



AMPARK PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Board Members

Co-Presidents: Odaliz Vasquez and Tina Ponce

Treasurer: Joseph Ibarra

CO-VPs of Fundraising: Jessica Benjamin and Rosemary Gonzalez

Co-VPs of Parent Involvement: Megan Enriquez and Teshaun Shell

Secretary: Elora Ibarra

Motion to start meeting: 6:02 PM

I. Principal's Report – Ms. Meena Lidharrie (20min) – Read by Ms. Elvira

● AmPark Vision & Mission Statement

- Mission at AmPark is to educate young minds by providing students with the opportunity to be innovative, reflective, collaborative, to reach their creative potential as a path to career and financial security. All stakeholders are unified in guiding all learners to ensure success and celebrate their achievements.
- Vision at AmPark is to cultivate a community of learners where all students will demonstrate at least 1 year of growth in Reading, Math and Science, every school year. Empowering them to take ownership of their academic and emotional learning as they aspire to become leaders of change.

- **Principal's Priorities** – to engage in constant and routine data analysis in both ELA and Math, incorporating writing and discussion equally within all subjects and emphasis small group instruction we will see greater academic progress in our school.
- ***Mood meter** – gauge on participant feelings and mood
- **Book of the Month:** *Mama in Congress* by Rashida & Adam Tlaib
- **Respect for all week** (February) –
 - wonderful week of celebration
 - unified effort from the entire department of Education – emphasized the significance of respect for all in our educational community, our social and emotional learning (SEL).

- SEL team has been actively engaging the students throughout the month collaborating projects to foster understanding and promote respect for all instructions among peers
- **Freezing temperatures** - “I would like to express my gratitude for your understanding as we navigate the challenges caused by the freezing temperatures over the past few weeks.”
 - Outdoor recess was not possible
 - Variety of indoor activities were organized to ensure students were engaged and active which included fun activities and movies
- **Black History Month**
 - Celebration - time was dedicated to time to relive the significant contributions and experience of black individuals and communities throughout history.
 - Celebration of Black history is not confined to just one month rather it is woven into our curriculum and educational practices year-round. We are committed to fostering our culturally responsive educational environment that reflects the diverse backgrounds of our students and promotes appreciation of diverse cultures and histories. We deeply appreciate the support of the parents in this ongoing endeavor.
 - Good Trouble Gallery – parents were invited to a showcase of student projects highlighting “good trouble.” Creative expressions highlight the students’ understanding with themes of social justice and advocacy. We look forward to seeing you there.
 - Lion King musical – vibrant production of Broadway’s Lion King held in the multipurpose room. Students enjoyed the performance which highlighted the importance of the arts in education and cultural appreciation
- SING scheduled for February 24-26 – cancelled due to snowstorm
 - Rescheduled for March 17-19 for K-5th grade respectively
 - We will celebrate the rich diversity of our community by honoring Black History Month, Saint Patrick’s Day and Eid. We encourage everyone to join in recognizing and appreciating these significant cultural events
- Schoolwide reading literacy program event hosted on February 27, 2026
 - Students from pre-K to 5th grade were engaged with the book, *Unstoppable* by John Lewis
 - Explored the themes of resilience, civil rights and activism
 - Experience fosters love for literature and spark mindful discussions across all grade levels.
 - Wonderful day for learning and great for all AmPark students
- Women’s History Month – March – AmPark is excited to celebrate
 - A time to honor and recognize the incredible accomplishments and collaborations that women have made throughout history

