



PTA MEETING MINUTES
Subject to Approval
November 2, 2017

Approximately 20 parents, Ms. Sferrazza and the Executive Board were in attendance.

Presidents Update – Todd Holden & Andrea Schaffer

- Thank you for the donations to the Annual Appeal – we have higher participation in families who have contributed to the appeal this year over last year. We will consider sending out another reminder.
- Mixed Bag Fundraiser– you should have received your catalogs.
 - We will extend it for another weekend to Monday Nov 13th, since the due date is next week. This will be the last extension, so that we can get goods on the 8th in time for Hanukkah.
 - We get a higher percentage for manual paper orders, but if you have family out of state, certainly take advantage of the online order and have things ship directly to the recipient. The online orders will go through the end of the month (11/30).
 - We did debate using Yankee candle, but Mixed Bags gave us a higher percentage back.
- Socks in a Box – collecting ongoing sock donations. It's our chance to contribute to the community.
- Picture Day – make-up date is 12/8. Make-up is for children that missed it and for parents who want to have their child's picture re-taken.
- Bake Sale – thank you for the baked goods and the coffee that one of our parents contributed. We raised \$564.
- Pajama drive – collecting new pajama donations for children and adults. It goes to December 15th
- Toys For Tots – we did not participate last year because there was a mix up with the registration dates. Ms. Flood has indicated that we should have the boxes November 14th to the 16th. Donations will be accepted until December 8th.
- Ms. Davina Flood - Parent Coordinator is here for parents; any questions should go to her.

SLT Meeting on 11/2/17 Update – Michelle and Ilyse

- Topic for 4th grade extension – The current 3rd graders hoped to be in 4th grade at PS 303, but the building plans were delayed. The decision needs to be made to take away one pre-k class to put in one 4th grade class for 2018-2019. There is a lot of planning involved in making 4th grade happen administratively, which is a concern for the administration. If pre-k gets taken away altogether, we don't know if it would come back. The two para's employed here would no longer be employed here because they are certified as pre-k only. We cannot comment what would be done with the teachers if there was a 4th grade.
 - There will be a meeting with the Superintendent. We will keep you up to date and will notify you of the meeting that should be a public forum.
 - On Monday, Ilyse is meeting with Melinda Katz's office. She will see what the option is to go back to one pre-k and one 4th grade. The SLT and Exec Board were invited to the meeting. If Ivy can come on Monday – she can represent the parents who have an incoming pre-k student. If any 3rd grade parents know that their child will not be in 4th grade at PS 303, we want the parents to come forward and commit to that.
 - A trailer is not a feasible option because there is no space.
- Ms. Leto's Pancake Breakfast – information is on the AEA website
- Planners – they are being constructed and given to students in 2nd and 3rd grade in November. They are custom made for the school.

Fundraising Committee

- Ashley Salazar has stepped forward and volunteered to be the head of the Committee. She spoke to Ms. Leto and brought her ideas to her. She wants to open the door to new ideas and help get the class parents involved.
- Some of Ashley's ideas are:
 - Off-site carnivals, adult social outings. Social events will prompt people to get involved and become more engaged.
 - Film fair – sign up the school– if you go see a movie the first week – then the school gets a percentage.
 - Read-a-thon
 - Spirit wear for the school - every month kids can wear something school related
 - Stop & Shop – associate the card with an account that donates to the school
 - Ashley is asking parents to send her ideas at 303pta@gmail.com
- School gets discretionary budget and a STEAM grant – There is a misconception that Ms. Leto received an additional \$100k to spend this year. When the money is granted, Karen Koslowitz's office calls and the funds are designated for various items that the school needs. \$60K is for the STEAM carts and all the science supplies. We put the order in, but they're not ready and we have not yet received them. The carts are bought through a DOE vendor. The parents don't know that we don't have the carts yet and are confused about why they are donating supplies. SLT is preview to the school budget.
Note: Lenovo Think pads - we can no longer buy ipads.

Ms. Sferrazza Update (1st grade teacher)

- The school budget is a game of Tetris – each line is used for different things – paper supplies, payroll, technology. At the beginning of the year a letter was sent out to inform the parents of the grant for the STEAM carts. We are obligated to tell you that we have the funding. Ms. Vasilakis is seeing all kids k to 3rd grade. Once materials are used, they can't get used again.
- We are a small school and the things we do are essential. We don't get title 1 funding, which goes towards extras in other schools and has to be spent. We have experienced teachers that probably cost more than other school.
 - The school will take donation of old toys that are in good condition. You can donate without spending a lot of money.

Treasurer's Report – Michael Zhao

Current \$36,192.80 Bank balance; Current month transaction details below:

Expenses

	Amount
Totals	\$9,149.40
DEP return fee, return charge	\$22.40
Singapore Math	\$9,082.00
PTA meeting babysitting	\$45.00

Income

	Amount
Totals	\$23,593.90
PTA dues	\$475.00
Annual appeal	\$22,554.90
Bake Sale	\$564.00

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Other

- Bake Sale was earmarked for playground equipment. Vanessa has already provided us a list of the equipment requested.
- Sign-up Genius – for parent volunteers for recess. Class parents should send out a reminder for this.
- Google Group for Parents only – Ilyse needs the class lists and will work to set-up.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7th.