

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*



# PTA MEETING AGENDA

March 20, 2025 - 6:15PM to 7:45PM

[Meeting Link](#)

- I. Call to Order
  - All attendees: Please fill out the [Attendance Survey](#)
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes (February [draft minutes](#))
- III. President's Remarks
  - Welcome & Meeting Overview
- IV. Treasurer's Report
  - Income & Expense Report
  - Budget Forecasting
- V. Proposal/vote: Funding Requests/Budget Modifications
  - Increase in Staff Appreciation line
  - Afterschool Enrichment Spring Session Subsidization
  - Artist Residency (3rd-5th)
  - RTS Support
  - Rainy Day High-Yield Savings Account
- VI. Principal's Announcements
  - Proposal/vote: School Name Change
- VII. Committee Reports
  - Advocacy
  - Afterschool
  - Arts
  - Fundraising
  - Multicultural Celebrations
- VIII. Committee/Events Sign-Up for rest of year
- IX. School Leadership Team (SLT) Report
- X. Community Education Committee (CEC) Report
- XI. New Business/Announcements
  - Testing Season: Resources & Information
  - Announcement: SY25-26 PTA Board Elections
  - Mr. Kelly: Garden & Community Engagement
  - Ms. Pierre-Fils: Rock the Block Party
- XII. Look-Ahead
  - Next Meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2025
- XIII. Adjournment

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*



## MEETING MINUTES

[6:20]

**Call to Order:** Raedell calls the meeting to order.

[6:21]

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Raedell: hearing no objections or revisions for February meeting minutes, minutes approved.

[6:22]

**President's Remarks:** Raedell previews agenda for evening.

[6:24]

**Treasurer's Report:** Judy: presents and talks through mid-Feb-to-mid-March monthly income and expenses report. Judy presents and talks through overall YTD and where things stand at present...

[6:36]

**Principal's Announcements:** Principal Saratovsky talks over some announcements...discusses higher-than-last-year chronic absenteeism currently, especially in PK -1st. Also flagging that there's an increased incidence of significant lateness in the morning. Flagging that parents have been increasingly ignoring school policies, putting staff and students at risk and stress. We all need to follow standard rules around building access, engagement, etc. Full announcements here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cP-HMRbqGiLded3aXm3VVLZHtwrULFg5vl-ilgTriC4/edit?slide=id.p#slide=id.p>.

[6:48]

**Proposals/votes: Funding Requests/Budget Modifications:** Raedell goes through the following:

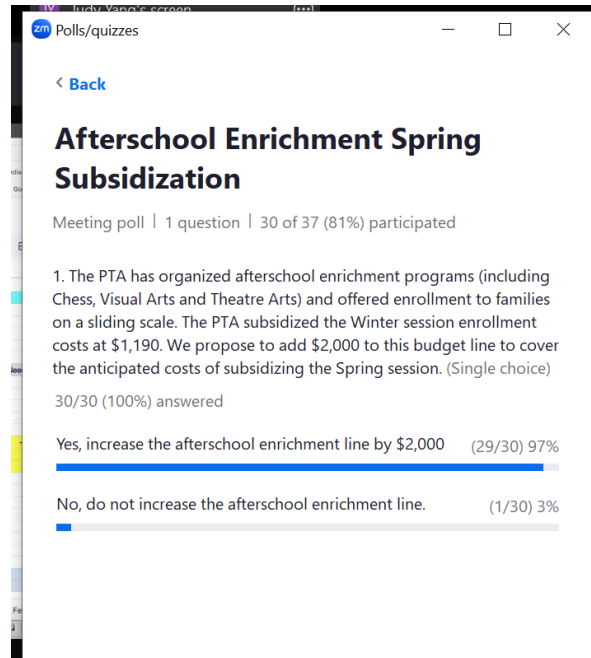
- **Afterschool Enrichment Spring Session Subsidization & Artist Residency:**
  - **Carly:** what is included in the afterschool enrichment? **Hadas:** Private Picasso (1 class currently, want to open to 2 classes in the spring)...
  - **Carly:** confirming that Artist residency is during the school day? **Raedell:** Yes.
  - Proposal to increase Afterschool Enrichment line by \$2,000 is approved. Ayes: 29, Nays: 1.

