



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

Location: P.S. 10 Auditorium

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Tyndall Arrasmith, Simone Ollen, Deborah Nocella, Hatshepsut Shaw, Megan Nyhan, Velma McKenzie, Omar Karim, Nikki Lucas, Andrew Rosenberg, Jane Kotapish, Katherine Kercher, Nancy Berson, Shaila Rao, RoseAnn Ciarlante

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm.

- I. Approval of February Minutes. Juliet Stams made the first motion; Jennifer Nelson seconded. All in favor.
- II. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
 1. Come to PS 10's Got Talent tomorrow!
 2. Bathrooms: The Girls' bathroom is done and the Boys' will be completed after vacation.
 3. Funds have become available to move the computer lab and to add an electrical outlet to the bathrooms for electric vent blowers.
 4. The Science Fair was an amazing success.
 5. Lice update: Out of 975 students, there were only 15 cases.
 6. Bedbugs. 2 Students of 2 families are currently working to rid their homes of bedbugs. The classrooms of these students have been treated twice: once by the school staff and once by the DOE.
 7. Quality Review
 - i. This review checks curriculum and that the needs of the children are being met.
 - ii. Reviewer spoke with students, parents, and teams of teachers.
 - iii. PS 10 did exceptionally well with 4 areas scoring well developed and 1 area proficient.
 8. Pre K-280 Update
 - i. The school is doing very well. Deputy Chancellor visited and was extremely impressed.
 - ii. DOE plans to add classes next year, going from 9 to 21 classes.
 - iii. DOE plans to hire an additional fulltime Assistant Principal.
 9. Chess Tournament at PS 154 recently held. Our students did very well, earning trophies for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place.
 10. Upcoming Testing in April.
 - i. ELA testing to be held 4/14 - 4/16 and Math testing on 4/21 – 4/23.
 - ii. The District Superintendent wrote an email to Ms. Scott today reporting the commitment of Principals and Superintendents to develop a similar set of standards for middle school entrance. Possibly composite scores made up from many components: test scores, attendance, report cards, lateness, etc.
 - iii. Ms. Scott urges parents to think long and hard before opting their students out.
- III. Treasurers' Report—Andrew Rosenberg
 1. \$15K taken in for February.
 2. March will be a very busy and more active month.
- IV. Afterschool Treasurers' Report—Deborah Nocella
 1. February is always a very quiet month.
 2. Only \$15K taken in with \$58K going out for expenses. We are still on top and on track, however.
- V. Visit from Kaden Sun from the office of NYC Council Member Carlos Menchaca.

1. There are 2 million dollars in participatory budgeting to spend in the community. Ideas are needed.
2. The ideas will be voted on April 11 – 19 at various voting sites including schools and subways.
3. Volunteers are needed to tell people to vote.
4. Voters may choose a total 5 ideas.
5. A project expo to present projects will be held on April 12 at 6:00pm at MS 88.

VI. Participatory Budgeting—Meredith Davis and Allison Milgrom

1. Butterfly Garden Project
 - i. This project would transform this space from a sitting garden to a garden classroom.
 - ii. Cost for project is \$450K.
2. Wi-Fi Project. To bring Wi-Fi to our school.
3. Voting dates so far are Sat. 4/ 11 (12:00 – 4:00pm) and Sat. 4/18 (3:00 – 7:00pm) at Greenwood Park.

VII. Cuomo Education Proposal – Amy Schwartzman

1. Parents’ voices have made a difference. Thank you for the incredible support by many parents.
2. The proposal that 50% of teachers’ evaluations are based on test scores has not come to pass.
3. The NYS Assembly is almost completely on our side, but please reach out to a Republican Senator if you know anyone.
4. March on Governor Cuomo’s office 4/28
 - i. Many schools are uniting to march together this Saturday to Cuomo’s office in midtown Manhattan. All are meeting at the NY Public Library Main Branch around 10:45 am.
 - ii. Some green t-shirts were made for the March. You can buy one of these or just wear the color green over your coat.

VIII. Opting Out of Testing Discussion — Jody Alperin

1. Jody is sharing the choice her family has made not to take the state tests this year.
2. Teachers cannot speak out against the test but as parents we must. Parents have raised many questions about the tests.
3. Is there an example of a school that has lost funding because parents opted out of testing? Jody reported that this has never happened. Ms. Scott said that it hasn’t happened because the opting out must happen for two years.
4. A parent shared her opinion: “Either you’re teaching to the test or you’re testing what you’ve taught.”
5. Many other parents voiced opinions and asked questions in this discussion.
6. Ms. Scott feels we have to put tests in their place. Take the tests and move on.
7. There will be a separate meeting to talk more about this relevant topic.

IX. New Business

1. Approval of new committee – Parent Mobilization Committee
 - i. A parent-driven parent-focused committee created to take action against Governor Cuomo’s education proposal.
 - ii. Created and headed by PS 10 parent Amy Schwartzman.
 - iii. Jodi Alperin made the first motion to approve this committee. Ali Hodin-Baier seconded. All were in favor, and the committee was approved.
2. Approval of new committee – Progressive Dinner Committee
 - i. This new event will take place Friday, May 8th.
 - ii. Dempsey Rice made the first motion to approve this committee. Megan Nyhan seconded. All were in favor, and the committee was approved.
3. Stolen Money
 - i. Cash was stolen from the locked closet in the PTA room after the PS 10 Rocks fundraiser event.
 - ii. The incident has been reported to the police.

X. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report – Dempsey Rice

1. SLT is editing the parent handbook to update information on attendance.

2. Other topics recently discussed include Cuomo's education proposal, and bedbugs and lice issues.
3. Next meeting is tomorrow, Friday at 7:30 am.

XI. Committee Reports

1. 10 For 10! – Dempsey Rice
 - i. Dempsey created this matching campaign that is doing very well so far.
 - ii. Anonymous donors have put up \$10K, so that any dollar amount given to PS 10 during these ten days (up to \$10K) will be doubled.
 - iii. Any donation during this time also enters you in a raffle.
2. Readathon – Shaila Rao
 - i. Program has raised over \$20K so far!
 - ii. Prizes will be announced next week.
 - iii. Students read over \$250,000 minutes and over 50% of students participated.
3. PS 10's Got Talent — Megan Nyhan
 - i. Event is tomorrow, March 27th at 6:00 pm.
 - ii. There are 58 acts from 140 kids.
 - iii. Please donate snacks, desserts, etc. to the café.
4. S.T.E.A.M. Maker Fair—RoseAnn Ciarlante
 - i. This is going to be an amazing event. Date is May 30th.
 - ii. Math Club, Beam, Chess Club and many more are participating.
 - iii. There will be 2 fantastic panels: one with Clive Thompson on Minecraft and Literacy, and one on 3-D printing.
5. Grandparents Day
 - i. Event is on May 1st and is headed by Colleen Henckels.
6. Afterschool—Velma McKenzie
 - i. There are new classes in Afterschool including a clay modeling, skateboarding, and 3-D printing.

XII. "What's On Your Mind?"

1. Stephanie Hochman encourages SETTS (Special Education Teacher Support Systems) teachers to approach the PTA and ask for money for their monetary needs, as there are funds for this. Stephanie also encourages the PTA to give the money or gift certificates to the school's teachers as has been done in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm. Ali Hodin-Baier made the first motion. Dempsey Rice seconded.