for Spring Afterschool, all bills must be paid or the system will block you.
 3. If you forgot your password, email AS. Do not start a new account.
- IX. New Business
1. Afterschool Program—Velma McKenzie
 - i. The new spring schedule will be out next week, we are looking for some new classes.
 - ii. Jacob Mirer is leaving his post as the Afterschool Director. A letter recently went out to parents.
 - iii. From now until the end of the year, the AS Committee will be running the program with office hours 8:15 – 10:15 am daily.
- X. Old Business—Velma McKenzie & Tyndall Arrasmith
1. Chess Program
 - i. \$10K is needed to run the chess program. The administration is looking to the PTA for help.
 - ii. A proposal was made that the PTA give \$1800 toward the chess program and lower the Off The Page budget expense by \$1800. (\$10K was budgeted for Off The Page but not all that money will be used this year).
 - iii. Amy Schwartzman made the first motion. Emily Morgan seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion passes.
 2. Selznick Movie & Reading Fundraiser at MS 88
 - i. Tyndall Arrasmith proposed the addition of a Brian Selznick event to the school calendar on May 16, from 12:00 – 4:00pm.
 - ii. Cozbi Cabrera made the first motion; Amy Schwartzman seconded. Event will be added.
 3. Spring Direct Appeal: “10 for 10”
 - i. Appeal will take place in mid-March.
 - ii. Goal is to raise \$10,000 in ten days.
 - iii. Up to \$10,000 will be matched by anonymous donors, earning up to \$20,000 for PS 10.

4. Electrical Rewiring for PS 10—Velma McKenzie
 - i. Notification of \$20K added into the budget line for the 4th floor electrical wiring.
 - ii. PTA has already earmarked this \$20K for air conditioning.
5. Nominating Committee
 - i. Committee will soon be looking for candidates for next year.
 - ii. Also need people are needed to be on the committee. Cannot be on the Eboard.
6. Plaque for Caleb
 - i. The PTA would like to make a plaque to honor the memory of student Caleb Sande.
 - ii. The plaque would cost a nominal fee.

XI. Committee Reports

1. Read-a-thon—Cozbi Cabrera & Lili Velez
 - i. Read-a-thon is now underway, ending on 3/6.
 - ii. There are many incentives. Every kid who reads will get something. Author visits and field trips for top reading classes will be awarded.
 - iii. Media campaign for event @#PS10Reads. Take a reading picture and post it.
2. STEAM—RoseAnn Ciarlante
 - i. Event is May 30th.
 - ii. An exciting experience will have music, 3D printers, panel discussions and more.
 - iii. The committee is looking for more members to help. Email ps10steam@gmail.com.
3. PS 10 Rocks—Hatshepsut Shaw
 - i. Event is tomorrow, Friday, 3/27.
 - ii. The model is slightly different this year.
 - iii. Volunteers are needed as always, especially for setting up today and for kids disco at event.

XII. What's On You Mind?

1. Nothing!

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am. RoseAnn Ciarlante made the first motion. Megan Nyhan seconded.