



PTA Meeting Minutes
Jan. 10, 2019 (Amended Feb. 7)

About 20 parents, and the president, vice president and recording secretary were in attendance.

President's report -- Ashley Salazar

Ashley Salazar and Rebekah Pokart-Cabonargi met with Mrs. Leto and Mrs. Gallo this week to get answers to some questions from the last PTA meeting.

Performances: The administration is still trying to decide about whether to combine grades or how else to schedule drama performances for the first through third graders this year. The construction in the multipurpose room makes any plays difficult to stage. The camera policy for any performance will be the same as last year, with no parent cameras allowed: Mrs. Leto will reach out to a parent who volunteered to record last year, so the video can be shared. Pre-K graduation and kindergarten graduation will continue as usual. There will be no Harlem Renaissance this year because that was a capstone project for third grade, and this year's third-grade students will continue at PS 303. Also The administration does not want to move any performance off-site.

The DOE lice policy will be added to the family handbook, so parents can understand the rules. Notices of lice discovery go out only to the affected class, not the whole grade.

Changes to PTA-funded programs for next year (Raz Kids, Singapore Math, 92Y) will be discussed later in the spring. Mrs. Leto doesn't want to add any new residencies next year as the school deals with other growing pains. But if you have ideas, please bring them up. The PTA might run a survey later in the year. The New York City Council can also help with grants for residencies in the future. For example, many local schools have ballroom dancing.

One change will likely be the addition of a full-time art/speciality teacher who is DOE certified, which may replace the teaching artist the PTA hires through Wingspan. Mrs. Leto plans to move carefully in hiring, so if an art teacher isn't set for the fall, Mrs. Stewart may continue on. Pottery experience is very much of interest for the full-time art teacher.

Air-conditioners: The new building will have central air-conditioning. There are units that are malfunctioning in the current building. The DOE has only one vendor who deals with a/c units, and they would have to be used even to rearrange working units, if that's something the school wanted to do. Mrs. Leto and Mrs. Gallo were going to follow up with the mayor's office to find out whether AEA be getting replacement units under the city's initiative to air-condition every classroom. The PTA is still looking into whether there's a way for the PTA to use another vendor.

For the move into the new building: Movers will be hired by the School Construction Authority, but parent volunteers might be needed to help pack before the end of school year. For next year, pre-K and kindergarten will be in the old building. After the renovations are done, the old building will have pre-K, K and 1st, and the new building will be 2nd through 5th.

Mrs. Leto is planning on a more modern library that's more like a lounge -- including beverages (water) for the students. It will be a research center, not a typical lending library.

Mrs. Stewart will be providing a new set of art for the cafe soon.

Ashley will be contacting with Paint With a Twist about doing a parents night out.

The PTA is researching chocolate bar sales. In the past parents weren't enthusiastic about sales that required an upfront purchase.

Treasurer's report for December -- Ashley Salazar, standing in for Paul Goldfarb

The PTA received a bundle of matching corporate donations this month of \$1,613.53

Starting balance: \$23,677.48

Income: \$5,562.25

Expense: \$6,580.62

Ending balance: \$22,659.67

The PTA owes another \$10,500 for Mrs. Stewart in February

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

Approved without objection

SLT meeting update -- Ilyse Sisolak

The SLT met on Jan. 2

With a CASA grant from Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz's office this year, instead of Korean dance (which is equipment heavy), AEA is doing Cumbia for Kids, featuring music and dance from Colombia. Information went out to 2nd and 3rd graders.

All furniture for the new building was ordered, except for pre-K and kindergarten, including rolling chairs for the science lab. Everything will be delivered after the certificate of occupancy comes through in August.

The School Construction Authority will have an office in the new building, and other administrative offices will be in new building. Mrs. Gallo will be staying in the old building.

Hiring is ongoing for two pre-K teachers, two kindergarten teachers, two general ed teachers (as the school adds two fourth-grade positions), two pre-K paras, one school aide, one special ed teacher and one possible secretary. Staff is interviewing right now for a parent coordinator.

There will be only one security officer, but more and new cameras are coming.

Address for school will possibly change to 110th Street, reflecting the true main entrance.

Fourth-grade curriculum has been in the works for two years, and will be ready for the fall.

An art teacher and music teacher will also be sought.

Q&A

John Mendez, report from the District 28 CEC meeting: The CEC is looking for candidates for the board. District 28 was selected to run a unconscious bias training program by the chancellor, which started Jan. 8 at AEA. There are discussions about how to better integrate middle schools in the district.

Katy Osborne Chiu, on what it means to join the CEC: Members attend meetings once a month in Jamaica, and you get to know the Superintendent. They reimburse for travel and babysitting. You become the liaison for about five schools to get to know the staff and see how they work. The board has only 6 members and needs new members.