



**PTA General Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 13, 2020**

**Call to order at 7pm**

The Executive Board and 23 parents in attendance.

**Motion to approve the minutes from the January 2020 meeting - Sheryl Hirshon**

- Motion passed without objection.

**Co-President's Report - Elaine Lee-Wong/Simone Dornbach**

- Stomping Ground deliveries are complete. 72% of families bought photographs. PTA earned \$1,409.93. SG is planning to phase out sibling day next year and instead do family day. AEA/PTA probably can not logistically do this in the future, so next year may be the last year for sibling day photos. Picture day will tentatively be in Oct/retake early Nov.
- Chipotle restaurant fundraiser earned \$302.99.
- Popcorn fundraiser - orders are being submitted. Rough estimate is \$3,600 earned - WOW! Many thanks to Rebekah Cabonargi. Delivery will be in March.
- Panera restaurant fundraiser happened 2 days ago. Amount raised TBD.
- Shake Shack restaurant fundraiser - awaiting a date.
- Miss Chocolate fundraiser has begun. Sale ends 3/9. No cash, please. Deliveries by 1st week of April before Passover/Easter.
- March 5th Parent Teacher Conference bake sale. It will take place in the cafeteria. A parent suggested moving it to the lobby for a better turnout.
- President's Council - attended by Simone. There is a new family outreach department, the FACE Queens and Staten Island Borough Empowerment Team. Not sure of the details, but appears to be a level above the family coordinator and a liaison between families and DOE. Stressed the importance of completing the census since it determines the funding for schools. Heard a presentation by NY Appleseed organization on the diversity issue. The PTA is neutral and will not ask Appleseed to present at AEA unless parents feel otherwise.
- CEC meeting took place last week in Rochdale. Update on the Diversity process - no public workshops until May, process pushed into the next school

- year, WXY wants to speak to all elementary schools in the District.
- Presentations by School Construction Authority (SCA) about current and future construction plans and by Director of Special Education about the Special Ed process.
  - Simone will try to get through to someone SCA recommended to get A/Cs repaired in the old building.
  - Meeting with Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz attended by Simone. Participatory budgeting money will go to other local elementary schools for water fountains and bathroom upgrades, not to AEA for A/Cs.

### **Treasurer's Report - Edward Suh**

- January 2020
  - Opening balance: \$50,025.76
  - Income: \$3,050.24 (deposits on his report are correct, but the formula calculations are not) - most are from corporate matching donations (thanks to your generous employers!), popcorn fundraiser, Boon fundraiser and PTA meeting raffles.
  - Expenses: \$93.44
  - Ending balance: \$52,889.12

Checks written today to Ms. Stewart \$10,400 and Popcorn \$3,831.

\*Corrected January report will be handed out at March meeting\*

### **SLT Updates - Michele Molfetta**

- 303 budget is available online, but is not easy to understand.
- Ms. Stewart has switched to the 2 other K classes.
- Due to the request for art with the 4th grade, Mr. DeJesus agreed to do an Artist in Focus program with them and has started already.
- Pre-K/K change in admission priority - we still want the sunset clause we previously asked for at the Panel for Education Policy. Michele made a contact at the DOE (Stephanie) who said she would try to get the sunset clause on the agenda.
- There was possibly incorrect info regarding preK admission priorities given at the AEA open house.
- Wingspan (not SLT-related): WS had to shut down its preK program as of 2/14 due to a permit dispute with DOH. A DOH inspector came to AEA earlier today, saw preK kids on site and shut down the preK program a day earlier than planned. This is between WS and DOH, not the school administration. A parent suggested that Snapology has proper permits, already works at other schools and could possibly come to AEA. Jainnie has info re: parent who has an early childhood center who

could provide care, but there is the issue of transportation. Jainnie will be sending a letter home soon.

## **New Business**

- We need to form a Bylaws Committee. Nominated - Michele Molfetta, Ilyse Sisolak and Marsida Guzia.
- We need to form a Nomination Committee. Nominated - Marina Zakry, Lacy Joy and Rohit Misra
- Planners will be ordered again (before May in order to get a discount and free page marker rulers). 152 planners will cost \$470. Motion to approve up to \$500 for planners approved with no objection.
- Teacher appreciation week is coming up. There will be a cart for teachers to shop from, a gift of a lanyard or a golf umbrella, fixing up the teacher lounge (instead of sprucing up the bathrooms, since most are brand new), teachers need a full-sized fridge (possible gift for future year?). PTA can subsidize the gift cards for the cart and the gifts for the teachers. Umbrellas cost \$11 each, lanyards \$1.50 each. Survey of those in attendance approved the umbrellas. Question about the staff - the cart is for teachers and staff, gift cards and gift for teachers only. PTA to consider in the future expanding the gift to staff as well.

## **Announcements**

1. Next PTA meeting 3/12/20
2. Raffle winner - Ying Lai won both Boon bags.
3. Recess - Rebekah Cabonargi donated a few Connect 4 games to replace the broken one. Since the Kindergarten kids love drawing, there is a request for crayons/paper donations. Other games are also requested. Motion to approve up to \$250 for recess supplies approved with no objection. Suggestions to set up a sign-up genius or Amazon wish-list for additional donation items.
4. Shing Ho Cheng suggested forming a middle school committee to draw on middle school knowledge from other parents who have been through it.
5. Parent question about the anticipated 5th grade curriculum. This is not a PTA issue. The question should be put to the administration, but you can submit questions for SLT to ask/discuss. Many great 5th grade teachers have been interviewed already.
6. Media team: Richard Dornbach spoke and is looking for volunteers to do photography and video at the school productions. He is also looking for editing talent. He needs volunteers for 8 shows this year (1st grade show, 2nd grade show, 3rd grade show, Casa Drumming, Dance Troupe, NY Pops, PreK graduation, K graduation). He is looking for 3 camera people per show if possible, some editing help and some decent equipment to borrow (1080p to 4K). Volunteers can show up

for rehearsals to plan. There was a suggestion to get the current 4th graders involved since they are learning to produce their own movie.

7. Ying Lai spoke about the Archery Night Out from last year and proposed doing it again this year as a fundraiser. The facility has an opening on Saturday 3/28. Motion to hold an archery fundraiser approved with no objection. Lacy Joy agreed to co-chair the fundraiser with Ying.

**Adjournment time at 8:30pm.**