

PS 20 PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024 at 6:00pm via Zoom

Sarah Durand McGuigan called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Present via Zoom: Executive Board members Sarah Durand McGuigan, Brett Masterson, Trudy Chan, and Amanda Bonavita were among 20+ total participants, constituting a quorum.

Welcome & Introductions

Slides

- Welcome & Introductions
- Principal's Update
- Q&A
- Budget Overview
- Spotlight: PS 20 Debate Team
- PTA Updates
- PTA Committee Updates
- Volunteer Requests
- December and January Calendars
- Wrap Up

Contact at board@ps20.org

Principal's Update - Ms. Blyden

Slide

Winter Concerts

The Winter Concerts have been great so far. Friday's show will be live-streamed via Zoom and the schedule will be confirmed by email.

International Baccalaureate

The IB authorization verification visit will be January 30-31st. Two IB representatives will be visiting the school to speak with students, parents, and visit classrooms.

Cell Phone Policy

Ms. Blyden has been working with the School Leadership Team (SLT) to develop a cell phone policy for the school that addresses the social and emotional needs of the students and keeps

the focus on learning. Students always have access and opportunity to call their parents from the Main Office. Parents can reach students by calling the Main Office to speak with their student or leave them a message.

Q&A

Q: Why are all ICT students not in one class? Kids that don't need a ICT class and that learn faster, the teachers focus on them and not the students that needs it. If you put them all in one class then the teachers can take their time to break the lesson down more. Plus the students don't feel like other students are smarter because they need more time.

There are Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) classes in grades K-5th, and two in the 3rd grade. There is a 60/40% ratio for ICT classes: 60% have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that calls for ICT, and a higher ratio would restrict learning. There is a range of learners in all classes in all grades. As an International Baccalaureate (IB) school with an integrated approach to learning, it gives the opportunity through the inquiry questions for each student to get the support and challenge they need. District 13 has four practices, including: use of learning targets to discuss goals with students, and fostering a culture of grappling to support students to persevere through a challenge.

Q: Can students have a free after school learning program that teachers can stay extra time and help students one on one so no kids get left behind?

We are looking into what programming can be done now - what the needs are in areas like math and literacy, and what the budget will allow.

Q: Can we use another photographer and not stomping ground everyone even the teachers feels like they are not good and expensive and they don't take their time with the kids. One picture is so much money and that's just for one child.

Picture Day is organized by the PTA. Ms. Blyden will collaborate with the PTA on options. We do not want cost to be a barrier and want all students to be able to participate.

Budget Overview

[Slides](#)

[Budget details as of 10/31]

Green Arts has won a \$5,000 Sustainability Grant to support the Gardening Program.

Email treasurer@ps20.org with any questions

Annual Appeal

[Slide](#)

\$10,871.72 has been raised for Giving Tuesday - our goal is \$20,000 by the end of 2024.

We have approximately 699 students this year and the PTA spends approximately \$500/student/year for enrichment, staff, and programming. Monthly sustainer options available, all donations are fully tax-deductible: <https://www.ps20.org/donate>

Spotlight: The PS20 Debate Team

[Slide](#)

The PS20 Debate Team participated in a District 13 tournament on 12/13. Several students won medals, and 5th grader Sydney Clark took 2nd place overall! Special thank-you to Ms. Dixon, Ms. Setzer, and Ms. Cohen.

Giving Tree

Ms. Blyden thanks all families for ensuring that all 60 of our snowflake students receive gifts and thanks to Ms. Colon and staff for organizing!

Updates & Events

[Slides](#)

In the last month, the PTA has spearheaded and funded these initiatives:

- Scholastic Book Fair
- Movie Night
- Studio in a School
- Holiday Giving
- Merch
- Winter Markets

PTA Committee Updates

[Slides](#)

- Afterschool Activities
 - Open spots in Chess Club and scholarships available
 - NEW: Capoeira and Jiu Jitsu class pickups

- Let us know what activities you would like by filling out the online survey or emailing afterschool@ps20.org
- STEAM
 - Room cleanouts almost complete
 - NEED: volunteer help
 - Tutorials and materials will go to teachers in the new year
- International & Multicultural Families
 - Upcoming: 1/23 Brazilian Carnivale, February Lunar New Year
 - English Language classes for caregivers available
- Community Support and Service
 - Winter coat drive a success
 - Closet is very well stocked, will stock gloves and hats after winter break
 - Volunteer hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday
 - Lost and Found support & organization
- Fundraising
 - Winter Market sales and pop-ups
 - [Idea Tracker doc](#) is live
 - Upcoming: 1/17 Disney on Ice; 2/14 Loveball; 2/28 Nets game
 - NEED: Love Ball help, Spring Gala chair, grant writers
- Green Arts
 - Email Green Arts if interested in participating in bee checks: greenarts@ps20.org
 - Upcoming: Studio in a School Parent Art Classes and Art Show
 - NEED: grant writers
- Library
 - Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success
 - Upcoming: Read-a-thon
 - Next meeting 1/3
- Rainbow Club
 - Participation has grown with every meeting
 - Next meeting is 1/18 - 2nd Friday of every month
- Merch
 - Debut of “varsity” style has almost sold out, additional sizes and colors coming soon
 - New designs and items coming soon

Join committees on Konstella.

Upcoming Support Opportunities & Events

[Slides](#)

- STEAM Utopia lab re-design in progress, contact Julie-Ann Fleming on Konstella
- Green Arts is reorganizing their workspace, please volunteer
- Picture Day: Feb. 5-6th
- Morning Gathering hosted by the Fundraising Committee

- January 10th PTA Meeting in person in the auditorium @ 8:30
- 5th grade yearbook submissions deadline 2/28

Upcoming Calendars

Slides

- January 2: Students return from Winter Break
- January 10: PTA General Meeting
- January 17: Families as Learning Partners
- January 20: No School, MLK Day
- January 23: Brazilian Carnivale celebration
- January 29: No School, Lunar New Year
- February 5-6: Picture Day
- February 13: PTA General Meeting
- February 17-21: No School, Midwinter Break

Calendars: <https://www.ps20.org/calendar>

Wrap Up

Slide

- All PTA meetings' recordings and minutes are posted at <http://ps20.org> and shared on Konstella
- Purchase PS20 merchandise (hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts etc.) at <https://www.ps20.org/merchandise>

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm. Motion presented by Sarah, seconded by Brett.