



**PTA General Meeting  
December 16, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

- 9:03 am
- 107 participants

**Principal's Report - Bob Bender**

- Gratitude to Jeff Gardner and the army of volunteers who have been helping at the school all day, every day to welcome our new families
- Rosie's Theater - Performance by 5th graders. All family members are invited to attend but must show proof of vaccination. 4th graders will also attend.
- Family Fridays have started. They have been a great success - families and teachers are providing great feedback.
- 5th Grade Trip to Washington, DC was incredible. Gratitude to Cassandra and the many staff and parent volunteers. Many thanks to the PTA for funding the entire trip for all the students.
- Teachers have access to math training. The work is daring, exciting, and inspiring.
- Construction update: some parts of the scaffolding may be coming down in early Spring. The small play yard may also open in the Spring.
- City-wide, schools are having difficulty finding substitute teachers. The school is having to rewrite schedules because of this. If anyone knows people who can nominate substitute teachers, please do so.
- The school is in need of bilingual Spanish speaking paraprofessionals. The role requires a high school diploma, and individuals must be fluent in English and Spanish. Nominations must be made by next week, before the holiday break. Hours are from 8 am - 2:45 pm. Email Bob immediately if you have nominees. Part time is ok, but individuals must be able to commit to 20 days.
- The school is in need of bilingual mental health services. The SLT is working with Hudson Guild, Catholic Charities, and other organizations. Anyone who is knowledgeable about receiving free mental health services, please reach out.



- The Helen Keller organization will be providing free eye exams to all students; any student who needs them will receive free Warby Parker glasses (kids will pick out the color of the frames).
- The school is starting school tours again for incoming Kindergarten families after the holidays. There will be three tours following the break.
- Chicken pox - the school is required to notify anyone who has been exposed. This means being in any space - e.g., the cafeteria, auditorium, classroom, or a bus - with the individual. Please remind children to wash their hands regularly.
- Please do not send any sick children to school. The school is having to send home kids from school every day with fever and other symptoms.

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

- School tours are taking place this winter; information and links to sign up for the tours are posted on the PS 11 website.
- Kindergarten applications are currently open. Please go onto the DOE website: [schools.nyc.gov](https://schools.nyc.gov). Look within the enrollment section and click on the grade for which you're enrolling. (Click on Kindergarten or pre-K.) The Kindergarten application is live; the deadline is January 20, 2023. Families who are applying for Kindergarten with siblings - please make sure to flag any siblings and their OSIS numbers on the applications.
- Kindergarten G&T applications are also now open and available for parents to apply.
- Pre-K applications are not yet open; they will open after the first of the year. Parents who are interested in pre-K can sign up for DOE alerts to be contacted as soon as applications are available.
- The DOE recommends for every parent to have a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) and recently sent home letters to parents without NYCSA accounts
  - If you receive a letter, that means you do not have an account and need to open one. The NYCSA account is for you to see your children's grades, transportation information, etc.
  - The MySchools account is only for applying to programs and schools.
  - These are two different accounts.
  - Two parents are on each child's account - both will receive a letter asking them to open a NYCSA. They don't need to both create an account, but will need to return the form



saying they don't want the account. There's no harm in having two parents have two separate accounts.

- Picture day is coming up - January 31 and February 1, 2023.

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

- Discussed family engagement and support
- Feedback about new Family Friday structure has been positive
- Social and community engagement - Cada Empanada restaurant would like to provide gift cards to families in temporary housing.
- Discussed physical/mental health and safety.
- Discussed keeping kids safe online - written material for parents; cybersafety is mandated and taught by Mr. Fier every year.
- Support for the new families - new ENL teacher, 6-8 paraprofessionals.
- Hellen Keller organization is providing free vision screening.
- There is a need for translators - please spread the word; would like it to be from the parent population.
- Puberty discussion - carried over from the previous meeting; there is a desire to have a session with 5th graders about puberty and entering adolescence. We are targeting Oct/Nov of next school year because the person isn't available until then.
- Book club - please let the SLT know if you are interested.
- SLT enrichment proposals discussed - must complete forms for SLT approval for non funded projects.
- Mental health support for newcomers - please reach out if there is anyone in your personal network who can help provide support.

