Called FTA Meeting Agenda
Monday, August 5, 2024 at 7:30 pm
Zoom

Attendees:
Elton Dodson, FTA President
Jeanmarie McInerney, Principal
Clayton Patrie, SLT
Natalie Meade
Vanessa Uekoa, CEC Rep
Bridget Thorton
Jason Brody
Lauren Cherney, SLT
Max Spektor
Emilee Brokman
Nyshiya Gregory
Dana Cohen
Nikole Reed
Jane Brase
Andrew Wright
Samantha Lieberman, FTA Treasurer
Molly McIntyre, FTA Secretary
Alexsa Torres
Nonna Gurnot
Armistead Booker, FTA VP Comms
Nathan Brase
Osama Sehgol
Madeline Kerner, FTA Treasurer
Jake Kastner
Melissa Brody
Sugar Vendil
Alison Dorfman
Jeanette Echeverri, vice principal
Borys Pierov
Jackie Perez
Evelyn Marrero, Parent Coordinator
Scott Lieberman
Melissa Brody

1. Approval of minutes from the meeting on June 13, 2024
    June 2024 FTA Meeting Minutes
        Approved by: Samantha Lieberman
        Seconded by: Bridget Thorton
2. Principal's Update
    a. Working on increasing enrollment
        - 3K + two PreK classes + 1 K class
        - Updating platforms with help from Armistead
        - Still have available seats in 3K and PreK
            1. K is full (22 seats, 3 pending)
            2. Prek has 36 seats available and 21 have been filled
                a. Will still have 2 prek classes
        - 4th grade had to be condensed to one ICT class of 32 kids
        - Filling staff vacancies in 4th and 5th grade because some staff have left
    b. After-school program
        - NIA is working to come back
        - 18 registered students so far– Need 30 students to have the program
            1. Evelyn and NIA have been reaching out to parents
        - JM has been trying to find provider for 3K and Prek
            1. Difficult to find in-house programs due to licensing
                a. Tried to see if Beansprouts could come into the building but they would need to apply for a waiver, not viable option
                b. Looked into Kinderdance, also needs waiver/license, would require an administrator to be in the building until then, so not viable option either
            2. Currently the only option is to sign up with Beansprouts, JM is working with them to pick up kids in two shifts, 3k and Prek
            3. JM still has feelers out to try to find an in-house program but licensing issue makes it difficult
    c. Music
        - No in-house provider - Mr Laster is leaving
        - Residency: School sounds
            1. K-5 10-week residencies
                a. Percussion
                b. Recorders (3-4)
                c. Cultural music in NYC percussion (4-5)
        - Movement residency (10 weeks) for Prek

- Also looking into a dance residency
    1. Marquis studio 10-week residency is one option

d. Please reach out to her with questions and she will try to reply within 24 hours

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- Parent question: Enrichment for 3K?
    1. JM: residency in movement (yoga, tumbling)
    2. Art
    3. PE
    4. Theater
        a. Ms. Cat is coming back
- Parent question: Possible to tour between now and Sept 6?
    1. JM: not possible because of work being done to school to prepare for the school year

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e. Last year's prek teachers will be moving down to 3k

- Parent question: Are school supplies the same for each grade or different?
    1. JM: Slightly different, should be posted on website
        a. Will also send out over email
- Nikole Reed, 3rd 4th 5th grade parent question:
    1. How many kids would we need to have two 4th grade classes?
        a. JM currently is 32, but might actually be 31. To open up another class we would need 32 in one class plus at least 12-13 more kids to have the funding to open another class. Right now we only have enough students to have one ICT class, because we don't have the funds to do so.
- Karen Kao mother to Sierra in 4th grade
    1. If it's only possible to open a second class if we have that many more could the class end up being 40 kids?
        a. JM: No, it would really be split once we got to 35 or 36
- Nyshiya Gregory, upcoming Prek mom question:
    1. When do parents get to meet the teachers?

a. JM: Curriculum Day Sept 12, and first Class Visit Day in Sept. But you can email teachers once they're back working, first day of that is Sept.3. Teachers are invited to the meet and greet but not required to attend

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3. Welcome / President's Report
    a. Elton welcomes all new families to the community
        - Asks for FTA and SLT members to introduce themselves, plus Ms. Echeverri and Ms. Marrero
        - 295 is a small school with a large influence in our district
            1. We represent the co president position on the D15 council (Elton)
            2. Vanessa is a rep on the CEC (Community Education Council)
            3. We have friends on the PEP (Panel for Education Policy)
                a. D15 Fun-Run (annual event)
                    i. 295 will be working with council member Shahana Hanif's office to **ORGANIZE THE FUN RUN THIS YEAR!**
                    ii. Freedom to Dream Day will be on Sept. 14
        - Going into this school year feels exciting and positive
            1. Thankful for principal, vp, and parent coordinator
        - SO MANY opportunities to be involved at both the school and district levels! Please reach out to him if you want to get involved.
        - 2 open positions on CEC - application has closed but he'll share the results
4. Treasurer Proposed Amendments
    a. Sam would love a co-treasurer!!! (Last year two people held the position)
    b. Wants to highlight new things in budget request, to be transparent
        - FTA Scholarship program for NIA
            1. Fill seats + Help families – win/win
            2. $9000 in budget (out of $65,000 total budget)
        - 3K new classrooms startup costs
        - Arts residency supplemental programing in fall and/or spring
            1. Madeline has been working on several grant applications for possible additional funding
            2. But looking at current funds we have

- Communications expenses
    1. Printing
    2. Email marketing subscription

c. New approach for merch using new branded materials, more info coming soon
    - Staff will be set up with shirts

d. Income assumptions:
    - Fund-raisers: anticipating over $20k in income through events, based on last year
        1. A lot of work needs to happen to actually get those funds!
        2. We do not currently have the volunteers to make these happen, we need them.
    - Cupcake Fridays
        1. Monthly event, also relies on volunteers
        2. Be a joiner, help with events!
        3. Email Sam at treasurer@ps295.org with any questions (or talk to her at drop off)

- Nyshiya Gregory, rising prek parent:
    1. Would like to volunteer at some of the events Samantha mentioned, gives a thumbs up to the budget!
    2. Sugar Vendil also would like to be involved in events! (in chat)

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e. Vote to adopt budget amendment
    - Elton launches a poll so people can vote
        1. Almost everyone has voted so Elton is going to close the poll. 29 votes in support, 100% approved budget!

