



PTA MEETING MINUTES
Subject to Approval
December 7, 2017

Approximately 100 parents, Mrs. Leto, Mrs. Gallo, a group of teachers and the Executive Board were in attendance.

Approval of November 2017 Meeting Minutes

Amendment needed to clarify that select group of parents from SLT and the PTA were invited to Melinda Katz's meeting.

Discussion on 3rd Grade continuation to 4th Grade for 2018 – Mrs. Leto, Mrs. Gallo, Ilyse Sisolak, and parents

- Ilyse update – Clarifying that the petition that was presented to Melinda Katz, was meant to get an audience with her, so that we can present our problem. We did have that meeting with her and Monica Gutierrez and that letter serves no further purpose. As a 3rd grade parent, Ilyse does not support the elimination of pre-k and there is no intention of this to happen. The question that we have been trying to resolve is keeping 4th grade, not eliminating pre-k.
- Mrs. Leto Update– the current 3rd grade was initially told that the construction would be finished for the 2018 school year. Subsequently, about 2 years ago, the School Construction Authority told us that it would in fact be a year later. We had initially proposed a trailer on site for 4th grade as a solution, but it became apparent that there is no room. The conversation then became, can we have one Pre-K and one 4th grade in the school. We have 36 3rd graders. The DOE deals with the numbers that they have today – which means that you can't have one 4th grade. The DOE has said that we would have to have two 4th grades and eliminate Pre-K. The majority of the SLT did not want that to happen. SLT is made up of many 3rd grade parents that would be affected personally. The SLT put together a pros and cons list, which was sent to the Superintendent. Nothing new had come up since. Mrs. Leto and the Superintendent do not support eliminating Pre-k. There is also a proposal by Melinda Katz to have an offsite trailer for 4th grade in a YMCA lot. Mrs. Leto does not support that. The lot is not always empty; the children would be in the trailer all day long; they have lunch there; and would get no recess; no use of the multi-purpose room. We also don't have enough personnel to take care of kids properly offsite. She cannot imagine that the YMCA will want to eliminate their parking lot. Unless there is a new idea, we don't see trailers being the option that parents would want. Trailers are not where you'd want your kids.
 - It should be remembered that the schools in the neighborhood are all good. Our kids are doing really well at other schools. As parents wrote letters to the Superintendent that put down the other schools in the neighborhood, it put Mrs. Leto in an odd situation. Mrs. Leto appreciates everyone's efforts, but this can't fracture our community. We have worked too hard for that.
- Discussion & Comments
 - Can we do a lottery to get down to 32 kids for 4th grade? – Mrs. Leto indicated that it's against DOE policy. We can't put 36 kids in a class and the DOE looks at the current count. DOE asks us to certify the projection for the class size. If we certify 36 then we have to be ready to open with two classes. We did ask the 3rd grade parents to tell us if they are not coming back to the school next year. Only 1 family came forward. We can't go off of numbers that we don't have. Also, unless the student is officially pulled out of the school, we wouldn't project less than the 36 number. This is part of the A-190 process. The paperwork has to be completed 6 months before the start of the school year. We can't just reconfigure and recreate at the beginning of the year.
 - What's the process for our kids to go into the other schools? Mrs. Leto will tell the principals who will be coming in the next year.

- 32 children is the max class size mandated by the UFT. We have been able to keep PS 303 small because we are not a zoned school. If the school ever became zoned, we'd have to resemble the other schools in the neighborhood.
- A parent can advocate for their child. If you need the child to go see the new school, you can organize a visit on behalf of your child so they can get comfortable. Your child will be older and there will be a maturity level and confidence that comes from having been in 303. Kids adapt. Schools welcome children from 303 with open arms.
- Other schools are larger and are a good transition to middle school.
- Kids do well and are happy in the new environment.
- Can they come back for 5th grade? We don't know what it will look like. Goal is to keep the classes small.
- Zoning the school – this could happen. It's up to the CEC – the Community Education Council. Once the school gets larger it could happen. Kids who are here are grandfathered if we do become zoned.
- What if enough families did come forward that they're not coming back for next year 4th grade? Mrs. Leto won't project 32 children. March 5th is the deadline to sign off on the projection - 6 months before school starts. It's all tied to funding.
- Schools send overflow children to other schools? – This only happens for Kindergarten if they are full.
- We'd have to plan for 4th grade in advance. So it's a bigger process involved. Pre-k elimination would mean some teachers would lose their job.

Presidents Update – Todd Holden & Vincent Roulot

- Mixed Bag Fundraiser – distribution of purchased items tomorrow, Friday, 12/8.
- Fundraising Update – Ashley Salazar
 - All students will be getting a holiday goodie bag. We will be asking parents to volunteer to help assemble them in the mornings on 12/14 and 12/18. 6 people per day will be needed.
 - Little Pulp – super flash fundraiser – sketchbooks for sale as holiday gifts.
- PTA VP Resignation – Andrea has stepped down. We appreciate all that she has done.
- Picture Orders – must be in by December 8th to ensure delivery before the holidays to the school.
- Suggestion Box - suggestions for ideas for Fundraising and any PTA related items are welcome. Either fill-out a card or email us at 303pta@gmail.com
- Amazon Smile – Don't forget to use the Amazon Smile link when shopping!

Treasurer's Report – Naina Hathiramani

Current Bank Balance \$30,698.34; Current month transaction details below:

Expenses

	Amount
<i>Totals</i>	\$11,354.60
Wingspan Arts (Ms. Stewart)	\$10,550.00
Learning A-Z	\$759.60
PTA meeting babysitting (Oct)	\$45.00

Income

	Amount
<i>Totals</i>	\$5,860.14
Mixed Bags	\$4,684.00
Annual appeal	\$50.00
TD Refund Fee	\$20.00
Amazon Smile	\$62.14
Bake Sale (11/16)	\$420.00
1st School Supplies	\$624.00

SLT Meeting Update –Ilyse Sisolak

- RazKids – everyone loves this
- Spelling Program for 1st Grade is very successful. It is not available for kindergarten.
- Afterschool Enrichment Program for STEAM – kids will be selected by the teachers to participate 2:30 – 3:45 on Tuesdays. This is for Grades 1- 3 by invitations.
- STEAM is very successful in the classroom. We have not yet received the STEAM carts, so please continue to send in your donations to Ms. Vasilakis.
- CASA Grant – Korean Dance will be back this year. 1-3 Grades will be able to sign-up on a first come first serve basis. This year will include drums. Program will start in January and be held on Monday and Tuesday at 2:30 – 4:30. The kids perform at Flushing Town Hall at the end of the year.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 4th. Have a Happy Holiday Season!