



PTA General Virtual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 8, 2020

Call to order at 7:07pm

4 Executive Board Members and about 58 in attendance.

Meeting held virtually via the Zoom platform.

- Welcome to Parents and Teachers. Happy birthday to Sheryl. Reviewed rules for virtual meetings and elections.

Motion to approve the minutes from the September 2020 meeting - Sheryl Hirshon

- Motion carried by show of digital & live hands

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

- Membership Dues/Annual Appeal: A parent spoke about the Annual Appeal, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year. PTA is requesting \$303 donation per family. Catchy motto is "303 for 303." Why do we ask for money? We have always been a smaller school, even with the expansion. Small means more individual attention, but less money from the DOE budget due to our numbers. The generosity of parents provides for items not in the budget. For example, the Annual Appeal pays for the Go Math curriculum, which is preferred by our school administration and not covered by the DOE budget and costs around \$14,000. Also it pays for the Raz Kids online reading program. The Annual Appeal is more important during these uncertain times because we cannot anticipate which financial needs may arise as the year goes on. The contribution is for everyone's child(ren).
- Fundraisers for this year: We might not be able to do our annual harvest bake sale, but we still want to do virtual fundraisers – like the Read-a-thon, Spoon Read (new), Boon Supply, Miss Chocolate, Double Good Popcorn, Usborne Book Fair, Scholastic Books, Stomping Ground photo - Foreseeing COVID-19 flare ups and school closures, the PTA

arranged picture day for spring 2021. It is not clear if and how picture day may happen in person. Perhaps an outdoor one in the spring? Possible photoshopped class picture collage?

- Ms. Weissbach's (retired AEA Pre-K teacher) [Mask Chain Fundraiser](#) - Motion to approve the fundraiser that was mentioned throughout the year. Motion carries by a show of hands.
- Virtual Public Meetings (CEC/PC/Queens Borough Hall PAB)
 - Everything is on hold – grading and admissions policy, state and G&T tests, diversity plan, 3-K expansion, etc.
 - The priority is to open up schools safely.
 - Middle school sign up links provided.
 - Opt-in to blended learning is at the end of Oct 26-30, but with a word of caution since it was not communicated officially by DOE.
 - [Presentation](#)

Treasurer's Report - Elaine Lee-Wong

- Summer 2020 Financial Report
 - Forgot to include for Summer 2020: EXPENSE of \$106.96 (Drama Supplies)
 - Corrected Ending Balance for Summer 2020: \$52,387.34
- September 2020 Financial Report
 - Opening balance: \$52,387.34
 - Income: \$614.43 (corporate donations, box tops)
 - Expenses: \$16,223.24 (Go Math, PTA Insurance, Planners, previous PTA reimbursements)
 - Ending balance: \$36,778.53

School Leadership Team Report - Stacey Shick Samuels

- SLT had meetings on 9/25 and 10/7. They are normally on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
- 9/25 meeting: Remote learning protocols and expectations were discussed. This was contained in the letter sent to families. We are not new to remote learning like we were in March. Parents should not be interfering, asking questions or being disruptive.

There are privacy concerns about parents joining the classes. There were also discussions about the curriculum: Ms. Ahamad will be implementing a technology curriculum. The needs and computer literacy of Grades K-2 and 3-5 are being assessed.

- 10/7 meeting: The feedback on remote learning has been positive. There are challenges of doing baseline assessments of Math and ELA. This is especially hard for younger kids with parents helping.
- Official communication goes through the AEA email and website.
- Heard from Racial Equality committee (who will present separately).
- Middle school update from Maria Scoloveno: since there were no state tests last year, there is uncertainty now. Our active administration will help our 5th grade families navigate the middle school application process.

Old Business

- Raz Kids was previously approved, but we need an extra 1st grade class. Motion to increase the price for an amount not to exceed \$1,500 – motion carries.
- Motion to give Jainnie a going away present of a \$100 GC – motion carries. After the vote, a parent expressed concern about giving a gift for someone who resigned rather than retired.
- PPE Committee Update: two kindergarten parents are looking into different forms of PPE. They spoke to the administration. There is no need to research masks/air purifiers, instead they are looking into plexiglass dividers and getting quotes. They need to plan for every student. There will be a proposal for the next PTA meeting.
- Racial Equity Committee update: the Racial Equity Committee met with SLT. There will be a meeting on 10/21 that is open to all parents. The summer survey is done, but contributions are still welcome. Please email 303racialequity@gmail.com.

New Business

- ELECTIONS - run by Election Chair Marina Zakry
 - PTA Board (President, Treasurer and Secretary) candidates introduced themselves. Motion made, election was uncontested.

- Elaine Lee Wong and Simone Dornbach – elected as Co-Presidents
- Rohit Misra– elected as Treasurer
- Onome Atie-Egone and Shirley Chun – elected as Co-Secretaries
- SLT (one parent seat available) - 4 candidates introduced themselves. Vote taken by poll. Results:
 - Vartges Saroyan (13 votes) 24%
 - Sheryl Hirshon (20 votes) 37% - elected to SLT
 - Paula Goldfarb (19 votes) 35%
 - Walter Birkhold (6 votes) 11%

Announcements

- Racial Equity Committee Meeting - Wednesday, October 21st at 6:30pm
- SLT Meeting - Wednesday, November 4th
- CEC Meeting - Thursday, November 5th at 6:30pm
- PTA Meeting - Thursday, November 12th at 7pm
- Coffee talk with the PTA?
- Make sure to social distance at drop off and pick up. Don't block the gates and wear your MASKS!
- Ms. Garger thanked the AEA community for fully-funding the Donors Choose projects for Ms. Garger, Ms. Vasilakis and Mr. DeJesus.

Adjournment time at 8:17pm.