



PTA Executive Board Minutes

12/10/24 meeting convened at 8:48am

Via Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8179024106>

Attendees: Principal Arin M. Rusch, Parent Coordinator Amy Sirot; PTA exec members: Angela Chew, Ellen Cerniglia, Amy Bassett, Nancy Nayar, Shauna Gray Hill, Pauline Sauvage, Esra Dayani, Gul Raihan

Co-Presidents Update :

- No pending business
- Discussion about feasibility of remote access to Community Coffee conversations.

Fundraising Update (Ellen/Angela)

- Auction update: still waiting to connect with Greenwood Park. Have advised PTA would like to book the venue by month-end if possible / **Capacity at about 110 people, venue Commissioner is the backup contender.**
- No new updates on fundraising initiatives: Sports Ticket, Gear, Trips & Annual Appeal.

Members-at-Large

- November Teacher Event Recap: Glows and Grows | Recommendations for future events
 - Consider using vendors much more, and delivery even the day before.
 - Don't do this event the day before Thanksgiving, or end of a week. If early in a week leftovers can be used up on following days.
 - Consider doing a lunch not a breakfast, so it is logistically easier for parent helpers.
 - Fix the messaging so the logistics are easier, brunch?
 - Or have breakfast items delivered afternoon before or morning of around 7:15 AM because staff need to access between 8am and 8:20am. Then available throughout the day.
 - Where could afternoon items be stored?
 - Clarify clean-up at end of day/ask for volunteers - NEED volunteers at 3pm for cleanup for both areas. 2 people to clean up the Den and Teacher's Lounge.
 - Keep personal touch of homemade or store-bought goods.
 - Consider limiting family contributions - offer fund to purchase food/beverages - can significantly limit number of spots on signup genius

- Need more gluten free options. Savory early, and sweets later.
- Identify next Teacher Appreciation: early in the week / lunch before Valentine's Day.
 - Esra says manageable, before Valentine's Feb 10/11/12.
 - Tacos were popular!
 - \$\$ Buy food for the teachers - giving funds came in easily. Small increments work great.
 - Nice to have a way to contribute that fits time and budget.
- Discussion about holiday initiatives Decision:
 - No holiday gift cards, too difficult logistically. Given short time between Thanksgiving and winter holidays, don't attempt this again.
 - Instead focus on end of school year for 90 staff members
 - Plan June party and gift cards. Revisit planning at May meeting.

Communications

- ☐ Action item: post about Foley's Firs fundraiser

Treasurer Update (Amy B.)

- Corporate matching takes a lot of treasurer effort for bespoke responses. IRS letter has been requested.
- Update on trips: \$2,500 of \$5K earmark used, so remainder can go to other trips.
- Discussion about hiring Expo consultant, tabled pending school budget.
- Giving Tuesday- 20 donors raised \$2,750 plus corporate matching
- Budget 2024-2025 - No Updates to Vote on
 - Link to Budget current as of 12/10/2024:
[MS 447 PTA budget 2024-2025](#)
- Bank Balance: \$173,403.39 (as of 12/10/2024)
- **November 2024 Income**
 - Annual Appeal: \$1,310.00
 - TShirt Sales \$29.63
 - Sporting Events:
 - Graduation Dues: \$6,573.00
 - Hospitality: \$110.00
 - Student Government: \$500.00 (Passthrough) – asked for \$2,000, plug again.
 - **Total Income: \$15,016.63**
- **November 2024 Expenses**
 - Liability Insurance: \$699.00
 - Expo: \$1,193.88
 - Field Trip/Camp Bernie: \$23,656.00
 - Specialty Teacher Reimbursement: \$668.04
 - Teacher Appreciation: \$804.25
 - **Total Expenses: \$27,021.17**

DEI Update (Shauna)

- [Community Coffee Conversations First Meeting Takeaway/ Feedback](#)
- [Community Coffee Conversations Next Meeting Friday, 12/13](#)
 - Well attended, mostly sixth grade parents
 - Parents seemed to like to have the opportunity to connect with each other.
 - Suggestion - to meet and connect with a teacher, structure so useful to general audience.
 - Parents asked how to standardize teacher communication over many platforms
 - How to catch up if your child missed a day, for example.
 - Expertise on specific parent-interest topics.
 - Be more inclusive on timing
 - SLT convo teacher + parent connections.
 - John Bravo Demicoli coming to next PTA - EARLY RAPP – go out to all 6th grade parents.
 - AP Asia is finalizing Google Classroom and Jump Rope guidance.
 - Consider doing a 6th-grade parent orientation?
 - Consider how to motivate teachers to volunteer for this role.
- Principal Arin led parent conversation on how best to address new parent concerns:
 - Suggestion to address 6th grade parent concerns: gather specific questions about specific things.
 - Kids need to develop independence skills. including recognizing that all their teachers do things differently and a student has to learn to adjust to that. Helps with their future success.
 - What are the different systems, what do you expect to see in Jump Rope?
 - FAQs gathered by seasoned parents for new parents. Kids learn to write the emails, not the parents.
 - Plan for a refresher on how to manage Jumprope and assignments
 - PTA parent offered perspective that for families new to US, or NYC schools, everything is new: including definitions: what are office hours? What is social studies?
 - Suggested Action Items:
 - Create a FAQs with Acronyms
 - Revisit If / Then chart – newly published.
 - See [Places & Spaces](#) on school website:
 - Consider revising the student handbook? With FAQs, for example.
 - Consider an in-person and remote option for Parent Teacher Conferences.

Principal's Update (Arin):

- Update on midyear adjustment, Round 1, City is again holding schools harmless for register loss. Present funding levels will allow substitutes for most classes, most of the year.
- The forthcoming Dec 31 snapshot looks at students with disabilities figures. After that the Principal will have a clear view from a fiscal perspective.

- Update on Smaller Class Size project. City was on track for 20%, will meet 40% because so many schools are under enrolled as it is.
 - The application is for large amounts of funds for staff. Intended for schools that can pitch a successful plan to meet class size targets for next school year.
 - Assumption is the school the space to do this. However, MS 447 has too many space constraints. Considered if a 6th grade-only application might work, however certain that MS447 could not meet due to space constraints.
 - Further consideration that would have to collapse sections in a future year if funds were taken away.
 - MS 447 can apply for an exception to the class-size law as high performing school that lacks physical space to add class sections.
 - Further consideration that is not presently addressed by DOE: “is there ever going to be money for schools like ours to reduce class size without sacrificing per pupil funds which presently rely on. MS 447 is therefore in a holding pattern.
 - Tension between parents wanting spots for their child in such high achieving schools, while some teachers would wish for smaller class sizes.
 - Note about the Expo program seeking professional development .School budget can likely find funds for 50% after December assessment, so PTA can focus their funds on student-facing projects. PTA can vote to increase the budget line if necessary.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48am

Next PTA Meeting will be Thurs, Dec 19 at 7 PM over Zoom; Co-President Angela will lead; Co-Secretary Sam Shapiro will attend.

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