



**PTA Meeting Minutes
Nov. 8, 2018**

Approximately 15 parents and the executive board were in attendance.

President's report -- Ashley Salazar

Thank you to our picture day volunteers! Stomping Ground has prepared our proofs, and fliers will be sent out Friday, Nov. 9, in students' folders. The link will be sent around also. Orders must be placed by Nov. 28 for free shipping for delivery before Christmas. Retakes will be Wednesday, Dec. 12. If you're unsure whether you want to do retakes, please note: You will be able to pick between the best of the two. Picture orders are another fundraiser for the PTA.

Holiday gift fair: This event for students is set for Thursday, Nov. 29. A letter will go out in folders after parent-teacher conferences. The PTA picked the program we did because parents can buy certificates for students online if they don't want to send in cash with kids. The sale will include Hanukkah and Christmas items. A Signup Genius will go out for volunteers to help that day. The school will allow us to use its iPads for the checkout process. The company has provided us with \$150 in promotional money that can be given to students to spend. Mrs. Gallo and Mrs. Leto will discuss options with the teachers on how to distribute that money.

Parent-teacher conference bake sale: Signup Genius will go out on Friday, for anyone who wants to bake or volunteer for this PTA fundraiser. There are two sessions for the conferences: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Cafe artwork: Thank you to Mrs. Stewart for selecting and preparing some students' art, and to Ashley and Elaine Lee-Wong for hanging it in the cafe. It looks great! Abby in class K-216 was nominated by Artsonia for artist of the week for Nov. 4-10. Please vote, and share before Saturday! If Abby wins, she gets a reward and the school will get \$100 to spend on art supplies. And please consider buying items from Artsonia: The money received from the sales goes directly to support Mrs. Stewart.

Shop With Scrip update: Please sent in your gift card orders as soon as possible. The first due date is Nov. 15. Ashley gave an example of how you can support PTA of AEA with your shopping: If you know you're going to spend \$100 at, say, Target this December, why not purchase a gift card now, to give a percentage back to the school?

Treasurer's report -- Paul Goldfarb

Beginning balance on Oct. 1: \$19,870.73

Income: \$14,873.48

Total expenses: \$11,172.26

Ending balance on Oct. 31: \$23,517.96

For the annual appeal, the PTA has received donations representing 63% of our students. Thank you for your generosity!

Motion to approve October's minutes -- Stacey Shick Samuels

Approved without objection

SLT meeting update -- Ilyse Sisolak

Grading policy/report cards: The administration has agreed that the final student grade will not automatically carry over in the computer system from the third grading period. The teachers will input the final grade manually on the main six categories. It will not necessarily be an average; the teacher will take the whole year into account and choose the appropriate grade. This is a change from past years, in response to a parent complaint.

Diversity admissions pilot program: After a long discussion, the SLT decided that Mrs. Leto will call the DOE and ask if we can push it off for a year. The time period allowed to create a program is too short, and too many questions are outstanding, especially with all the other changes going on at PS 303 for the next school year. The DOE has provided no information (on minimums, what the goals are, what diversity means) and says it has no time to meet with the SLT in person to provide any. The SLT would like to start gathering information now to implement the program in another year, after a considered process.

Construction: The new building is on schedule, but Aug. 4 will be the earliest the school would get the certificate of occupancy. Nothing can be in the new building before the certificate is received, so the move of furniture and supplies will all have to happen after that date. The PTA will push the delivery of 1st Day School Supplies until the latest date possible to help.

Discussion of new banner for outside school door -- Ashley Salazar

The old AEA banner by the front door is terribly faded. They seem to run about \$60, but Ashley will look into the most durable version, even if it costs a little more. No motion is needed to approve the spending, but the membership affirmed its support.

Q&A

Question raised about construction in the multipurpose room. This came up at On Stage With Mrs. Leto on Wednesday. The PTA board was unable to attend, but parents reported that administration said the backstage area is less available as construction is done to connect the new building to the old. As a result, changes may be made to this year's production schedule for each grade. Each grade will have something, but they may be combined. PTA membership would like to discuss the possibility of having plays at another school's auditorium to allow every student to participate. Questions about what that means for students' auditioning, and whether there are more opportunities for students to work on crew if they don't want to be on stage. Also whether plays would continue to be an in-school program or an after-school one.

Also reported from the On Stage: Mrs. Vasilakis is going to do a coding club instead of a STEAM club this year. It will be 10 to 12 kids selected by Mrs. V from all the grades, and will integrate the Dash robots. Mrs. V is going to a lot of professional development now to figure out how to use all her new STEAM equipment from the cart and from the PTA fundraiser in the classrooms.

For future On Stage meetings, the PTA will consider having a volunteer report back to our membership.