



General PTA Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2019
9:02 am start

Student Council Report:

Gabriel (President):

- Surveys have been given out to students on school lunches: Student Council is looking to know what the students like / don't like & what they would like served
- A chalkboard menu has been introduced in the cafeteria each day.

Maya (VP):

- Spirit days are coming up! Jan 25th is dress up as your favorite athlete day. Feb 8th is dress up as your favorite animal day.
- Please remember students still have recess so dress warmly!

Minutes:

December Meeting Minutes APPROVED

Principal's Report: Bob Bender

On Jan 3rd 2019 an incident occurred involving a lost student during the school day at PS 11. Mr. Bender addressed the PS 11 general PTA meeting regarding this topic:

- Officially the school is under investigation by the Special Commission of Investigations, an investigation that he launched himself immediately following the incident. Due to this investigation there is little that can be said.
- Many hours have been spent thus far cooperating with the investigative team.
- Overall, there is overwhelming support, thank you.
- There is some frustration regarding the delay in communication, Mr. Bender is sorry as this was out of his hands. Once a phone call is made to launch an investigation communication is put on shutdown.
- A letter to families was drafted immediately following the incident - it was approved and released the next day to send out to the school community. He strongly believes in communication and the letter was sent out as quickly as possible.
- Every single aspect of PS11 is currently being analyzed. All feedback that has come back so far is that we are a safe school.
- Unfortunately, the results of this investigation may not be published, and may not be available to anyone.
- As a community, Mr. Bender believes in being proactive: staff is being retrained, all protocols are under review and adjustments are being made (even when not

- required). Some kids may have noticed, most don't, but these adjustments may result in slightly less independence for the kids.
- Children were not told specifics about incident, teachers cannot discuss specifics.
 - A safety protocol review has been conducted with all the classes, and 2 school assemblies were held to review safety.
 - All doors are alarmed. The roof door is currently not alarmed but it is being discussed – it is not locked to get off the roof, but go onto the roof is locked.
 - Kids now have 10 minutes in the restroom. Staff is responsible to know if they are there for longer than 10 minutes and follow protocol if they aren't back.
 - Some of the adjustments already made (which were not mandated) include:
 - PTA funds were used to order 10 additional radios, so there are multiple staff members with radios throughout the building.
 - An outside search has been added to the missing child protocol.
 - Strict hall pass system has been implemented.
 - Lunch / Recess supervisors track restroom use.
 - Bus protocol has been changed again to take attendance at 3 separate times during the loading of the busses after school.
 - Lanyards for busses are very important – please make sure kids are wearing the lanyards.

He assured everyone that if the results of the investigation are made public he will share them, otherwise he can not.

In other news:

- Lego Team – congrats! At their recent tournament, the 4th grade played against 8th graders and they scored! They didn't qualify but did great.
- 5th graders have a big show on Thursday.
- There is no school Feb 5th for the Lunar New Year.
- Portfolios & report cards (please make a copy) are coming home soon (most next Friday) and will include promotion & doubt marks.
 - Any student with a 1 will be notified for further conversation (it is very unusual for us to ask a child to repeat a grade).
 - My school account will have grades posted.
 - Specialty classes for 1 semester only will show their final grade now, 2 semester classes are issued at end of year
 - FEB 1st & 2nd – the 5th grade performance of Aladdin Musical! Please come, support, it will be amazing! All of PS 11 kids will get an assembly during the day, but they will want to see it again so please come.

Parent Coordinator: Stephen McGill

- Kindergarten application is now & has been extended (registration begins in March) online at the new webpage – myschools.nyc and Pre-K application is coming out shortly (only 1 PS 11 class and is for siblings).
- Yearbook is being worked on, so please get your school event photos ready to submit! Volunteers are also needed so please sign up to help.

SLT Report– Robin & Jordan

- At the last SLT meeting safety was discussed - the same information that has been provided today.
- An enrichment proposal is available on our website if any parents want to make a proposal. Recently a proposal was received regarding digital literacy / research sent in by a parent and was approved. Upper grade classes will start this in Spring Semester.
- Book club started Jan 16th with the new book “We Are Not Yet Equal” which covers the history of racism, please join. The first half of book was discussed and February 6th is the next meeting at Foragers, 9am; please join - even if you have not read the book.
- Teachers have been working on social emotional lessons - some of the concepts will be utilized in future family Friday events.

President’s Report – Robin

- Thank you to everyone who is helping us at school.
- Please sign in today! Materials are not being printed to save paper but all details will be emailed to those who sign up.
- Intro Lisa Cox – Bus Safety progress report: tirelessly working to make busses safer. How kids get home, how they are dismissed and for the past 1.5 years Lisa has been working with DOE and Corey Johnson’s office to successfully pass new legislation for bus safety - including GPS systems on busses. For the 2019/20 school year - 15 days prior to the start of school, routes will be communicated to parents whose children ride a bus to school.

