



**PTA Meeting Minutes
Dec. 13, 2018**

President's report -- Ashley Salazar

The Shop With Scrip fundraiser was not as successful as we hoped. One reason the PTA decided to try the gift-card sales instead of the Mixed Bag catalog, like the past couple of years, was because of when Hanukkah fell. We would have had to set an early October deadline for all sales, which seemed unreasonable.

The holiday gift fair for students, however, was a success. We learned some things to suggest for future fairs: We could have used more smaller, less expensive items, and more large bags for the purchases.

Sox in the Box were due Friday, Dec. 14.

Picture day retakes are done. Thanks to Katy Osborne Chiu and Emma Symons, who took the lead, and all the other volunteers who helped that day. The initial printing of class pictures was unacceptable, and new, properly cropped photos will be sent. If you were wondering about the Oscar backdrop this year: It was because the trees backdrop that's normally behind the stage is covered in black because of the construction. The black wouldn't work for the photographer. Mrs. Bonthuys found the green sheet, and put it up with Mr. Mario's help. Mrs. Leto suggested the Oscars to make the backdrop less plain. But there was no excuse for the bad cropping from Stomping Ground, which showed the sheet's ragged edge.

Ms. Garger ran the Scholastic pajama drive this year, and we collected 137 pairs that will be paired with books for children in need.

The new AEA banner was placed outside the school. It cost \$50. It's the same as the old, but the colors are not faded.

Treasurer's report for November -- Paul Goldfarb

Paul did not have a written report at the meeting, because of a password error. Update:

Beginning balance on Nov. 1: \$24,571.96. Ending balance on Nov. 30: \$23,677.48

Income: \$7,595.85. Expenses: \$7,490.32

The PTA's tax forms have been filed.

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

Approved without objections

SLT meeting update -- Ashley Salazar

We will officially be using 1st Day School Supplies again next year. The company agreed to deliver after Labor Day because of the construction. The administration said at the pre-K orientation that they might have to hire movers to deal with the tight turnaround.

Town hall safety meeting -- no parents attended. Simone Dornbach pointed out that the communication of the event was poor. Mrs. Ugbomah was there, and can be contacted with questions. The major problem is still parking. The double parking in the no-parking zone in front of

the school is a hazard for students, and the only thing the school can do to prevent it is call 311. The problem is acute when a few school buses pick up students after school. Drivers are also blocking crosswalks. Please don't do it.

When the new addition opens, students will likely enter and be dismissed from different doors instead of the class lineups now, because it will be too many kids for one entrance.

Please dress students appropriately for outdoor recess even in the winter. If it's sunny and not absolutely frigid, the students will be going outside.

CEC meeting update/Town hall with mayor and chancellor -- Stacey Shick Samuels

Stacey attended November's CEC meeting, where the agenda included presentations from the School Construction Authority and the District Planning Office. The CEC has an opportunity to comment now on the five-year capital plan for construction. PS 303's addition is on schedule for the fall, PS 196 is still scheduled to get a 250-seat addition to open in 202. Four new schools are budgeted for District 28, but no sites have been determined. If you know of any sites (20,000 square feet, or the size of a supermarket or bowling alley) you can reach out to the SCA.

The District Planning Office said that enrollment district-wide has been essentially flat the past three years, and there is enough capacity to handle the expected growth -- although the empty seats might not be in the areas where they're needed.

PS 101 is going through the process of getting rid of its sixth-grade class. It's to be voted on at the PEP meeting at the end of January. The principal, assistant principal, parent coordinator and many teachers spoke in the public comment period in favor of ending the sixth-grade class.

Stacey also attended a town-hall forum with the mayor and the schools chancellor. Topics of interest to PS 303 included efforts to air-condition every classroom by 2021, and whether DOE vendors must be used for PTA spending.

Winter goody bags -- Rebekah Pokart-Carbonagi

Last year, the PTA did winter goody bags for students as a fundraiser, but this year the PTA decided to give them as gifts instead. Rebekah suggested it, and led volunteers in making them.

Q&A

Mrs. Sferrazza's classroom air-conditioning was dead last year. Inquiries were made about replacing it last year, but purchasing through DOE vendors is expensive. PTA will reach out to the SLT to find out what the plan is for renovation in the new building and whether the DOE is planning to replace the nonworking units.

The kindergarten open house was this past Monday. It will be the only one, and there will be no individual tours. It's too disruptive.

Stacey wrote a long post on the Forest Hills Parents group on Facebook to try to fight disinformation around kindergarten admissions. If you are a member, you can see it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ForestHillsParents/permalink/1992494010796638/>

We are still getting lots of questions about pre-K priority for admissions after the 2019-20 school year. Should we consider a new campaign to push for changes?

Wingspan: Is Wingspan prepared for the expansion? John Mendez was speaking to Lauren who said they do have some difficulty getting teachers to come to Queens. Andrea Schaefer said Wingspan has always been responsive to our growth before.