



**PTA Meeting Minutes  
June 20, 2019**

About 120 parents and the executive board were in attendance.

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

The outgoing and incoming PTA boards were introduced.

Parent participation is what makes everything go around at AEA. Ashley offered thanks to all the volunteers who helped at events this year.

The Read-a-thon was a big success. We had over \$9,000 in donations pledged, and received \$6,727.50 for the school. Mrs. Leto and Mrs. Gallo will use the money toward their wishlist for the new media center. It includes cameras, a green screen, microphones etc., with a goal toward having students produce a morning announcements show.

If you haven't purchased 1st Day School Supplies, please do so by June 30. In addition to being easy for parents and teachers, it's a fundraiser for the PTA.

**Motion to approve May's minutes -- Stacey Shick Samuels**

Approved with no objection.

**Treasurer's report for May -- Paul Goldfarb**

The introduction of PayPal this school year to collect the annual appeal and other donations was a big success, with almost \$4,000 in PTA funds coming in through the service this year.

Beginning balance for May: \$17,456.03

Income: \$6,341.36

Expenses: \$662.40

Ending balance for May: \$17,379.29

Ending balance on June 19: \$23,134.99

**Summer reading books -- Paul Goldfarb**

The teachers for incoming first graders and up require specific books for the students to read over the summer. The PTA thought it would be a nice treat to give the books to students on the last day of school, especially after a successful year of fundraising. We were able to partner with Kew and Willow Books, an independent bookstore in Kew Gardens, to buy the books tax free and at a 20 percent discount. The initial cost estimate was approximately \$1,200. The motion to buy the books was approved without objection.

**Update on preliminary PTA budget for 2019-20 -- Paul Goldfarb**

The proposed budget includes three major line items. First, the PTA will continue to fund visual art classes with Mrs. Stewart for the fall, just for a smaller number of classes. Mrs. Leto expressed a desire to keep Mrs. Stewart involved in the school, because her program has been such a success. The PTA considered other options for residencies, but decided that the continuity of keeping Mrs. Stewart fit best with the staff's expansion plans.

Second, the PTA will purchase Go Math books for the fall. The DOE is changing its math curriculum to a program called enVisionmath 2.0 for the fall, but the AEA administration would like to supplement that by keeping Go Math. The PTA will purchase those books instead of the Singapore math books we have in the past.

Third, the PTA will provide the money for six classes of students to attend the music education program at the 92nd Street Y next year. This will allow AEA to send either the kindergarten and one other grade, or three of the older grades. The administration likes to make that decision based on the Y's curriculum and the other field trips and programs each grade has planned. The PTA wanted to allow the staff that flexibility.

The budget anticipates most of its income through the annual appeal, plus a fall and a spring fundraiser, school pictures, bake sales and 1st Day School Supplies.

The budget proposal was approved without objection.

### **SLT meeting update -- Ilyse Sisolak**

The SLT is the School Leadership Team, and it is a DOE requirement. Made up of 5 parents, 5 teachers, the principal, assistant principal and PTA president, it discusses issues involving the comprehensive educational plan.

The SLT met June 5. The expense of school supplies was questioned. The answer was yes, everything on teachers' lists are being used. The staff would like everyone to participate in the 1st Day School Supplies sale because it's easy on the teachers, to receive the items before school starts, and it's a fundraiser for the PTA, but it is voluntary. If parents want to purchase supplies elsewhere, they can. It's an unfortunate necessity, but parents have to buy paper towels and tissues for the classrooms.

There will only be one fourth-grade class next year, based on the number of students anticipated. That has no bearing in future years; the number of classes per grade depends on enrollment.

Students will rotate among STEAM, drama and visual art classes next year. There will not be music and tech teachers next year. Mrs. Bonthuys now teaches both gym and drama, and will continue to do so next year, because drama will be taught in a rotation and not for the full year. Her ability to teach both will be a problem down the road and will be addressed as it becomes one. Students will have their required gym classes, and will continue to do other physical activity in their classroom, like the Go Noodle program. Drama also often includes movement. But AEA plans to hire teachers of the arts first before a new gym teacher.

For the comprehensive educational plan, there are three goals for next year: An English language arts, a math and a social/emotional goal. For ELA, students will have to move through a certain number of reading levels in a year. The math goal is to feed math into the rest of the day, so students learn more about writing and comprehending math. The social/emotional goal is following the Sanford Harmony system.

Ultimately Mrs. Leto is hoping to hire a guidance counselor, especially to help the eventual fifth-grade class jump to the middle school level. The speech pathologist will be at the school five days a week next year. Occupational therapy is three days a week now but next year is uncertain. Physical therapist wasn't discussed.

Budget appeals are still under way for the school's DOE budget. Second and third grade will have ICT classes; younger grades will depend on enrollment.

### **FAQ for new parents -- Ashley Salazar, Elaine Lee-Wong and Simone Dornbach**

Question about how to volunteer: Stay up to date on the website, and through Facebook, and more info will go out at the beginning of the year. Vanessa Castro runs the recess program, and she spoke about how she makes the best of the small space we have for recess. She organizes parents who are available to come in during the day to help. Lunch periods are 50 minutes for both eating and play; parents have been able to speed up lunch to raise the amount of recess time available to 20 minutes this year. Parents have jump ropes, toss games, etc. We need parents there to use the equipment, so we'd love to continue next year and add parent volunteers. There will be a signup sheet that goes out through the Signup Genius at the beginning of the year. You will have to register in advance so school safety will know who's in the building. Construction will continue next year in the old building, so the yard space will still be restricted. What the yard footprint will be next year is unknown. When construction is over, there will be an early education playground behind what is the kitchen now. There are no plans for a playground for the upper grades, but that could be re-evaluated in the future.

Will there be a chance to come in to the school before it opens or the first day? No. Setting up the classrooms will be coming down to the wire. Meet the Teacher night will be Sept. 12, and that will be the first opportunity for parents to come into the classroom.

### **General Q&A**

Wingspan Arts afterschool: Will they be opening up more sections because it filled up so fast for kindergarten? Parents should call the main office -- they are typically responsive. Some parents said they have been accommodative in the past.

### **Adjournment**