



TUSCAN PTA

General Board Meeting
March 11, 2021 8:00 pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting ID: 272 488 8937 / Passcode:TIGERS
Dial In: +1 646 876 9923

Minutes

In Attendance: Malikah Majeed, Brad Bertani, Jess Horan, Ronni Schwartz, Julie Hamilton, Nora O'Rourke, Meredith Brehm, Malia Rulon, Milagros Nores, Deborah Engle, Jennifer Melone, Joanne Charles, Regina Eckert, Erica Dagley, Beth Cosentino, Amelia McCarthy, Lynne Daley, Liz Callahan, Jodie Barnhart, Caridad Caro, Kim Rumbolo, Kay Puthaaroon

Board Members: Jess Horan, Ronni Schwartz, Nora O'Rourke, Coleen Stephenson, Amy Schwinder, Julie Hamilton, Nalini Maloo-Jahangir, Erin Scherzer, Tracy Sham, Meredith Brehm, Fabiana Glasby, Malia Rulon

Meeting Called to Order Agenda,

- Welcome 5 minutes
- Minutes Approval (Jan. 14, 2021)
- Treasurer Report
- Quick Update/Action Items
- Nominating Committee 2021-2022 (5 members and 1 alt.)
- Student Programing Update
- SEPAC Update
- 5th Grade Committee Update
- Committee Events Report
- Pandemic Response Team Update
- President's Report Update
- Adjourn

President's & VP Report, Jessica Horan Payne, Ronni Schwartz

- Welcome and addressing agenda
- January 14, 2011 PTA minute approval - **Approved.**
- Nominating Committee (Mike P., Amy S., Kai D., Nora O., Milagros N., Joanne C.) Milagros will be alternate - **Approved.**

Treasurer Report, Nora O'Rourke (Coleen Stephenson)

- Workers Compensation audits for 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 are complete.
- Annual NJPTA Financial Review completed and submitted to NJPTA.
- IRS Forms 1099 for tax year 2020 issued and mailed Jan. 28, 2021.
- Annual Report Filed with State of New Jersey.

- IRS Form 990EZ Tax year 2019 filed by CPA.
- NJ State CRI-300R, CRI-200 & CRI-150I filed by CPA.
- Membership Toolkit transition processes beginning.
- Statement of Activity through February.

Communications, Julie Hamilton (Amy Schwinder, Nalini Maloo-Jahangir)

- Amy's position and Julie's position, according to bylaws, will have to have new leadership for the 2021-2022 school year. Their positions are up for nomination and volunteers. Thank you to Emma Maksimovic for stepping up to help us this Spring with content generation! And Regina Eckhart for volunteering to handle some of the back end of the communications team.

Membership Report, Jess Horan (Erin Scherzer & Tracy Sham)

- We have 103 paid members for 2020 - 2021, which covers October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021.
- 22 teachers, 2 teacher/Tuscan parents, our two principals, the rest parents.
- PTA membership sign-ups are on website
- \$12 to join, we always love more members

Student Programming, Meredith Brehm (Fabiana Glasby)

- Virtual Author Talks for K-5 on 4/12 with K-Fai Steele, author of *A Normal Pig* the idea that what's "normal" is all relative and to view others with compassion as we celebrate our differences through this pandemic. Find a link to K-Fai's website [here](#).
- K-Fai is offering a virtual talk that includes her reading *A Normal Pig* and then grade appropriate lessons in the following proposed schedule via WebEx: 4th-5th - 9-9:50 am; 2nd-3rd - 10-10:50 am; K-1st - 11-11:50 am.
- K-Fai will partner with Amy Popp and Andrew Dean to develop the lesson plans to make this a collaborative event. The older students will hear more about her journey as an author and illustrator. As part of her honorarium, she includes a 15 minute follow up for each group at a later date based on the needs of Ms. Popp and Mr. Dean's lesson planning.
- Cost \$1200

Jess Horan & Ronni Schwartz

- Code Joy is coming to grades 2 - 5, through Ms. Popp and library classes, sometime later this Spring. Code Joy is a company that teaches kids how to code in a really fun way. Though Tuscan already participates in the Hour of Code, bringing Code Joy to the elementary schools is the first step in increasing STEM activities and lessons in the K-5 curriculum, district-wide. Next year, there will be more STEM learning, and it will continue to increase over the next few years. As the elementary program becomes more robust, the Office of Curriculum & Instruction will also improve STEM instruction for 6-8, so our kids will have a 21st century STEM education.