Budget Report: Michael

- Financial summary presented with the highlights only – please request details if interested.
- December changes to note:
 - Corporate matching raised \$6k.
 - Comedy tix, merch sales, chess club all have line items.
 - The overall bank balance went down due to large outgoing checks (Rosie’s theatre program, green market, chess, DC trip, recess, swimming).
- Thank you for your support to help programs continue to grow.

Fundraising Report: Stacy & Kate

- Annual fund dollars raised - currently at \$265k.
- Grade participation discussed:
 - Pre-k at 50%, K at 60%, 1st grade at 65%, 2nd grade at 56%, 3rd grade at 58%, 4th grade at 48% and 5th grade at 40%.
- School-wide we are at 54% participation - if you have not donated yet - please consider.
- Class parents please help numbers up! If you want your specific class participation number please contact the annual fund team.
- December was great, but a lot of checks were written so we need to ramp up fundraising this month
- Please remember to ask your company to participate in a corporate match!

Events Report: Leslie & Lisa

- On Jan 29th there is the second new parent social @ Jake's on 23rd Street. Please come, meet other parents and PTA Board members.
- Comedy for a Cause is on Feb 12th and tickets are still available. There will be a great lineup and a raffle (need volunteers, too!).
- Camps Auction: Julia, Christina, Anna
 - The camps auction takes place the 2nd week of March, and is an opportunity to bid on summer camps (day, sleep away) and part of money goes to PS 11. We could always use more camps so please email us ps11auction@gmail.com if you have a camp you love. They will do all the legwork.
 - Anyone can bid on this auction! Tell your friends because these camps are eager to have a relationship with our school and want to participate in auction.
- Gala Auction: they are hard at work and already have lots of contributions but need we still need a lot more! We also need some volunteers to conduct walkabouts to local shops & salons, restaurants, etc. so please email.
 - By our next PTA meeting they will have postcards with more information to make it easier to solicit - forms can currently be downloaded on the website.
 - Also looking for admin help, and someone who can take over next year. Reach out to if you're interested, and learn the ropes from us this year!
 - Looking to make a video to help raise funds and drive donations and are currently seeking help for this 1-2 minute video.
- Gala: Annie & Melanie
 - Currently seeking a venue with a target date of May 13th for the event but flexible (approx. 600 person attendance).
 - Event planning (catering donations, liquor donations, beverages, etc). Anyone who has contacts for potential donations please reach out. Even if its 1 case of wine - all donations add up and are greatly appreciated.
 - New volunteers are always welcome.

- Voted on theme and this year is PROM NIGHT!

Programs Report: Mori & Laura

- Library – still need some Friday people & general help...we highly recommend this library as it's a magical place here & kids absolutely love it.
- Book fair – scholastic book fair is a huge fundraiser for us! Our next one is May 10-17th with a parent shopping night & Family Friday...please get involved it's super fun and easy.
- Young Artists program – Kelly: parent volunteers come into school and teach 8 spring classes. There is a slight delay in the program this year. Everything was set up and confirmed but notice came from DOE with required safety steps to vet the parent volunteers. Parent volunteers have agreed to DOE finger printing and background checks. Please be patient as this process is conducted - stay tuned for new dates. Contact Ps11youngartist@gmail.com with any questions.
- Merchandise Update: we are always selling at events and will be at Aladdin Musical shows next month.
- Lost/Found: please put classroom number & last name on child's clothes so we can return these items to your kids.
- Chess Team – attended the National Championship in Orlando & finished top 10 placement
 - NYC – K-1 team finished 3rd place! They had a few individual placements as well.
 - Please remember you must re-sign up your child for Spring semester.
- Lego Team – had a blast at their tournament and stayed to cheer on older teams.

Membership: Peyton

- February is a great month to get involved at PS 11!
 - 100th day & K/G valentines' are both Feb 14th: it's so fun and we do need volunteers for short commitments of 1.5 hours each.
 - Aladdin – we really need videographer & have equipment! Please reach out.
 - Coin Drive – Chair Needed! Not a lot of work and is the last 3 days in March. You will be a co-chair so please reach out.
 - K Committee / K-Coffee - thanks Juliet for helping here! We now have themes, which has been successful and will continue with themed K-Coffee gatherings with the next one on Wed Feb 27th. Hoping for SLT to come for Q & A. A survey will be sent out to kindergarten families and will help us better shape these events.

Communications Report: Michael W

- Email address is ptaps11@gmail.com - please contact with any questions and you will be directed to the correct place.

- Every Thursday update emails are sent out – let us know if you do not get these and we need your help talking to parents who cannot attend general PTA meetings – we need lots of help whether it's time, items & donations.

Aladdin Report: Rachel & Emily

- Everyone is working so hard on this musical & we know you will be impressed!
 - It's FREE – arrive early and please come!
 - Help needed – backstage help, set construction, manage stress for kids, keep things running smoothly and it's fun & easy so please reach out.
 - Bake Sale donations are needed & help to work at the table

Robin: PTA does all of this to help our 900+ kids at this school and we are so grateful for it all. Thank you!

Meeting adjourned: 9:58AM