



PTA General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes are deemed "Meeting Notes" until approved at which time they will be considered official Meeting Minutes.

September 20th, 2022

Meeting Start: 6:03PM

Hosted By: Kameka Wittal, Dipshikha Yaroshevsky

Participants: Mr. Paolano, Ms. Santo

Virtual Meeting

Welcome Back to School

- Especially new parents and families to the school
- Welcome/Introduce Mr. Paolano
- Welcome/Introduce Ms. Andujar
- E-Board Introductions

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Approved
 - Camille Clinton
 - Maik Papadopoulos

Approval of Budget

- Poll: Voted Yes - Approved (80% voted, 100% approved)

Member Question: How to fundraise for this new budget?

- Dues are a majority of funds. New fundraisers will be added.
- Roadmap to fundraising, these totals/amounts are not fixed
- PTA wants to bring back and hold field trips, pumpkin patch, teacher appreciation, after school clubs, before school clubs.
- Fundraising and dues go to these events and to the students



Treasurer's Report

- PTA began the year with \$1,006.16 cash on hand
- Income of \$4,159.13 from dues and general donations
- Expenses of \$1,391.50 occurred during the month
- Cash on Hand is \$3,773.79

Dues can be paid through Paypal

- Class with highest membership will get popsicles
- Families who pay \$133 or more will get into an event for free (immediate family only)

PTA Progress Report

- School Safety
 - A big concern is pick up
 - Needs to be done in an orderly fashion
 - Teachers do not recognize parents/guardians yet
 - Do not call out to children, wait for teachers to dismiss children
 - School bus need to park in front of the school, drivers have difficulty finding space

Member Question: For Kindergarten drop off, 2 gates used to be open but now only 1 is open and it makes it difficult

- Second gate was accidentally left closed

Classroom Connect

- Teacher Appreciation
 - Snack provided every month
 - To recognize beyond one week
- 9 Days of Love
 - 2nd day PTA provided breakfast
- Teachers looking for flexible seating
 - Put on social media channels



- Were able to receive full funding for rug
- Some teachers still need funding support
 - Please find information in emails and social media to help donate

Parent Connection

- Private bus service - for private after school
- Fundraisers to help get items not in school budget

Bylaws

- Changes/Updates every 3 years
- Last changed in 2018. Updates are needed, especially due to covid protocol changes
- 12 changes need to be made
- Dues were \$25 → may suggest amount → subject to general membership approval
- Time and Venue of PTA meetings → 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm on Zoom
 - Parents are encouraged to vote for a virtual meeting, easier to meet up
- Executive board meetings → From 3rd Tuesdays at 5:00pm to 3rd Mondays at 6:00pm
 - Meetings are open to the public
- Currently there is no 5th Grade Chairperson → PTA wants to have a bigger presence
 - Standing committee within PTA
 - Not currently in Bylaws
- Member at Large → new/incoming parents and families to the school community
 - Opportunity to join e-Board
- Bylaws proposed changes were sent out with Meeting Materials
 - Please review
 - Feel free to send any questions you may have
- Voting on October 18th meeting



President's Council Update

- All PTA Presidents and Co-Presidents meet each month to talk about issues, share ideas/ best practices
- Cathy Grodsky (President of President's Council) is in constant contact with the district Superintendent
- Last night's meeting was predominantly about Middle School and High School Admissions
- Safety was also discussed
 - Cathy Grodsky spoke to the Chancellor Banks about safety concerns
 - School building - front door that can be locked
- Back to School Night
 - Complaints that some schools did not host a back-to-school night
 - We had one because Principal Paolano pushed for it

