



**PTA General Meeting  
October 14, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

- 9:15 am
- 67 attendees total

**Principal's Report - Bob Bender**

- 5th grade DC trip is coming up in December. DOE rules mandate that overnight trips still require everyone to be vaccinated. Therefore, for both the 4th grade camping trip and the 5th grade DC trip, children and chaperones must be fully vaccinated (meaning 2 shots) 2 weeks before the trip occurs.
- 2nd graders are receiving chess instruction in class.
- 3rd graders are rehearsing for their show. The show will be on the morning of 11/23.
- Teachers are in the midst of professional development from Teachers College's Reading and Writing Project. They are focusing on the science of reading, phonemic teaching and the understanding of phonics.
- Staff have also been working with a Math specialist from District 2 on the schoolwide goal for improving access to all students to grade level content.
- PS11 Admin and a team of volunteers to visit the new families in the hotel shelter after this meeting to welcome our new families.

**SLT Report - Alex Cordero (ps11SLT@gmail.com)**

- Family Fridays: each class will be divided in half and each cohort will have two Family Fridays. There will be in-classroom visits and grade celebrations.
- Physical/mental health and safety: school will be providing puberty/sex education to 5th grade.
- School safety meeting with city and community representatives about the state of 21st Street and 8th Ave (see Presidents' Report below).
- Online safety - creating informal subcommittee for parents.



- Culture and equity: discussion of creating a family book club that is self-run; if interested or know of someone who would be interested, please email the SLT ([ps11slt@gmail.com](mailto:ps11slt@gmail.com)).
- Working on SLT enrichment proposal, as well as ways to help the immigrant families joining the school.

### **Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill**

- Covered in Principal's report.

### **President's Report - Lisa Cox & Joanna Cohn Weiss ([ps11ptapresident@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptapresident@gmail.com))**

#### *New families to PS11*

- Jeff Gardner is leading the committee to help incoming asylum seeking families. The donations have been tremendous and families have been so grateful.
  - The committee is in the process of setting up communications around the families' needs. There is a very urgent need for basic supplies, including soap, toothbrushes, shampoo, clean underwear, clean clothing, water bottles and backpacks. Pre-sorting clothing donations based on age and sex would be tremendously helpful. We anticipate this to be an ongoing effort for at least a few more weeks and that things will continue to evolve.
- There will be a sign up sheet sent out for volunteer duties:
  - In urgent need of fluent Spanish speakers to help families while they're in the store, with school registration, and to welcome them to the school (must be members of the PS 11 community).
  - Volunteers needed for donation collection, to sort through items and work in the store.
- Amazon wish list to help fulfill most urgent and needed items: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
- The school has always provided services for English Language Learning, so there are already services in place. There may be a need for more resources, but it is unclear how many students there will be, so the resource need is therefore also unclear.
- Amazon deliveries that arrive during school hours are brought into the building - not left outside. When they arrive on a weekend or in the evening after the school closes at 6 pm, the packages are unable to be delivered, and the delivery is attempted again on a subsequent day.
- Donation drop-offs cannot take place during weekend hours.
- Accepting donations of diapers and baby formula.



### *Safety Update*

- Safety is a top priority. Thanks to the community, the school was able to get the 2nd safety officer back at school and police presence during drop-off and pick-up.
- Earlier this week, Lisa Cox, Joanna Cohn Weiss, Dave Cox and members of the administration (Cassandra Gregov, Dawn Rosevear, and Bob Bender) attended a meeting with Erik Bottcher, Brad Hoylman, Dick Godfrey, the DA's office, the Office of Special Narcotics, the Department of Homeless, and other community groups. It was hugely beneficial to have everyone in the same room together to develop a more coordinated response. A list of 14 “to-do's” emerged following the meeting. These groups will stay on the case and ensure that improvements continue.
- The school has created a Safety committee with Dave Cox leading it. His contact information is 646-408-1011 and [davemcox@gmail.com](mailto:davemcox@gmail.com)
- Reminder - if you see something you don't like, please call 911 and provide your information.
- When seeing the police presence, crossing guard (Kathy) and the school safety officers around school, please acknowledge them, say hello, thank you and introduce yourself to let them know we appreciate their presence and help.
- Discussion on whether to host PTA General Meetings over Zoom at 9 am or in person at 8:45 am. Zoom option is preferred at this time.

### **Budget / Finance Report - Maria Melendez & Kunal Prakash (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)**

- Monthly financial report presented.

### **Events Report - Lucy Flint & Amanda Moskowitz (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)**

- Fall Festival taking place on Saturday, October 22 - please come and please volunteer.
- [Fall Festival Volunteers — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
- In need of PS 11 alumni to run games - there is a separate link for those volunteers: [Fall Festival ALUMNI! — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)

### **Programs Report - Kristina Hammond & Kirsten Magen (ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)**

- Book fair is back at PS 11 - first in-person, full-size book fair since pandemic. The book fair will also be set up at the Fall Festival.



- The book fair is staffed with library volunteers, but will also need volunteers to help set up and run the fair during the Fall Festival: [BOOK FAIR: BOOK FAIR \(signupgenius.com\)](http://BOOK FAIR: BOOK FAIR (signupgenius.com))
  - Email for book fair committee [ps11bookfair@gmail.com](mailto:ps11bookfair@gmail.com)
- Thank you to everyone who has completed the family survey and has expressed interest in volunteering for programs.

**Fundraising Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Mori Ninomiya (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)**

- At the Fall Festival there will be a voting opportunity for the next flavor of Bender Bars. We will also be accepting checks and swipes for the annual fund.
- PS 11 Merchandise - have a new online store: [Home | PS11 Sarah J Garnet School \(square.site\)](http://Home | PS11 Sarah J Garnet School (square.site))
- Stay tuned for “11 for 11” in November and Giving Tuesday.

**Membership Report - Jen Dickson & Sarah Kim (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)**

- Library is staffed up; if not given a slot for the library but tried to volunteer, we'll either reach out to you, or please reach out at [ps11volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ps11volunteer@gmail.com)
- Reminder to Family Liaisons to please send emails to their classes .
- Another reminder to please sign up to help at the Fall Festival.
- Volunteer opportunities are listed on the PS 11 website.
- Website is a great resource - can download school calendar into personal or work calendar; contains key dates and minutes for the PTA meetings.

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

- Digests are being sent out on Tuesdays; contains information including PTA meetings and volunteer opportunities.

**Adjournment 9:52 am**