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a. Alison Dorfman question: Is the $200 for special subjects for the whole year?
    i. Sam: yes, it is basically like petty cash/spending money, teachers can request other money for special projects
b. Nonna Gurnot question: What is the Touch a Truck expense?

i. Sam: TaT appears twice, once as an expense (smaller amount for setup) and once as income (larger amount), it's the biggest fundraiser of the year

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5. Events: Elton opens floor to anyone who wants to discuss or highlight
    a. JM: we'll be doing the calendar (tentative dates) in 3-month chunks to help parents plan!
    b. August
        - Saturday, August 24 — Meet and Greet for 3K and Pre-K Families (10–11am)
    c. September
        - Thursday, September 5 — First Day of School
        - Saturday, September 7 — FTA Back to School Event (10am-12pm)
        - Thursday, September 12 — Evening Parent Teacher Conference / Back To School Night via Zoom
        - Saturday, September 14 — Freedom to Dream Day
        - Tuesday, September 24 — **Class Visit Day***: Parents as Learning Partners (*formerly known as Bagel Bits)
        - Friday, September 27 — Cupcake Friday + Spirit Day
        - TBA — FTA Meeting
        - TBA — SLT Meeting
    d. October
        - Tuesday, October 15 — Parent Workshop organized by parent coordinator
        - Wednesday, October 23 — Safety Town Hall meeting facilitated by Administration
        - Friday, October 25 — Cupcake Friday + Spirit Day
        - Saturday, October 26 — Halloween Dance
        - Wednesday, October 30 — Class Visit Day: Parents as Learning Partners
        - TBA — FTA Meeting
        - TBA — SLT Meeting
    e. November
        - Thursday, November 7 — Half Day - Parent Teacher Conferences via Zoom
        - Monday, November 18 — Parents as Learning Partners
        - Friday, November 22 — Cupcake Friday + Spirit Day
        - TBA — FTA Meeting
        - TBA — SLT Meeting

6. Open Forum
    a. Elton thanks everyone for showing up and participating and encourages parent involvement and offers to help facilitate people to get involved who want to!
        - SLT meetings are open to observe and are in-person!
        - Elton will be sending out a poll to try to make FTA meetings as accessible as possible
        - JMcinerney@schools.nyc.gov
        - jecheverri2@schools.nyc.gov
        - Elton: 347-749-2500
        - Elections will be at the first FTA meeting too, to fill open positions on FTA
            1. Events Coordinator
            2. K Rep
            3. PreK rep
    b. Parent question, Bridget: Is there a general schedule or outline of the structure for the 3k day?
        - JM: Specifics are being worked out (specials schedule etc)
            1. Arrival will not be before 8:20
                a. Dropoff will likely be inside the cafeteria
                    i. Working with New Voices to tighten up arrival
            2. Children will be greeted by teachers, have breakfast
            3. Meeting, Center time, outdoor time
            4. Lunch, rest time, center time, class meeting, specials around 1pm, dismissal starting at 2:30 (so as not to coincide with K-5 dismissal at 2:40)
            5. More exact schedules will be provided once teachers have developed them based on coverage, specials, etc.
        - Parent question: school hours? 8:20-2:40
            1. Staff will be in courtyard at 8am for K-5 (parents asked to wait with kids)
        - Parent question: Does Prek also have rest time?
            1. JM: Yes
            2. PreK and 3K will not eat in the cafeteria for breakfast or lunch, will eat family-style in the classroom
            3. K will eat in the cafeteria
                a. Trying to hire an additional aid to see if possible to have 2 lunch periods, K-2 and 3-5
            4. 3K classes will not be at the lower level (where safety desk is), will be up a flight of stairs to the 1st floor. Because those classrooms are right next to the bathrooms!

5. Basement level and 2nd floor are shared with middle school but we do not share the 1st floor with middle school
    - Parent question: will Prek be on lower level?
        1. JM: Yes Prek will stay on the basement level in their own corridor
    - Elton question: No early dropoff this year?
        1. JM: Currently no, not til 8 am – working on hiring another aid to try to open at 7:45 (but none of that applies to 3k and Prek)
    - Parent question: Sarah Nasson
        1. Has been hearing through the grapevine things like we've lost music, drama, and visual arts?
            a. No, that's not the case.
            b. But, if we are losing things like that is there a regulation against parents setting up a co-op arts program>
        2. JM: Drama was unsure but it is coming back, visual arts was never leaving, music was 3 days a week last year but is leaving. JM is working on bringing in outside music groups. There are regulations for parents running a program, vs volunteering (fingerprinting, etc etc). Residencies are provided by vendors that have already been approved.

c. Elton: Prek Meet and Greet Sat. August 24
d. First day back at School Sept 5
e. School welcome back event Sept 7

f. Armistead says we will be communicating clearly on multiple platforms so everyone gets the info they need. He, JM, and Mr. Hecklinger have been working on a guide for parents so that will have all the info needed in it!