



**PTA MEETING MINUTES**  
*Subject to Approval*  
**September 14, 2017**

Approximately 50 parents and the Executive Board were in attendance.

**President Update – Todd Holden**

- Our PTA mission- go-between school administration and the parents and to support the needs of the school and the students.
- PTA Fundraising efforts pay for Ms. Steward (our resident Art Teacher), Singapore Math (supplemental math program), RAZ Kids (online reading tool), Teacher Appreciation, and other things.
- PTA dues of \$25 are requested from each family to cover cost of the PTA meetings and babysitting
- Major fundraising drive is coming up in a few weeks - \$300 per family is requested, which funds Ms. Stewart and the programs mentioned
  - Any contribution is tax deductible – we will send you a letter for that upon request – PTA has the 501(C)3 status
  - All contributions can also be submitted for matching-gift through your Company
- Additional Fundraisers – school photos through Stomping Grounds, bake sales, goody bags, Amazon Smile
  - Amazon Smile – if you use the link to Amazon on our website <http://www.303pta.org/>, any purchases made will result in a commission earned for the school; there is no cost or impact to you.
  - Box tops – collect them and submit them to school – school gets the money from each small cut-out
  - Catalog Sales – we are looking at other option besides Mixed Bag, which we did last year, and seeing where we can get the best commission
- We also participate in charitable drives such as Socks in a Box and the Pajama Drive

**Vice President Update – Andrea Schaffer**

- Introduction of the PTA Board
- PTA mission – to support the school, the fundraisers are there to support the arts programs, Singapore math is very valuable –
  - Test scores speak to the fact that the parents support the success of the school. Our 3rd graders last year all earned a 3 or 4 on the state tests – what our students are receiving is valuable.
  - The DOE doesn't support the art teacher. Our budget is small because we are a small school. DOE funding is based on number of students.
- SLT – School Leadership Team –introduction of the parents (Ivy Kwong, Katy Chiu, Maria Scoloveno, Ilyse Sisolak, Michele Molfetta) is comprised of 5 parents and 5 teachers, who meet monthly to discuss the curriculum – first one of the year is September 27<sup>th</sup>

**Introduction – Davina Flood NEW Parent Coordinator**

Davina started at the Board of Education in 1994. Her career also includes designing costume jewelry and working as a para professional. She sees the Parent Coordinator as a Public Relations position. She is the liaison between the parents and the school.

**Treasurer's Report – Naina Hathiraman**

Bank Balance at the end of August \$15,793.30

*Detail not covered in meeting:*

- Expenses included:
  - Babysitting -\$60.00 6/2
  - Babysitting - \$60.00 6/5
  - Reimbursement to Katy Chiu (breakfast) - \$10.00 6/9
  - Vincent Izzo, piano tuning- \$175.00 6/26
- Income Included:
  - Amazon Smiles -\$513.36 8/17

**Fundraising Discussion with Parents**

- There is an air-conditioner that's out in the building. Parents have paid for the ACs in the past. The only appliance vendor that's allowed by the DOE has quoted us \$2,500 for a single air-conditioner.
- Multi-Purpose Room – Jonathan will donate his time/resources for a party if space can be provided – school space is a challenge
- Andrea has talked to OlieLoli, who will donate space for a parent's night-out; parents pointed out that there has not been great turn-out for these events in the past
- Can we create a private Facebook group? We need to ask Ms. Leto weighing the pros and cons. Social media can help communication with so much going on this year – perhaps we can do a google chat group or a different medium. DOE is serious about privacy – especially on Facebook - they look at staff Facebook pages and track what they are doing.
- Monday email update – are we still doing this? PTA to get back to parents.
- A lot of changes this year, but it is for the benefit of our students – we need to stay positive and work with Ms. Leto.
- No Playground – could we do black rubber padding outside? They are very expensive, as anything like this requires DOE contractors.
- School photos and harvest festival will be the first anticipated events.

**Update Ilyse Sisolak**

- Solution to playground issue – Ms. Leto is willing to have parent volunteers and have them organize things outside – she doesn't have the staff to do this. Right now Ms. Maria and Ms. Davina go outside.
  - A sign-up genius can be created for sign-up. It would be only 10-15 minutes long – it wouldn't be a big commitment.
  - Recess Coordinator Volunteer – Vanessa Castor-Jacob
- Construction is in full swing. The playground has been eliminated. Two years from now, Sept 2019, the new building will be finished for new kids. After that they will do some construction on the existing spaces – cafeteria will be converted to pre-k classrooms
  - In 2019 they will not grow all the classes at once
  - Playground will be for the young grades in the future. SLT is discussing the long term plans for the outside play after construction is done.
- 3rd graders continuing in the school – the now 3rd graders were supposed to be able to continue on, Ilyse has been working to find a solution. A trailer or pre-k class elimination were the options – 3rd graders are 36 kids in total right now – a combined classroom will be able to be 32 kids. One Pre-K class will be kept to allow for siblings.
  - A letter/petition signed by parents was sent out at the end of the school year to Andrew Hevesi and Melinda Katz's office and the School Construction Authority. Ilyse will be attending a meeting at the beginning of October to plead our case. If parents need to attend, she will let us know.

**Approval of June 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.**