- Inspiring stories are being featured during our morning announcements.
- Each a few students will have the opportunity to share information about women from the past or present who has significantly impacted our world.
- At AmPark we are coming together to celebrate their legacy and inspire future generations
- After-school programing – 3rd round – to prepare 3rd, 4th and 5th graders for ELA and Math state exams
 - If you believe your child needs extra support, please reach out to Ms. Elvira
- 2026 NYC Survey – thank you for your ongoing support
 - Survey window – Monday, February 9 – Wednesday, April 6
 - Participation in this survey is crucial as it provides valuable insight into our strengths and areas of improvement
 - Sharing feedback helps enhance educational experience for all students at our school. We appreciate your commitment to making AmPark a better place for learning
- YADP – Young Artist Development Program – will return to work with 4th and 5th grade students and partner with Craig to provide dance classes
 - Program begins on March 16, 2:25PM – 4:30 PM
 - Both groups will showcase their achievements during our spring concert
- Basketball Returns – schedule is being discussed
 - Mr. Scott, Darius and Ms. Caitlin will be coaches this season
- I-Ready challenge – we highly recommend that every student spends at least 15 minutes on both I-ready ELA and Math
 - Research has shown that students who dedicate this time to I-ready significantly improve their test scores, making a real difference in their academic grades
 - Please take a moment to discuss the challenge with your child and motivate them to commit to these daily activities
- Science Fair – March 25 – all projects will be displayed

Dedicate a few minutes: Due to the sensitive nature of the upcoming topic, parents are asked to move to a space free of children, clear the children from the room or wear personal listening devices

- Statements made at the school by students that are inappropriate and cause concern within the school community:
 - DOE takes certain statements such as threats (I hate this school; I want to bomb this school) or (I want to hurt myself)
 - There are different protocols for both instances
 - These statements must be documents and protocols have to be followed regardless if child says that they were joking or playing

- Spoken or written accusations are taken seriously and must be reported and investigated
- Some students around AmPark have been heard articulating that they want to bomb the school
- We are unclear whether the students are picking this up from games or being overheard and they are just repeating the statements.
- An incident in another school where a student threatened another, but the threat was not reported nor taken seriously and ended badly with the student returning to school the next day with a knife assaulting the other student.
- Protocol:
 - Contact 911 with details of threat and situation
 - If child threatens to harm themselves – 911 & EMS is called
 - Call parents/guardians
 - Child is searched – depending on the circumstances (if threat of weapon)
- Please have discussions with children about what is appropriate to say. Let's come together as a community to have these difficult conversations with the children
- If they are seriously considering harming themselves there is support in place to help
- Every single person's safety and well-being is at the forefront of everything we do here and is taken very seriously to make sure that AmPark is safe every single day and no child is here feeling unsafe or feeling nervous about something or what someone said. Let's work together to keep AmPark a safe community.
- Parent Association to reiterate:
 - Be vigilant about what the children are doing online, especially with games such as Roblox
 - Speak with the children about what they say or what is said to them during their games – touching on respect
 -

II. **Parent Coordinator's Report** – Ms. Elvira Dejesus (10min)

- **Summer rising** – application is now open and the deadline March 27
 - 3-week application window
 - Schedule: 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM – summer school – educational portion;
12:30 PM – 6 PM – summer camper portion – activities and trips
- School Survey – if you need any help to fill out the survey, please contact Ms. Elvira
 - There are only 54 completed surveys

III. **Secretary** – Elora Ibarra (2min)

- Approval of January & February Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes:
Megan – motion to approve
Rosemary – second

III. President's Report – Odaliz/Tina (10min)

- Recognition of Volunteers
 - Sweetheart Dance Outcome - alumni volunteers made a big difference and allowed parent volunteers to spend time during the event with their children
 - Alumni Volunteers
 - Rachel – Elvira's daughter
 - Joseph Dent – Megan's son
 - Rafael – Odaliz's son
 - Harper, Evy and Teddy – Audrey's children
 - Thank you to Melissa Green and Megan for providing the alumni volunteers with T-shirts
 - If you want your former AmParkers to volunteer they are all welcome.
 - We will request Vladeck Hall for next year to avoid the room capacity cap on attendance
- SLT Parent Position was won by Melissa Green – congratulations!
- Risers purchased arrived!
 - Thank you for the approval of the purchase of the risers.
 - Mr. Josh is excited to use during the spring concert
- Lost & Found - idea suggested – fashion show to highlight all the items currently in the lost and found
- Scholastic Book Fair – last one of the year is Buy One, Get One Free (BOGO) and will be held in May – more details to come
- Square 1 Art – the children will create the art in school and catalogue will be sent home to complete purchases for Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.
 - AmPark gets a portion of the proceeds from the sales