**President's Report - Lisa Cox & Joanna Cohn Weiss (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)**

- As the year comes to an end, we want to express gratitude for this community. Thank you to the PTA for paying for the 5th grade Washington, DC trip. Programs like Rosie's Theater are so meaningful. What you contribute does so much for the school.
- Safety Update from Dave Cox:



- Tactically, we are still pushing for as much presence by the NYPD as possible. We are working with various law enforcement agencies to ensure arrests for criminal behavior and support for those struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues. The school had a meeting with narcotics officers, homeless organizations, Senator Hoylman and Councilman Bottcher regarding Rainbow Station.
- Scaffolding at school may come down in first quarter of 2023; this has been a rolling deadline
- DA announced a new initiative this week for those struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues - have flagged a need in Chelsea. This will take time to ramp up (likely 6 months), but we are hopeful that this will help.
- We are proposing a safety meeting over Zoom.
- If you see anything concerning, the first step is to always call 911
- Overall, it seems that school hours drop off and pick up feel better. There is a robust safety committee at the school which is in constant contact with the local 10th precinct.
- Catherine Casalino volunteered to update the PS 11 logo, representing KG&G and our place in the community. Her son is a student at the school and her husband happens to also be a PS 11 alum. The red bird is the new mascot for the school, and the number “11” serves as its feet. Catherine created the font on her own.

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

- November donations raised through individual annual fund donations and corporate matches.
- 5th grade DC trip covered the bulk of costs for the month, along with field trips, recess, swimming program (washing machine), and other small programs.

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

- New merchandise available
- PS 11 Gift Guide
- Art to Remember purchases should be going home today or next week. Reminder that anyone can order from Art to Remember any time of the year. The money goes back to the school and parents can upload any art work they want to use.

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

- The Read-a-thon is being run by co-chairs, Shelly O’Sullivan and Christine Lee. It will be taking place February 6-17; the theme will be revealed in the new year. This is a great time of year for



the school because it promotes reading and lots of excitement for reading and reinforces great sportsmanship where kids are competing with each other for the most minutes read.

- Please get donations into the Annual Fund by year end so they are part of taxes for 2022! Link to contribute to the Annual Fund: <https://ps11pta.givingfuel.com/annual-fund>
- Any questions about corporate matches, etc. can be sent via email to [ps11annualfund@gmail.com](mailto:ps11annualfund@gmail.com)
- You are required to keep a receipt for any donations above \$500. You may still claim a donation if it is under \$500, but you don't need to provide a receipt. If you donate via PayPal or Facebook, they generate their own receipts.

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

- 2023 will have monthly events
- Comedy for a Cause is coming up on Tuesday, January 24 from 7-10:30 pm at Gotham Comedy Club
  - Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-for-a-cause-tickets-431245646337>
  - A sell-out event every year that brings together the community and also helps to fundraise for the school
  - Tickets are tax deductible
- Other events will include: Trivia Night, Barry's Bootcamp, flower arranging class, pottery class
- If anyone wants to volunteer/contribute ideas, please reach out to [ps11ptaevents@gmail.com](mailto:ps11ptaevents@gmail.com). Your involvement can be big or small!
- Gala will take place in May - more details forthcoming in January

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

- Thank you to everyone who has given their time, shown their appreciation for the school, support to the families, and everything the PTA has asked of you

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

- No new updates

#### **Community Q&A**



- Coats and sweater donations are still being accepted for specific needs, but we cannot continue to accept them in room 205 as we need to transition the school back to being run as just a school again. Please do not drop off used coats at this time at the school. If you would like to donate a new coat, new gloves, or a new hat, please message Jeff Gardner via WhatsApp at 917-854-6587.
- There are many coats in the lost and found - please label all items with your children's first and last names so they can be returned to children more easily.

**Adjournment 9:53 am**