



BUGS PTA GENERAL MEETING AGENDA
September 9, 2025 @ 7:30pm

Zoom info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81039696110?pwd=TuuBjl71M1subm8RTTrK7yGQEa8Ud7.1>

Meeting ID: 810 3969 6110

Passcode: ca0qjU

Attendance Link: <https://forms.gle/gxQMzqT6KEaxadJ39>

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - [June Meeting Minutes](#)
- Co-Presidents' Report
 - [BUGS PTA intro](#)
 - What we do
 - How you can be involved
 - Updates from July/August Board of Trustees mtgs.
 - [All PTA remarks from Board mtgs available.](#)
 - Family interests; [Family Input Form](#)
 - Next Board meeting: [October 28, 6:30pm](#)
- BUGS Administration Reports
 - ED / Principal's Report
 - Family Coordinator's Report
- NIA Afterschool Program Presentation
- Treasurer's Report
 - Monthly financial report (against [2025/26 Approved Budget](#))
- Committee Reports
 - Enrichment Action Group

- If there's interest in new programming this year - need family volunteers!
- Families of Students with Learning Differences Affinity Group
 - Thursday 10/16 at 5:30pm - via Zoom
- Family Input Working Group
 - Join us in developing new proposed measures for family engagement and input!
- Fundraising
 - Bring your ideas! Help us grow our capacity!
- Sign up for any of the above via the [Committee and Executive Board interest form](#)
- Old Business
 - N/A
- New Business
 - Fall events and volunteer opportunities:
 - [PTA Family Welcome Picnic - Sept 14](#)
 - [PTA Fun Run - Oct 25](#) - be sure to choose the BUGS TEAM when you register
 - [Caregiver Cocktail Night - Date TBD](#) (tentatively, 10/23 or 10/30)
 - Monster Mash - Oct TBD (tentatively, 10/31)
 - [Election Day Bake Sale - Nov 4](#)
 - [Harvest Potluck - Nov TBD](#)
 - [Event leadership](#)
 - 2025/26 Goals
 - Membership new interests / items
 - Questions?
- Adjournment

Meeting Minutes

The General Meeting of the PTA commenced at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendance

From the PTA: Kate Hohman, Co-President; Kathleen Mulready, Co-President; Michael Griffith, Treasurer; Justin Krebs, VP; Jessica Olich, Secretary

From BUGS Administration and Board of Trustees: Susan Tenner, Co-Founder and Executive Director; Wynette Caesar, Principal; Marilyn Perez, Family Engagement Coordinator

Additional BUGS family/caregiver PTA members attended and completed the form on the attendance link above. NIA Afterschool Program Director also attended for her remarks.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approval

Kate called for a vote for approval of the June 2024 General Meeting Minutes. Motion approved by a vote of (at least) 17 members.

PTA Overview: PTA/Board Interaction and Open Positions

Kate provided an overview of the activities of the PTA, including guest speakers, fundraising events, school trips and affinity groups. She explained that the PTA co-presidents attend monthly meetings of the BUGS Board of Trustees during which the PTA provides the Board with updates. Remarks from the PTA to the Board are provided on the PTA website and there is also a form where members can submit ideas for matters to share with the Board.

Kate noted that there are open positions on the PTA and that family involvement is welcomed. Volunteers can lead a specific event or a PTA committee, donate supplies or join as a co-officer. See links in Agenda above to sign up.

BUGs Overview from Co-Founder and Executive Director Susan Tenner

Susan provided introduction and background on the school. As a private, non-profit, charter school, the charter dictates how the school is run. Charter is up for renewal this year and the renewal application was submitted to New York State last week. The school can expect site visits and perhaps focus groups this fall. School is well-positioned for a 4–5-year renewal. Aiming for higher enrollment of economically challenged and ELL (English Language Learner) students – these populations lag compared to the broader district. The Board of Trustees oversee implementation of school mission and vision.

There is a public comment period at the end of each Board of Trustees meeting with advance sign up. All BUGS family members are welcome to attend as they are open meetings. Family concerns are generally first addressed at teacher/principal level.

Next month Susan will provide an update on funding. Fundraising for the school supplements funds received from New York State. PTA fundraising is separate from fundraising efforts of the Board.

Welcome from Principal Wynette Ceasar

Wynette welcomed all, noting it was her 11th year at BUGS. She said kids were off to a good start and noted ongoing efforts to recruit new staff, specifically for 7th grade Social Studies and 8th grade Math. Longer-term subs are currently filling certain roles. As in the past few years, she expects BUGS students to meet or surpass [standard] district levels in Math and ELA. Encouraged all to review the new Family Hub portal.

Welcome from Family Engagement Coordinator Marilyn Perez

Marilyn welcomed all to the school year and introduced herself as the Family Engagement Coordinator.

- She will update the new Family Hub at least bi-weekly. A list of Lost and Found items will be part of Family Hub.
- She reminded families of Curriculum Night 9/19 4:30-7:30 pm. Parents can enter later. Come prepared with cohort number and advisor of your child.
- She noted that Urban Advantage vouchers would be available soon, which provide free admission for students and families to museums, zoos and gardens in the city.

Afterschool Program Remarks

Annalisa MacPherson, Program Director for the NIA Afterschool Program, explained that approx. 100 kids are enrolled in the free program. She urged families to abide by the dismissal policy – no early self-dismissal, only self-dismissal at 5:45 pm. She encouraged parents to communicate directly with her with any questions (afterschool@BUGSbrooklyn.org).

Treasurer's Report

Michael provided the Treasurer's Report (shared screen) and explained that in September and October, the PTA typically receives a majority of funds for all the events throughout the year. Typically, the donation breaks down to \$40/student if every family gives. Current cash balance is just above \$18,000. Income based on sale of school gear and donations. He reminded all of the Family Picnic Sunday, 9/14. He also reminded families that they may be able to take advantage of an employer's corporate matching program.

PTA Committees

Kate explained that PTA Committees were still being formed. There is the ability to create new committees. Current Committees:

- Enrichment Action Group (EAG): Created last year for afterschool enrichment and established the basketball program. Some budget set aside for this but need leaders. See sign up link above.
- Families of Students with Learning Differences Affinity Group: Also launched last year and hosted a moderated talk and a contest to raise awareness about learning differences. Next meeting October 16.
- Family Input Working Group: Formed to corral ideas around family engagement.
- Fundraising Committee. Welcomes ideas or expertise for that group.

Justin commented on the EAG which is separate and apart from the afterschool program; he encouraged those with ideas or interest to come forth and lead a program.

Events and Goals

Kate reviewed the fall events listed in the agenda and encouraged volunteers to step forward. Additional details:

- At the 9/14 Picnic in Prospect Park there will be a bake sale, uniforms, merchandise and games.
- For the 10/25 Prospect Park Fun Run, be sure to sign up for the BUGS team as a fundraising effort.
- The date for the October Caregiver cocktail night is TBD. Not a PTA event, but a family event.
- Will need chaperone and candy bags for the Monster Mash School Dance.

The PTA is working on overall goals for PTA work this year. Solicited input on goals. Solicited any questions in general. If you have been on a committee in the past, assume you are still on the mailing list.

In response to a question regarding whether BUGs and 442 share resources/afterschool programs, Susan explained that the programs are separate and how it is logistically challenging to share. She noted a shared professional development event [for staff of both schools] around sustainability.

Adjourned 8:30 pm.