IV. Family Involvement – Megan and Teshaun (7min)

- Sweetheart Dance – Thank you for everyone who joined us, the student volunteers, bakers (Melissa, Rosemary and Elora)
- If you are interested in baked goods, please reach out
- IG Poll on next Parent Outing – Send us suggestions!
 - A poll will be sent for the next parent engagement event, whether it is bowling, karaoke, dancing – please be on the lookout

V. Fundraising – Rosemary Gonzalez and Jessica Benjamin (7min)

- Sweetheart Dance – tickets and bake sale raised funds

- Lion King - Movie Night on March 19 – PA will be selling snacks – snack suggestions are welcome
 - cash only
 - Alumni volunteers will be requested
- Square 1 Art – makes great gifts and is a great fundraiser

VI. 5th Grade Committee

- Submitted yearbook cover - Shout out to Erica Smallwood (parent of 5th grader and pre-K student) for being the project lead
- Received funds from Double Good fundraiser and check was handed over to Ms. Elvira
- Chocolate gram funds were handed over to Ms. Elvira
- Next 5th grade meeting TBD
- T-shirt design in progress
- Prom theme to be determined

VII. Treasurer's Report – Joesph Ibarra (4min)

Monthly Adjusted Balance Sheet

FEBRUARY

2026

Beginning Balance	2/1/2026	\$8,388.99
Deposits		
SWEET HEART DANCE	2/14/2026	\$1,010.00
Credit Interest	2/27/2026	\$0.34
		\$1,010.34
Withdrawals		
REIMBURSEMENT-WOOOBLES KIT	2/9/2026	\$750.00
SUPER BOWL SQUARES PRIZE	2/13/2026	\$150.00
REIMBURSEMENT-SWEETHEARTS	2/13/2026	\$103.75
REIMBURSEMENT-SWEETHEARTS	2/17/2026	\$203.39
REIMBURSEMENT-OPERA NIGHT SNACKS	2/17/2026	\$85.28
REIMBURSEMENT-SWEETHEARTS	2/17/2026	\$27.22
REIMBURSEMENT-SWEETHEARTS	2/17/2026	\$13.04
REIMBURSEMENT-VALENTINESDAY STATIONERY	2/18/2026	\$19.59
REIMBURSEMENT-VALENTINESDAY STATIONERY	2/20/2026	\$162.50
		\$1,514.77
Ending Balance	1/31/2026	\$7,884.56

Actual balance	a/o FEBRUARY 1, 2026	\$7,884.56
----------------	----------------------	------------

Open Items

Balance a/o 12/10/2025	\$7,884.56
------------------------	------------

Also for consideration:	
Staff appreciation Week	\$1,500.00
Risers	\$2,100.00
Future Sing(7*350)	\$2,450.00
Expected Balance	\$1,834.56

Second Scholastic Book Fair was taken in cash vs. scholastic dollars which reduced the amount, but it is actual cash to help with total cash available.

Question:

Has the school received the funds from the first popcorn fund raiser? If so, when will the pizza party happen for class 202 – 1st prize winner

Check was received late. Prizes will likely be given out by the end of the month pending Ms. Meena's approval

VIII New Business (2min)

- PA elections will be held in May.
 - Every position is up for reelection
 - President, secretary and treasurer are mandatory for a functioning PA per the Chancellor's Regulation and the District
 - AmPark's bylaws were amended to include co-president positions to help share the workload
 - More information on positions will be provided at next month's meeting in preparation for the elections

IX. Adjournment: 7:02PM

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Megan – Motion second - Joe

Attendance: