



PTA MEETING MINUTES

Subject to Approval

October 5, 2017

Approximately 40 parents and the Executive Board were in attendance.

Presidents Update – Todd Holden & Andrea Schaffer

- Fundraising Committee – We need to form a committee, while we have things planned out for the year – appeal, catalog sales, holiday goody bag, photos, we want input and we want the committee to orchestrate the events. We had a small one last year.
- Catalog Sales – We have researched various catalogs. We did Mixed Bags last year, but have we decided to go with Yankee Candle this year. They have name recognition and quality products. There is a home catalog and not just candles – the website has a full range products. We have to see if they have wrapping paper. The school gets 40% commissions.
 - 2 volunteers raised their hand for the fundraising committee – we will set up a meeting this week.
- Annual Appeal – Thank you for those that have already donated. A reminder letter will be going in October. A parent suggested a thermometer by the door for the annual appeal. We don't have a specific \$ as a goal we did last year when we did the Art with a Heart fundraiser.
- Harvest Parade – & Bake Sales – October 31st. The funds will go to playground equipment. Parents may dress-up and are encouraged to. Kids come into school and put away stuff in their classroom and at 8:30 kids come out and go around the block. This year we will be going around the adjacent block due to the construction. There will be a sign-up genius for the bake sale.
- PTA website sign-on – If you haven't already, you can register on our website to receive PTA emails and notifications. <http://www.303pta.org/>
- Stomping ground Picture Day – October 24th. Dress up your child for it. They also facilitate sibling photos, which are really great. There is a re-take/make-up day on December 8th.
- Class Parents – There will potentially be a meeting early next week.
- Safety Meeting Town Hall – 5 parents attended – they reviewed the protocols the children are told to follow during fire drills and lock-down drills.
 - During lock down drills they tell the kids that there is a stranger in the building, the school needs to find them and they need to stay in place until the stranger is found. They are taught to go where they are not visible and to know not to make a sound. They're taught to do the same regardless of which class room they are in. If the kids are in the cafeteria – they are told to get under the tables. . If they are in a stall – then they are told to get on top of the toilet seat. Ms. Gallo does the lock down drill announcement – if Ms. Leto goes on the loudspeaker then they are told that it would be real. If something happens to Ms. Leto – there is a list of people that are on the chain of command.
 - During fire drills they are told to ensure that everyone knows that there is a fire and needs to get out.
 - Safety meeting is once a year – we make the request for a crossing guard – and we are too small of a school and we have been denied. Cars outside honk at the kids and use foul language –school should call the police and ask that they be here. There are increased 311 calls about the double parking from the neighborhood, police we will be cracking down and giving out tickets.
- Box Tops –collection coming soon

Discussion on Planners - Ilyse Sisolak

- PS 196 and PS 300 give the kids planners – They are organizers for writing in homework and assignments. Ms. Leto would love to do it, but she doesn't have the funds. It doesn't make sense for 1st and below. The PTA could raise the money or we could ask each parent to give \$7 or \$5. For next year it can be put into 1st Day

Supplies list automatically. Roughly 80 children times \$5 to \$7 per planner, is roughly \$500. Flier would be done for parents to bring in \$ per kid and whoever doesn't pay, PTA would fund. Customizable planners are available and not that more expensive. It would be worth it for us to customize, so that it serves our purpose and the teachers'.

- *Arguments against* - Our kids are in one class with one teacher. This is more of a necessity for middle school when kids start moving classes. 2nd grade isn't necessary. Would the work be duplication? No – instead of the homework notebook, they would start using the planner.
- *Arguments for* - Anything that's forward looking gets lost. Classes start to get long term projects in 2nd grade. Ms. Leto would need to ensure that the teachers are buying into this and using them. It's not a good idea to force the teachers to do this – we need them to be in agreement.

Motion to approve - Opposed 2; All others in Favor.

Treasurer's Report – Michael Zhao

Bank Balance at the end of September \$21,748.30

- Parents should check that their employer has matching gift or donation for volunteering with an organization like the PTA
- Continue to use the Amazon Smile link when shopping – we received a check in August for \$500+ www.smile.amazon.com

Details included in the Treasurer's Report:

Expenses

	Amount	Date paid
<i>Totals</i>	\$120.00	
Babysitting, Sept PTA meeting	\$60.00	9/19
Babysitting, Sept PTA meeting	\$60.00	9/21

Income

	Amount	Date received
<i>Totals</i>	\$6,075.00	
Deposit of raised funds	\$4,591.00	9/29
Deposit of raised funds	\$359.00	9/20
Deposit of raised funds	\$350.00	9/18
Deposit of raised funds	\$775.00	9/15

Approval of September 2017 Meeting Minutes

SLT Update - Ilyse Sisolak

School Leadership team meets once a month – any parent can come and listen in, but can't speak unless they are part of the SLT

September 27th Meeting

- “as good as gold” reward system - the gold coins reward system provides supportive environment
- School goals were written in June – they received feedback from the DOE and we will be reviewing the goals in the next coming months and signing off on them.

October 4th Meeting

- Grading system – the grades were letter system last year – we are now going to a number system – 1, 2, 3, 3+, 4. PS 303 grades strictly and it pushes the kids. Some of the schools that we are being compared with are liberal in their grading. There is a concern that the grades won't get the kids into good middle schools. Ms. Leto has adjusted the grade requirements.
 - 5th graders trying to get into specialty middle schools have an algorithm and different factors are taken into account. The DOE doesn't know that we have a stricter grading (we don't give as many 4's at 303). We are pushing the kids, but need to balance.
 - Ms. Leto says that a 3 means that you are doing what you're supposed to be doing – a 4 means you are doing above what you're supposed to be doing.
 - There is no DOE standard – each school can establish the grading system that they want
 - The school is providing the guidelines to the parents. Some of the things considered are:
 - Attendance is extremely important. If the child is sick the teacher will help catch up, but if you choose to take them out for vacation they won't get the same help.
 - Lateness is a problem

- Homework has to be done on the same day and be complete.
- School Construction Authority took down the tree because it wasn't safe.
- 4th grade extension – the meeting is happening this month with Melinda Katz. Todd spoke to the super intendent. She is talking to DOE central on 10/17 and it's on the agenda to expand the school. If we go down to 1 Pre-K Class, we would have one 4th grade class of 32 kids. It could down to a lottery if there are more than 32 kids.
- Google Groups Update – when providing your email address to the Class Parents, sign up to include your email and parents can start talking to each other on Google Group, once it's created.

Parent Recess Volunteering

We have started and we have parents on board hope to continue. Children are playing games outside.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 2nd.