- Believe it or not, this is one of the first times all of our PTAs, Achieve and the District have banded together to present a common in-class program for all kids across SOMSD. It promises to be an exciting program that should engage many kids and it will be something they talk about outside of the classroom. As we're just a few months away from the first wave of the Intentional Integration Plan, this is a great way to show that we can work together and that we are committed to providing programming to all kids in the district, so opportunities aren't defined by the building where you go to school.
- The PTA voted by email to approve the requested \$2,500 donation on 2/23. You can learn more about them [HERE](#).

Special Education Report, Malia Rulon Herman (SEPAC Update)

- Malia Herman took over for Alison Kuhlman at Tuscan liaison for the rest of the year. Malia has a 5th grader, so we are looking for 1-2 parents to take on this role for the next school year.
- SEPAC is also looking for parents who are interested in also serving on the Board.
- The last monthly SEPAC meeting was Feb. 16 and was about the intersection of race and special education. The meeting was a good first start but this is a conversation that must and will continue.
- The next SEPAC meeting is March 18 at 7:15 p.m. and will include district supervisors from preschool, elementary, middle and high school to specifically address questions that pertain to children at those different stages.
- SEPAC spoke at the last BOE Meeting to encourage the district, BOE and union to work together to offer the option of in-person learning for special education students.
- Currently, the district is offering in-person learning for self-contained classes, multiple pull-out resource room students and ELL students. In-person therapies, such as Speech and OT, have also resumed.
- SEPAC continues to advocate for the remaining special education students, most of them in inclusion classes, to be given an in-person option as well. Additionally, SEPAC is advocating for re-entry plans for students who have been out of buildings for more than a year, a robust social-emotional component to the next school year, an additional BCBA to be added to the district roster, compensatory services to be completed, and planning for SpEd students as the district implements its intentional integration plan.
- Dr. Alegria, Asst. Sup. for Special Services, has been sending out a monthly newsletter. Some highlights from it include a Social Story for children returning to school as well as the dates for ESY, which will be July 6-Aug. 10.
<https://www.smores.com/wp4a3>

5th Grade Committee Update, Lynne Daley

- Meeting with Mr. Bertani and Mrs. Majeed to discuss options for the 5th graders.

- Nothing concrete, meeting with all 5th grade representatives from all elementary schools to brainstorm and discuss ideas.
- Idea is to create equity across the schools.
- Guidelines and Moving Up TBA
- Tuscan Logo masks that would go to PTA funds

Committee Events Report

- Upcoming events
 - **Yearbooks for sale!** Purchase by May 1st to personalize two pages for your child. <http://www.tuscanpta.org/yearbooks.html>
 - **Class Photos:** Scheduled at the Dell outside April 9-11
 - **Tuscan Show!** Jess Update for Katie: 18 skits, videographer, budget is \$11K, will recoup?, sponsorship for virtual playbill, email with questions @ tuscanshow@gmail.com
 - Director of YMCA - releasing Y schedule to have earlier access to the blacktop than 6 pm. 12:45 - 1:30 daily, and any time after 5 pm.

Principal Report, Ms. Malikah Majeed (Brad Bertani)

- Awaiting Dr. Taylor's notification on whether return to school March 15th will take place.
- Hybrid will resume with families that selected hybrid in Feb.