SLT - School Leadership Team: Updates

- Grant to revitalize school playground, recess area (not park, not sprinkler, not reading garden)
 - Let us know what equipment you as parents and families are looking for
- Grant given for 37 Macbook Pros for Computer Lab
- UFT organized for lower class sizes
 - Petitions were signed last year
 - Governor Hochul signed during the summer
 - By 2027:
 - Cap of 20 in K-3
 - Cap of 23 in 4-8
 - Cap of 25 in High School
 - Cap of 40 in Cluster classes (ex: Phys Ed)
- Ms. Santo - UFT Chapter Leader, Current Co-Chairperson for SLT
 - (From nycdoe) Is composed of parents, staff and admin
 - Responsible for establishing school-based policies
 - Ensuring resources and budget are aligned to implants those policies



- Creating a structure for school-based decision making
- Every school is required to have an SLT
- School based planning and central decision making
- May also invite a Community Based Organization (CBO)
- Length of Term for elected members is specified in By Laws (Currently 3 years, can be modified)
- Members may be a member of more than one SLT in schools their children attend
- Meet once a month during the school year, can be more frequent
- By Laws will specify day and times of meetings such as 1st Thursdays of every month
- Who can attend: Members of the school community at large, general public, press to observe and listen in
- Speaking time can be granted to viewers/listeners
- Meetings are in person, second Monday of every month (next is Oct 17th) in the library
- Tonight's vote is only for Parent at Large (Parent side of SLT)
- SLT is made of 3 core members:
 - (Administrator) Mr. Paolano, (UFT Leader) Ms. Santo, (Parents) PTA President
 - Additional members are voted in
- Min of 10 and max of 17
- Divided equally between staff and parents
- 4 on each side
- Staff: Paolano, Santo, McCormick, Ugas (DC37 Rep)
- Parents: Kameka Wittal, Sae Jung Lee, Camille Clinton, Maïke Papadopoulos
- Parent Coordinator would attend meetings but do not count as official members
- Staff vote will wait until we have the final number of Parent members to match



- Parents members are voted in by parents, staff voting will take place later
- Voting In New members:
 - Results to be reported at the next PTA meeting

Principal's Message

- Traffic issues - it is on us collectively to do the right thing
- Inclement weather, dismissal will start a little earlier
- Fire Drills, another on Thursday
- Safety - discussions contoured about front door being locked
- Looking for Parent Coordinator
- Next Coffee and Conversation: Oct 11 at 2:30PM in Library
- Computer Science grant from previous councilwoman, order was processed, expected around November. Will be a collaborative space for all students in computer science lab for all grades
- As a school, many new initiatives are happening in our school.
- Clubs/Activities: beginning stages of before and after clubs, teachers are ready. Exciting for families. Will need parental support.
 - Tuesday 10/25 Club Fair 2:30-3:30
 - All Students and families are invited
- Teachers' College Session (Columbia University)
 - Coaches working with our teachers
 - Opening units of the school year and component to focus on with the teachers
 - Professional learning for the staff
 - With teachers 3-5
 - Tomorrow will be K-2
- Feel Good Friday/Spirit Day
 - Started by SEL Team
 - Various SEL strategies implemented throughout the week in every classroom



- Fridays (before or after lunch) specific lessons tied to some of our initiatives or SEL learning competencies that support students' wellbeing in the school building
- Spirit Wear Fundraiser
- Field Trips
 - Will be back, part of clubs and extracurricular activities
- Puppetry Project
 - Was supposed to come to building to begin a mural in March 2020
 - In Main Office to Principal's Office
 - Never got started, but now will begin in October
 - Every student (3K- 5) will play some part in the production and design
- Please share with us what is great and why it is great, share things that are not great so that they can be fixed

Q&A

- Asked about more time for doors open during drop off
 - Breakfast drop-off is 7:30-7:45 but then doors are closed until 7:58
- During dismissal if cluster teachers dismiss, they may not be familiar with the caregiver who normally picks up the students

What's Next

- Spirit Wear Fundraiser - hardcopies will be sent, also emailed and on social media
- Dine Out Fundraiser
- Diwali handout
- Halloween Party 10/28
- Catalog sales

Meeting End 7:38PM

Prepared by Tiffany Tseng Recording Secretary