**PTA General Meeting**

**January 21, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

* 9:19 am Jackie Paolone welcomes everyone - attendance recorded at 125 people - all pre-registered for the meeting.
* Request for sign-ins via link in chat..
* Bob Bender expresses gratitude and passes the meeting to Yasmin Elkarrimy to introduce the Name Change Committee.

**Presentation from Name Change Committee and Vote**

* The Name Change Committee presents.
  + Concern was raised that William T Harris’s legacy does not accurately represent our community’s core values of Integrity, diversity, hard-working, brave, empathetic and just.
  + Research was done within the team and a list of potential candidates were presented to both the student population as well as families.
  + A vote of both students and families was conducted to narrow the field to 3 individuals.
  + The committee had a lengthy meeting to discuss the renaming of the school and a decision was made to include all 3 names as outlined below..
    - Auditorium to be named after musician Zitkala-Sa.
    - Library to be named after the author Hisaye Yamamoto.
    - The new proposed school name is - Sarah J. Garnet Elementary School.
* Jackie thanks the Name Change Committee.
  + A motion was made to approve the name change committee's proposals.
  + Second was made to approve the name change.
  + A vote was taken via a zoom poll. 98% of respondents approving the proposed name changes.. The vote passes.
* Bob Bender explains that they will present to the District 2 Community Council in February and potentially to the Chancellor.

**Principal’s Report - Bob Bender**

* Earlier in the week the administration hosted a digital tour for the new Superintendent, other principals, etc - the Name Change Committee and all their work was a highlight of this “visit”..
* 3rd and 4th graders are now starting whole-grade rehearsals for their show
* Mid-year screeners have begun as required. These will happen 3x this year - this is the 2nd of the 3. .
* Semester ends next week, portfolios and report cards will be distributed..
* Promotion in Doubt letters will be sent in Jan/Feb. THis is a notification of concern and will be reviewed in detail with families.
* COVID Update: Yesterday we had 0 COVID cases!
  + Parents have been reaching out about questions regarding attendance. A child will only be marked remote present if they are being asked by the school to quarantine due to a school exposure and the work in google classroom is completed.The student will be marked absent otherwise.
  + All absences on myschools.com should be monitored by families and email the school if there is an issue. Once the school year ends, changes can not be made to attendance..

**Parent Coordinator’s Report – Stephen McGill**

* Reminder about the NYCSA account.
  + There are roughly 200 students whose families have not established a NYCSA account. Important that all families create an account..
  + Letters with info for these accounts have gone out - please sign up as soon as possible to monitor records and attendance. Please contact Mr. McGill for information or OSIS number. For security reasons, everything cannot be included in the letter..
* 2 reminders:
  + K application process is open, families eligible for Sept 2022 enrollment can now go to the DOE website and start application until January 21, 2022. If anyone is interested in coming to K at PS 11 and has a sibling, please be sure to include the sibling's name and OSIS number, which will give them priority.
  + 5th grade middle school applications are due March 1. The DOE has excellent information on schools.nyc.gov. Follow the admissions and middle school links. They have introduced a sibling priority.

**SLT Report - Jordan Wright** (ps11SLT@gmail.com)

* Gratitude for the Name Change Committee support to Bob, Dawn, Cassandra, Yasmin, Marketa where the students can drive a process like this. The process is so student driven. Very special.
* COVID protocols FAQ: Email sent out from Bob with FAQs and flowchart developed by SLT. This document will remain updated as details change and is on the school website. If you did not receive, please email the SLT email address.

**President’s Report - Jackie Paolone & Lisa Cox** ([ps11ptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptapresident@gmail.com))

* Jackie expresses pride in being part of a community where the kids can work to effect change.
* COVID Supplies Update: Letter was sent by PTA presidents outlining additional support for COVID supplies. Updates were discussed for each point:
  + 2,000 KN95 masks were generously donated by a PS11 family to ensure that teachers and staff are provided as many as they need. Currently the DOE is providing 1 mask a week for teachers and staff.
  + 3,000 KN95 kids masks were purchased and are available. Please either have your child ask their teacher for one or email the teacher asking them to provide it to your child.
  + 3. Testing kits: We purchased 300 at home test kits for families in need. Please reach out to [ps11ptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptapresident@gmail.com) and it will be arranged.
* Safety Update: The cold has helped the constant challenge on 8th Avenue with regards to security. There has been a fairly regular NYPD presence throughout the day. Thank you to the precinct for being so responsive to parent concerns. Monthly safety meeting occur should there be any concerns please reach out..
* Teacher and Staff Appreciation 2/14: A committee was formed for teacher appreciation 2/14 there will be a teacher and staff appreciation which will include a banner (PS11 Hearts You) and we’ll provide pens, notebooks, Hershey kisses, kids dress in red, coffee and bagels that morning for teachers and staff, and some other ways the community can get involved.
  + Budget was discussed for this committee. A request is being made to increase the budget and will be reviewed and voted on in the Finance report section.
  + Email Jackie and Lisa if you are interested in joining the Teacher/ Staff Appreciation Committee.

**Budget / Finance Report - Kunal and Maria** ([ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com](mailto:ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com))

* Finance report was shared by Maria, including the proposed budget increase.
* Current budget for staff appreciation is $4,300, and we’d like to increase by $1,700 to $6,000.
* December was a very good month for fundraising bringing in almost $90,000.
  + Total expenses were discussed and totaled $12,000 for the month.
  + Budget is tracking well and it was stated that the budget can withstand the increase in the line item.
* A motion was made to approve the change to the budget.
* Second was made to approve the change to the budget.
* A vote was taken via a zoom poll. 98% of respondents approving the proposed name changes.. The vote passes.

**Fundraising Report - Mori Ninomiya & Tess Knoebel** ([ps11annualfund@gmail.com](mailto:ps11annualfund@gmail.com))

* Read-a-thon Intro: Christine Lee presents and discusses details about readathon.
  + 100% of the money raised goes to the Annual Fund.
  + Great prizes this year, including authors doing private Q&As for classes with the most minutes and most participation.
  + Goal is 50% participation.
  + Thank you to members of the committee for organizing.

**Events Report - Leslie Sloane & Lucy Flint** ([ps11ptaevents@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptaevents@gmail.com))

* No update at this time because of COVID. Hopefully by next month we’ll have some announcements. If volunteers are interested, please reach out.

**Programs Report - Kristina Hammond & Domenica Mastroianni** ([ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com))

* Gratitude for chairs of lost and found, chess, and library.
* Newspaper is underway and working on a second edition.
  + Thank you to Teresa Edelstein for that amazing effort—you can reach her at the email in the family liaison emails or reach out to programs email..
  + Committee meets on Zoom on Wednesday nights.
* Yearbook committee meeting soon; if there are graphic designers out there please email programs.

**Membership Report - Jen Dickson & Steve** ([ps11volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ps11volunteer@gmail.com))

* Goal is to keep you informed, connected and involved. Community coffees have been organized in order to do that along with family liaison emails. More Be Connected events coming on the first Friday of every month - stay tuned.

**Communications Report - Pia Padukone & Julie Carpenter** ([ptaps11@gmail.com](mailto:ptaps11@gmail.com))

* No updates for today

**Community Q&A**

* None

Jackie closes the meeting: Please stay safe, stay healthy and have a great weekend!

Adjournment 10:26 am