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*

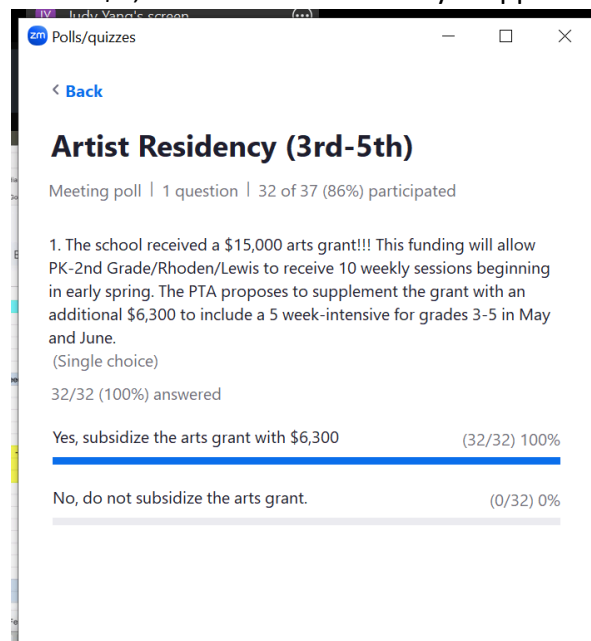
*A New Vision*



*for Education*



- 
- Proposal to use \$6,000 for Artist Residency is approved: Ayes: 32, Nays: 0.



- 
- **RTS Support:** RTS has run out of money in its budget line for gymnastics or soccer for the remainder of the year and cannot modify money into it. However, they do have money in other budget lines that they could use to cover some of PTA's possible costs

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*



throughout the remainder of the year.

- **Carly:** Can you provide background on RTS' grant and the rules around it?  
**Raedell:** we don't know a lot beyond the basics that it is supposed to cover free afterschool for 175 students for 5 years. **Hadas:** we tried to connect and work with RTS a lot in the summer and early in the school year. RTS more or less agreed to offer gymnastics, soccer, and basketball throughout the year. In the early part of the year, they brought on additional subcontractors (possibly due to being short-staffed), so we believe they spent the budgeted money more quickly than anticipated. We intend to talk to RTS this spring about how things will go next year. Also flagging that last year's direct ask was motivated in large part by the need for afterschool. **Raedell:** even though this situation is not our fault, it ends up impacting our children.
- **Brandice:** would we be paying the programming or would we be giving the money to RTS? **Raedell:** not sure, we would need to figure out those details.
- **Carly:** In the past, have we done an assessment of families' needs and interests for afterschool? **Raedell:** we have definitely asked families periodically about this. The main need was full-time five-days-per-week afterschool care.
- **Amanda Bernsohn:** is the money for just gymnastics? **Raedell:** yes. **Hadas:** the current idea is that gymnastics will operate with fewer Gym Stars staff with support from RTS staff. **Brandice:** will that be a safety issue of untrained RTS staff involved? **Hadas:** have discussed that issue with Gym Stars and the two trained Gym Stars leads will remain, the "swap" of gymstars staff to RTS staff is for non-trained staff.
- **N'keya:** would also suggest that when RTS hires next year that they find people with the skills necessary for enrichment activities. **Raedell:** agreed. They had been looking for those qualifications but have not been able to find and hire them. **Hana Sato Thomas:** seems like staffing at afterschool, camps, etc. is a chronic problem throughout NYC.
- Proposal to cover gymnastics expense for RTS at \$8400 with expectation that RTS funds Block Party approved. is approved: 18 votes for \$8400, 7 votes for \$6000, 2 votes Nay.

# The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770

## Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School

A New Vision



for Education

z/m Polls/quizzes

— □ ×

< [Back](#)

### RTS Support

Meeting poll | 1 question | 27 of 29 (93%) participated

1. RTS has requested the PTA's support to continue offering gymnastics enrichment activities through a subcontractor. In return, RTS could co-sponsor PTA events by providing food and supplies. This "barter" arrangement could potentially fund another request - contribute to the June 19th block party costs - and offset other PTA event/supply expenses. (Single choice)

27/27 (100%) answered

Yes, subsidize RTS enrichment through mid May for \$8,400 and have RTS co-sponsor block party and another PTA event/supplies. (18/27) 67%

Yes, subsidize RTS enrichment to early May for \$6,000 and have RTS co-sponsor block party. (7/27) 26%

No, do not subsidize RTS enrichment budget. Co-sponsor block party with \$2,000 from PTA budget. (2/27) 7%

