



**PTA Meeting Minutes  
Oct. 11, 2018**

Approximately 30 parents and the executive board were in attendance.

**President's report -- Ashley Salazar**

Annual appeal: It's going well, and there's still time to contribute.

Gift card fundraiser: Starting in two weeks. It's through Shop With Scrip. You can pick physical gift cards or e-cards, for yourself or for giving as holiday gifts. Different stores give back different amounts to the school. We'll have two due dates, one for Hanukkah delivery and one for Christmas delivery, with the physical cards coming to the school. Question: How will the cards be distributed? We will work out concerns that students might lose the gift cards on the way home.

Student holiday shopping fair: Tentatively scheduled for Nov. 29. This will let students bring in a small amount of money to spend on gifts for their families. Question: How can we trust students with the money? Some companies allow parents to send money electronically; in any case, it's a small amount and volunteers will help students distribute. More details to come.

PTA liability insurance: The PTA had insurance in the past, but it lapsed. After Ashley's investigation, the best product seems to be from PTO Today: Motion made to cover the complete coverage package, approved without objection.

**Motion to approve September's minutes -- Approved without objection**

**SLT meeting update -- Rebekah Cabonargi**

There was discussion about the diversity admissions pilot project. The school will be allowed to set the percentage of students who can enter through the program. The SLT asked to meet with the DOE official who runs similar programs to offer advice on what the percentage should be.

Grading policy: A parent brought up concerns about the final report card grade of the year. The STARS grading system used by elementary schools automatically takes the last semester grade and makes that the final course grade. In middle and high school STARS uses an average of all of the semesters for the final grade. The teachers can override this automatic system if they feel it is needed. The school and the PTA will post new links to the 303 grading policy to make it more accessible. Question: What about the school's rigorous grading philosophy, which does not give high scores without true excellence? Will it be a hindrance to 303 students when the school goes up through 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades? Those test scores are highly weighed in middle school admissions, and not all elementary schools use the same philosophy.

The SLT members have brought that up with Mrs. Leto and Mrs. Gallo and will continue to do so. Parents with specific concerns are encouraged to bring them to the SLT as well.

Crossing guards: PS 303 is on the list to get one. But there are not enough guards in our area, and they go to the schools where they are most needed. Because our school is small, we're still waiting.

92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y: How is it decided which grade goes on these field trips? It depends on the Y's curriculum, what other programs are coming to 303, and teachers' availability for the required professional development.

Single-sex bathrooms in new building: There will be one on each floor, for any student who wants that privacy.

SLT members are entitled to \$300 in training money, but our SLT has generously waived that money so it all stays at the school.

**Motion to move February and March's meeting dates to Feb. 7 and March 7: Approved with no objection**

#### **Treasurer's report for September -- Paul Goldfarb**

Beginning balance: \$26,586.08

Total income for September: \$9,856.27

Total expenses: \$16,571.62

Ending balance: \$19,870.73

Expected expense in October: \$10,550 payment to Wingspan for Mrs. Stewart

We'll know soon what the percentage of families contributed to the annual appeal. PayPal has been a big success with about \$2,200 in donations using that method so far (not all reflected in September appeal).

#### **Spirit Wear -- Ashley Salazar**

The company Printed 2 a T came with samples of potential clothing for a spirit wear sale. They serve about 20 different schools, including PS 101 and 196. They do both embroidery and screen printing. They can run an online store or do it through classroom fliers; there are no minimums. Order turnaround is two weeks, and distribution is through the school. Question: Should we consider distribution around parent-teacher conferences? Samples included pajama pants; different styles of T-shirts for men, women and children; baseball shirts; tank tops; sweatshirts (pullover and zip-up) and pants; windbreaker jackets; football jerseys that can be customized with names and numbers. Colors include red, blue and gold.

#### **Q&A**

Harvest Parade: More contributions are welcome!