



P.S. 10 PTA
General Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 21, 2015

Location: P.S. 10 Lunchroom

Executive Board Members in Attendance: Tyndall Arrasmith, Simone Ollen, Deborah Nocella, Megan Nyhan, Velma McKenzie, Andrew Rosenberg, Jane Kotapish, Lisette Castro, Rebecca Trevethan, Katherine Kercher, RoseAnn Ciarlante

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am.

- I. Approval of March Minutes. Laura Nash made the first motion; Juliet Stams seconded. All in favor.
- II. Principal's Report – Laura Scott
 1. Introduced physical therapist Michael Konstalid who was recently featured in the New York Times and on CBS News. Michael works at PS 10 and other schools. He takes old furniture and makes new custom furniture for special-needs students.
 2. PS 10 has been selected for the Learning Partners Program, which matches schools for collaborative learning. Our school selected as a whole school that will be matched with another school that can benefit from learning.
 3. School Construction
 - i. The Boys' bathroom will be finished the 2nd week of May.
 - ii. The auditorium work to start the beginning of summer.
 - iii. Electrical work for AC is completed in classrooms.
 - iv. Electrical work for new computer lab is still to be completed.
 4. Testing is going smoothly. 12% of students have opted out. Come talk to Ms. Scott for any questions or concerns.
 5. K-280 has started its own fundraising efforts. Bob McGrath from Sesame Street came to K-280 recently. 450 tickets sold for the event.
 6. Placement Officer Larry Parker is retiring. There is a party for him at The Grand Prospect Hall on June 18. Please contact if your family has been involved with him and are interested in attending.
 7. Recorder Program starting for 3rd Graders. Teachers and students are very excited. Thank you!
- III. PTA Treasurer's Report—Andrew Rosenberg
 1. \$53K taken in for March, mostly Direct Appeal and Readathon.
 2. Readathon has almost hit its total income target but not all expenses are in yet.
- IV. Afterschool Treasurer's Report—Deborah Nocella
 1. March numbers are up, \$114K from registration and past due bills paid. Very low expenses at present.
 2. Currently we have \$96K net income that will go down as we pay expenses and we'll break even.
- V. Special Guest: Jo-Ann Kalb, Academic Intervention
 1. The Institute for Multi-sensory Education has agreed to come to Brooklyn to train PS 10 teachers in the Orton-Gillingham method of reading instruction.
 2. The Orton-Gillingham method is beneficial for students with dyslexia and all other learners too. Students with ADD, executive functioning issues have benefited from this teaching. It is the most effective training for children who need direct attention for reading.
 3. PS 10 parent Anna Van Lenten spoke of how her daughter progressed beautifully using the Orton-Gillingham method working with Joann. There is a waiting list of many more kids eager to learn.

4. The proposed training would take place June 26th – July 3rd at PS 10. There are currently 20 teachers who are signed up and want to take this training. The cost is \$18K.
5. Velma McKenzie: The PTA executive board proposed taking \$15K out of savings to pay for this. Jennifer Herbert made the first motion. Stephanie Hochman seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed.

VI. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report – Marie Edesess

1. There are openings on the SLT. Be a part of this interesting group.
2. Recent topics discussed include capital improvement and how can SLT support that, the Cuomo budget situation, and planning for next year.

VII. Cuomo Education Reform Update – Amy Schwartzman

1. The act that was passed says that the New York State Education Department and the Board of Regents would work together to craft what teacher evaluations are. The law states that teachers will receive two component scores—one based on student performance and the second based on observations. The “Student performance” score is derived from state standardized tests.
2. The language of the act is very confusing. Amy Schwartzman proposes that PS 10 try to decipher and analyze the law using the services of a no cost law firm.
3. There is not change of cost to PS 10 as it is a legal obligation for lawyers to provide pro bono services.
4. Amy will also look to see if other groups (teachers, parents) are pursuing this goal.
5. Amy Schwartzman made a motion to become a client of a no cost law firm for the purpose of analyzing Gov. Cuomo’s recently passed education reform. Laura Nash seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed.

VIII. New Business

1. Presidents’ Council Meeting—Velma McKenzie
 - i. At the most recent meeting the middle school admissions process was discussed.
 - ii. The following scoring rubric is being considered: 45% test scores, 45% grades, 5% attendance, 5% behavioral.
2. K-280—Velma McKenzie
 - i. Our sister school K-280 has tried to form their own PTA but the DOE has not yet recognized them as such. K-280 may become a committee of PS 10’s PTA.
 - ii. K-280 is fundraising and generating money.

IX. Committee Reports

1. Afterschool—Velma McKenzie
 - i. We must disclose the hiring of parents as teachers for some of the AS classes.
 - ii. Marina Calender, Allison Milgrom, and Kimberly Narango are PS 10 parents that are currently teaching classes at the PS 10 afterschool program.
2. Nominating Committee—Stephanie Hochman
 - i. The committee is forming the executive board for next year. Paper forms have gone out for nominations.
 - ii. Also a Title One Representative is to be elected. This rep will spend 1% of the Title One Funds (\$6,000) for parent engagement.
 - iii. There will be a meeting posted to discuss the various roles. Election in May.
3. 10 For 10! – Velma McKenzie
 - i. This fundraiser a huge success, raising \$34K in 10 days!
4. Progressive Dinner—Tyndall Arrasmith
 - i. A new fundraiser for the school. Appetizer, Entrée, and Dessert courses at different host homes.
 - ii. Tickets will go on sale next week.
5. S.T.E.A.M. Maker Fair—RoseAnn Ciarlante
 - i. Thanks to Leah and her husband for the awesome logo.

- ii. Exhibitors to include NYC First Robotics, Construction Kids, Beam, Stoked on Steam, turning the playground into a kinetic playground. Also 3-D printers and stop motion animation featured.
 - iii. Volunteers are needed so spread the word!
 - iv. Upcoming meetings: April 28th in the cafeteria after dropoff, and Saturday, May 2nd at 4:00pm with a mixer at Greenwood Park.
- 6. Grandparents Day—Tyndall Arrasmith
 - i. This event is next Friday, May 1st, and is being run by Colleen Henckels.
 - ii. Please come; there will be some great activities.
 - 7. Author Committee—Selina Alko
 - i. Last event of the year is Author Brian Selznick visit on May 16th at MS 88.
 - ii. Event is 4 hours: Q & A with Emily Nussbaum (2-4pm) and Screening of Hugo (4-6pm).
 - iii. A Café Cabaret will be open at event.
 - iv. Tickets are \$10 per person, all ages event.
 - 8. PTA Fun Run—Simone Ollen
 - i. Brooklyn PTA Fun Run is May 9th.
 - ii. Open to all; come help raise money for PS 10.
 - iii. Flyer going home this week, register online.
- X. Other—Tyndall Arrasmith
 - 1. We wont have to take money from afterschool this year to balance the budget.
 - 2. Thank you for those who voted on Carlos Menchaca’s participatory budget proposals. PS 10 had the Butterfly Garden and Wi-Fi for our school on the ballot.
 - XI. “What’s On Your Mind?”
 - 1. Amy Schwartzman reported that she heard from Brad Lander’s office that there will be a demonstration at 4:00pm today 4/21 in Prospect Park to support opting out of testing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 am. Juliet Stams made the first motion. Sharon Levy seconded.