Stop sharing

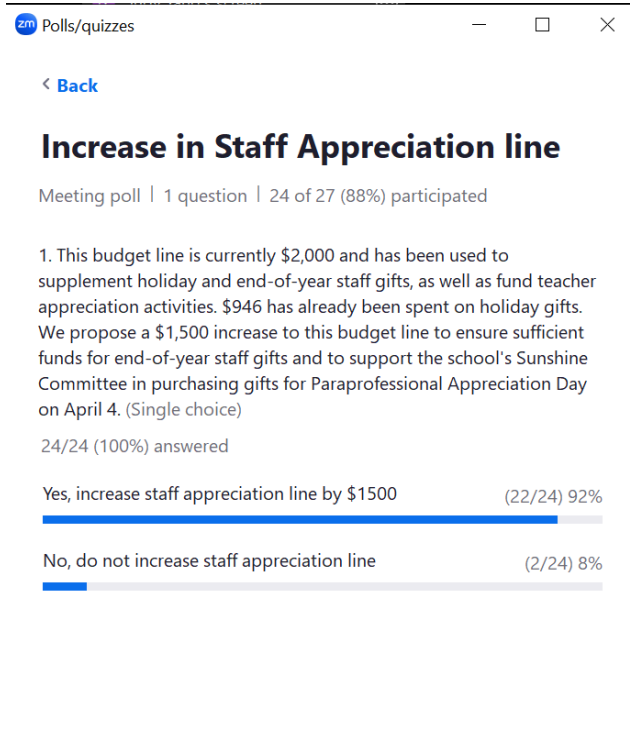
- **Increase in Staff Appreciation line: Raedell:** we use staff appreciation line for various things, including topping off holiday gifts, supporting ad hoc staff appreciation requests.
- Proposal to increase Staff Appreciation line by \$1,500 is approved: 22 Ayes, 2 Nays.

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*

*A New Vision*



*for Education*



- **Rainy Day High-Yield Savings Account: Raedell:** would like to begin setting aside some of our money in a high-yield savings account, \$5k - \$10K, since most of our money sits in a checking account for most of the year.
  - Proposal to open Rainy Day High-Yield Savings Account with \$10,000 is approved: 19 votes for \$10,000, 7 votes for \$5000, 0 Nays.

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*

*A New Vision*



*for Education*

zm Polls/quizzes

— □ ×

< [Back](#)

## Rainy Day High-Yield Savings Account

Meeting poll | 1 question | 26 of 27 (96%) participated

1. Currently, our entire budget resides in a standard checking account. To ensure the long-term financial health of our PTA and maximize the potential of our funds, we propose transferring a portion of our current budget into a high-yield savings account. This will allow us to earn interest on our funds while maintaining easy access when needed. This will help us maintain a rainy day savings and generate additional revenue for future programs and initiatives, directly benefiting our students. (Single choice)

26/26 (100%) answered

Yes, deposit \$5,000 in a high-yield savings account (7/26) 27%

Yes, deposit \$10,000 in a high-yield savings account (19/26) 73%

No, keep the entire budget in a checking account (0/26) 0%

[7:40]

### Committee Updates:

**Advocacy Committee:** Amy Drakeman: in response to recent Trump executive orders wrt student identities, have drafted a letter ([link](#)) to be shared with the community (ours and beyond) to sign and send to superintendents and other outlets. Also, CEC elections are open, though actual voting won't start until next month. **Melineh:** CECs have low-turnout elections but have significant power. **Dara:** We'll be raising awareness of the election timelines, candidates, etc. **Hadas:** Will send the letter around.

**Afterschool:** spring session will be starting in April. Will be sending out information ahead of time. Plan to have several options.

**Arts:** Judy shares slides about upcoming Arts programming. Recent work:

- Frottage PK and K:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/bwj4hmkrmy8yw8xfi8g4/AlhXgGeuoYXow1O5MN2zWIY?rlkey=qnuq5e9i9kx0onzupzenis9b2&e=1&dl=0>

*The Parent Teacher Association of P.S. 770*  
*Parent Leadership for an Inspiring Public School*



- Button Families 2nd/3rd:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/e0vj0ac2h62rwq41gs0hp/Alwj-STIIJVIpSULxj1DS8Q?rlkey=l5e72csfvjt87uai9qunl1sm4&e=1&dl=0>
- Button Families 1st:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/o84dqu5gictq9juto5sod/AOhUwphlyh9u0bj5uzWqJoI?rlkey=mf7v2nbp09uogrog39c5yitu2&e=1&dl=0>
- Button Families 4th/5th:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rmhsnw42aamx8b9d143f9/ABRII54SrjVnkBYssCr4z0M?rlkey=9r4mtusiery7ccf5xm5qohvj&e=1&dl=0>
- Art Camp:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/3k96ggcfz14vo6se4ps3/ALBOTnbUD4jNMkRuJQNw-Nk?rlkey=x7d85edhdvkuaiim6l1w8l2nw&e=1&dl=0>

**Silent Auction:** Carly: went great. Still items that need to be claimed, many of which that are in the PTA office.

**Multicultural Celebrations:** Raedell: Foods-R-Us” Multicultural Potluck was great. Want to collaborate with student council again in the future.

**Reading Day: Dara Faust:** will be book “shopping” in the morning, then author visit in the afternoon. Can use volunteers if anyone wants to come.

[8:06]

**Adjournment:** Raedell closes the meeting.

**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS NOT COVERED, PUSH TO NEXT AGENDA