



**PTA Meeting Minutes
Feb. 7, 2019**

About 15 parents and the executive board were in attendance.

President's report -- Ashley Salazar

We're trying to set up a parents' night out and/or other family outings. Among the considerations: a night at Painting With a Twist on a Saturday in March and April. We would need 20 people to commit, so we would probably have to open the event up to family and friends, based on survey results. As an alternative, one parent volunteered to set up an archery outing. And the PTA is talking to the NYC Football Club about a family outing to a soccer game, with discounted tickets. More to come!

Henny Maddox is organizing restaurant night fundraisers for this spring. Chipotle is scheduled for March 5, and Shake Shack is in the works. Last year's fundraiser at Panera Bread raised no money, so the PTA won't return there. Henny will look into Bareburger, Cheeburger Cheeburger, Buffalo Wild Wings and Fridays -- other restaurants on Austin Street to see whether they'll do a fundraiser and whether the percentages donated to the school are worthwhile. Another suggestion to look into is Cinemart; P.S. 175 did a Sunday morning event there.

Some new student art is hanging in the Cafe now.

Treasurer's report for January -- Paul Goldfarb

Very little financial activity in the past month. The PTA provided babysitting for the two after-school anti-bias training workshops. The PTA's interim budget report has been filed to the AEA staff. It is detailed, and Paul will have a summary for the next PTA meeting. Big upcoming expense: The second payment for Mrs. Stewart.

Starting balance: \$22,659.67

Income: \$0

Expenses: \$196.26

Ending balance: \$22,463.41

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

A parent asked about a line in the minutes over whether two new fourth-grade teachers will be hired, or whether current teachers will be moving to fourth grade and new teachers will be added to a different grade, or some combination. Ilyse Sisolak clarified that the SLT didn't know what grade the new teachers will teach -- in the past, AEA administration has moved teachers around to fit the school's needs. A motion was made to amend the minutes to say two general ed teachers will be added (instead of two fourth-grade teachers)

The minutes were approved with that amendment.

SLT meeting update -- Ilyse Sisolak

The SLT went over the AEA Absolutes -- a district-required set to principles that the staff wants to always see in the classroom. This year the district wants to focus on math. The "absolutes" are:

- * Students actively engaged on tasks
- * Teachers meet the students where they are performing academically
- * Teachers modeling perseverance by supporting students in using math tools and strategies
- * Students explaining their thinking and modeling their reasoning
- * Teachers modeling math vocabulary that students use to express their understanding

SLT members were invite to watch three math classes (two third-grade and one second-grade) to look for the absolutes in action. The SLT took notes and will discuss them at the next monthly meeting, looking for teachers' strength and weaknesses.

Change the date of June 2019 meeting -- Ashley Salazar

The PTA's meeting for June was scheduled to be on the 13th. The second- and third-grade production is now scheduled for that evening. Typically, the PTA would move its meeting to the first Thursday of the month, but in June that's Anniversary Day and school is closed. A motion was made and approved with no objection to move the meeting to June 20.

Selection of nominating committee for 2019-20 PTA Executive Board -- Ashley Salazar

Four of the five SLT positions will be up for election this spring, in addition to the PTA executive board.

We need three members for the nominating committee. It's an easy commitment, soliciting nominees via email and a letter to parents (with a form already available) and counting the votes on election night. Members of the nominating committee have to be at the April and May PTA meetings.

No one volunteered to join the committee, so the PTA will send a letter out to all parents with a tear-off to send back.

Fundraising updates -- Ashley Salazar

Miss Chocolate sale -- We have signed to do a spring fundraiser. Barry Kimler, a representative from the company, has worked with PS 303 before. He said 90% of the chocolate is kosher, but the PTA will clarify what's kosher for Passover. Sales will start on Feb. 25 (after winter break), and will have to be in on March 18. Delivery will be in April. We'll accept cash, check and money order. Percentage back to the school is 40%. There are prizes for the kids for meeting sales targets.

Parent-teacher conference bake sale -- It will be Thursday, March 14. The PTA will send out a Signup Genius. Volunteers are very much needed to staff the table. Ashley will also bring in the AEA water bottles, bags and magnets for sale.

Chipotle night: It will be March 5, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Update on recess supplies -- Rebekah Pokart-Cabonargi

The PTA got a request from Vanessa Jacobs, who runs the recess program, for some new supplies. She requested 12 new jump ropes, and a bunch of board games for indoor recess. The

PTA Executive Board authorized using money from our account to meet her request, and we spend just under \$200. The students have been very excited!

Introduction of parent coordinator -- Jainnie Hackman

After initial welcomes, she notes AEA has a very effective PTA in supporting the staff and students.

There are plans to have a parent room in the new building where we can have more workshops or event.

She is creating a welcome table in the office, where parents can bring their concerns, and they will be logged, and then Ms. Hackman can help work toward a resolution. The school wants to keep an open door policy, but make sure it's following protocols as the school grows.

The takeaway: "I'm here, just use me."

A notice went out to parents about a meet and greet on Feb. 13.

Ms. Hackman would like feedback about best ways to communicate with parents, electronically or paper. She is at AEA full-time, 7:30 to 3:30. But she has office hours for parents from 9 to noon.

Requests for help in packing and moving the school will be coming.

Q&A

Question regarding fire drills and coats: In a recent drill, the teachers have been wearing their coats, but the students were not allowed to grab theirs and were going out in short sleeves. Even in a real emergency, couldn't students grab a coat? Parents discussed the guidelines, which require getting out safely and quickly, and that means not stopping for coats. But teachers have sent a mixed message by wearing their coats. Mrs. Gallo has said in the past that she doesn't always alert all the teachers about the drills. They're required to have 10 drills a year, so they have to be done in winter weather. Ms. Hackman was going to look into what happened and the protocol.

Question about social media: Why are student pictures turning up on the school's public Facebook page now? Parents discussed how, In the beginning of the year, all students are asked to sign a photography waiver -- which covers all public-facing media, including the school's social media pages. Parents who are concerned should raise the concern with the staff to revoke their waver.