Pandemic Response Team (PRT) Report, Jennifer Melone (Jessica Horan)

Members

Malikah Majeed, Principal
 Brad Bertani, Assistant Principal
 Angela Thompson, School Nurse
 Fay Clark, Secretary
 Sabrina Bethea, Office Clerk
 Leonel Rocca, Head Custodian
 Katherine Lazen/Eva Buggy, School Social
 Clair Sinclair, Teacher K /SOMEA Rep
 Tivoli Hunt, Teacher 4th /SOMEA Rep
 Jessica Horan Payne, Tuscan Parent & Tuscan PTA President
 Dara Byrne Ph.D., Parent
 Cricket Heinze, Parent
 Jennifer Melone, Parent
 Milagros Nores Ph.D., Parent
 Eric Schleifer Ph.D., Parent

UPDATES:

- Not a lot of updates regarding Univent orders
- Tuscan is accepting K-2 classrooms opening, and maybe 3rd grade as well
- 7 classrooms that do not meet standards are on - turn off mid April
- April 19 hybrid mode for all students at reduced capacity

- Might finish the year as is, but looking towards the fall we need higher filtration in order to combat.
- Possible additional filtration (allocate 1.6 towards that).
- What to consider: student testing, tech ready, learning gap, mental health issues.
- Long range facilities planning, approved for bidding, no end date for when work will be completed.
- Long range facilities plan predates COVID - some of the items are not budgeted for

Presidents' Council Report, Jess Horan and Ronni Schwartz

Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee, Joanne Charles (Amy Bhattacharyya)

- First meeting of this Presidents Council sub-committee was held 1/13. Seven Tuscan parents were invited, but schedule conflicts prevented us having a rep. The second meeting was held 2/18 and was attended by Ronni Schwartz, Amy Bhattacharyya and Joanne Charles.
- The Tuscan reps for EI requested to us: gather any equity & inclusion resources previously created. The PC committee meets again on 3/18 @ 7 pm.

Reiterated the purposes of this committee:

1. Supporting one another in anti-racist grassroots organizing work with the parent and school communities
2. Re-imagining PTAs if we were building from the ground up and prioritizing equity for Black children
 - a. Black children have the worst outcomes in our district due to structural inequities
 - b. Black children have complex identities that intersect with all marginalized identities along lines of religion, immigration status, economic circumstances, family structure, sexual identity and orientation, disability, etc, so this purpose is intended to be fully inclusive.

Discussion

- I. Short term: Ideas for things we can do together now, includes:
 - Adding equity and inclusion resources to every PTAs weekly newsletter
 - Considering what kind of impact we can have on the curriculum and teaching, including but not limited to The Amistad curriculum and the LGBTQ curriculum
- II. Long term: Re-imagining our PTAs for equity
 - Brainstorm ideas: what would more equitable PTAs look like
 - How do we want to go about our work? We will continue to work on long term changes and develop proposals for the President's Council to consider.

III Collaborate with Others, including Community Coalition on Race Schools Committee.

Teacher Report, Mrs. Lamkin & Mrs. Donatelli

- N/A

Upcoming Events

March - Book packing and distribution

Tuesday March 16: Parenting Through A Pandemic with Nina Essel, LCSW

Free to Tuscan parents and guardians and sponsored by the Tuscan PTA. A follow up to Nina's 9/1 event for us, which was focused on our kids. Like the September event, this is a 90-minute session with tips and lots of time for discussion and Q&A.

As of this morning there were 14 registrants, and there is space for as many parents as can attend. Pre Registration is required. <https://www.balancedkidsnj.com/tuscan>

Tuesday April 13: Roadmap to Equitable School Integration: Lessons Learned from 'Nice White Parents'

This event is sponsored by the Community Coalition on Race and Presidents Council. As we prepare to integrate elementary schools, starting with rising kindergartners this September, we look back at attempted integration at one school in Brooklyn over the past 50 years. This virtual discussion includes the "Nice White Parents" executive producer Julie Snyder, co-creator of "Serial" and "S-Town", and SOMa resident.

https://www.communitycoalitiononrace.org/roadmap_to_equitable_school_integration

Member Q&A -

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Motion to Adjourn - Seconded. 9:25pm

<u>PTA Meetings</u>	<u>BOE Meetings - 7:30pm</u>	<u>Presidents Council</u>
October 28th - 8 pm	October 19	January 12
November CANCELED	November 16	February 9
January 14th - 8 pm	December 14	March 9
February N/A	January 6, 25	April 13
March 11th - 8 pm	February 15, 22	May 11
Thursday April 8th - 8 pm	March 15	June 7
<i>NEW (updated post-mtg) Thursday May 6 @ 7:30</i>	April 19	
Thursday June 10th - 8 pm	May 10, June 7, 14	