



PTA General Virtual Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 9, 2022

Meeting notes PTA 6-9-22

Introduction and Approval of Minutes

- Stacey welcomes everyone and began the meeting at 7:02 pm. Stacey introduces herself and welcomes new Pre-K/K families.
- This is a business meeting and we keep these meetings to one hour.
- For the voting portion, new members not eligible to vote
- Stacey is wrapping up her term, introduces Michele, Irina, and Vincent. Louise could not be with us today and traveling. Paula will be taking notes for this meeting in her place.
- Rebekah moves to approve minutes. Ilyse seconds it. All those who approve provided a physical or virtual thumbs up. All those opposed were asked to provide a thumbs down or signal an abstention. No one was opposed or abstained. Minutes were approved.

Financial Report

- Vincent reviewed the financials.
- Not too much new in terms of income. Just a reminder about Amazon smile and \$267 was made from this effort. There are a number of events that happened and other needs such as planners for next year, field trips, products for nurse, lunch time items for the recess area for next year, teacher appreciation week (\$5000 spent). This resulted with an ending balance of about \$100,840.15
- Vincent shared proposed PTA budget. It shows about \$90,000 for next year's starting balance due to some additional expenses. Numbers are close to this year. We are looking to raise about \$55,000. Only item that was added was the new communication system. Yearly cost of \$4500 and that is a new line item. Anticipated expenses in total are about \$69,700. New expenses include babysitting for PTA meetings in person, insurance and items like Go Math, Student Planners, Raz Kids with more accounts needed with the increase in enrollment, added \$10,000 for other enrichment programs, 5th grade class graduating trip, and funds for the Racial Equity Committee. We plan to spend a bit more than we typically collect but due to cash reserves, we can cover the expenses this year. We were conservative this year with our expenses.
- Stacey asked if anyone had questions. Stacey emphasized this is a guideline document.

- Question from Santha: What is the babysitting expense? Stacey explained that we paid for a babysitter during meetings. Second question was how is technology supplies used? Could this assist with new smartboards? Smartboards are typically a DOE expense. We typically supply additional supplies (e.g. Robots, more iPads)
- Stacey asked if there were any other questions on budget. No further questions. One of the reasons we put Tech in the budget is so that it goes toward drama for next year. Call for a motion to approve budget. Vargas makes a motion and Rebekah seconds the motion. No votes in the negative and no abstentions. The budget is approved.

Vice President's Report

- Michele gives VP report. The school uses an additional program called Go Math. Students do well with this program and test scores reflect that. So, Michelle shares that we plan to renew the contract. Amount is \$13,459.25. There is an additional 3rd grade class and there is an extra kit needed for one of the grades. Michele calls for a motion to renew Go Math textbooks for cost plus shipping if needed. Question from Elaine: Can we cushion for shipping just in case? Jennifer Feldman makes a motion to approve the cost including any additional shipping and handling as needed. Laura seconds the motion. There are no votes in the negative or abstentions. The motion is approved. This is the last item to vote on this year. All grades use "Go Math" except Pre K.

President's Report

- Stacey mentions that she arranged to have Kona ice truck on Wednesday, June 15th. We will provide ices for all students plus anyone who works at school. PTA requests 8 parent volunteers from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm and it will be outdoor volunteer opportunity. Susanna and Louise will head this up on site that day.
- Read A thon wrapped up. We raised \$9,468. Every student should have brought home a goodie bag and gift cards from Kew and Willow were provided to the winners. Kiki and Lacy did a ton of work and it was a great fundraiser.
- Spiritwear – Many thanks to Latrice for all of her work in putting this together. For teacher and staff appreciation week, we gave them sweatshirts and Latrice arranged for this options for parents and students to purchase. We set those prices barely over cost so we could make sure everyone could have one at as low of a cost as possible. We made just over \$500 on this fundraiser. We needed to have a quick deadline due to timing. Over 400 items ordered and a big success! Even teachers wanted additional t-shirts, long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts!
- Last item for discussion. After the shooting in Uvalde, TX, safety and security have been on the minds of Mrs. Leto and Mrs. Gallo. Mrs. Leto shared that they feel confident in the protocols in place. Some students might have concerns and she has been checking in with older children as it comes up. Stacey heard that there might be interest from others regarding gates and security systems. We can bring up concerns and reminders. There are larger concerns like buzzer systems, etc. School safety is run through the DOE and NYPD. Stacey will bring these concerns to the administration.

SLT Report

- Paula provided the SLT report for this month.
- She shared that on behalf of our current/continuing SLT members which Geraldine and Vartgas, we would like to thank Sheryl and Elaine for their years of service on the SLT. We would also like to thank PTA President, Stacey, who also attended these meetings every month in her role as PTA President. We wanted to welcome Melissa and Rohit to the SLT!
- We have met our goals for the Comprehensive Education Plan from this past academic year. Paula shared a quick snapshot of some of those successes:
 - At the start of the year, 33% of kindergarteners were below reading level and now we are at only 4%.
 - 92% of students are meeting the benchmarking on Go Math Assessments
 - Racial Equity Committee has increased membership and activities this year
- School is preparing for gains needed for next academic year as we all continue to recover from the impact of the last several years in planning our Comprehensive Education Plan goals for next year. We are still fine tuning the goals for next year.
- The school is continuing to use the Dessa Assessment and will be conducting a post-assessment on students this year. The school is hoping to see an increase in aggregate results at the end of the year by 10%.
- We are still waiting on final numbers for the budget which will determine number of classes, number of specialty areas, etc. School is planning for what they proposed but they do not have final numbers.
- Many celebrations and events in person at the school this month. These events include: Dance Troupe that literally started when those 5th graders were in 2nd grade, 5th Grade Harlem Renaissance, Pre-K/K graduations/moving up ceremonies, 4th grade production of Annie is coming up next week, 5th grade Prom, 5th grade Awards. Paula shared that there are many wonderful in person activities and the school is hoping for even more next year.
- With that, Paula wished everyone a great summer from the SLT.

Racial Equity Committee

- Simone welcome to new parents. She shared that June 13 there will be a concert from the Louis Armstrong House for all students

- Simone shared background on the committee is and how it started. It was started by parents who were interested in enriching educational experience through diversity of voices
- The committee holds monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. These meetings will likely remain virtual.
- The committee has done a few cultural events that were virtual. They just held their first in person event for the families of the racial equity committee members at the New Museum. They are thinking about continuing to do family trips on the weekend.
- This is a start and the committee is looking at other Museums like the Jewish Museum. Simone dropped the link in chat with flyers for events and more info on the Racial Equity Committee.

Concluding Comments

- Stacey mentioned 1st day School Supplies and all of the boxes are at \$100 or less. They were trying to keep costs down as much as possible and the PTA gets a small % on each box. Stacey shared that if you don't like school supply shopping, it is an easy way to get supplies since they ship to the school. This is not mandatory. Laura asks question on 1st day school supplies and how it works. A box with your child's name on it comes to the class and then some supplies are pooled. Sometimes there is a labeling party on the 1st day by teachers or students.
- Stacey shared her concluding thoughts on her role as President. Her mission was to get more people involved. Stacey shared many thanks to the board members and also provided recap for all of the events along with thanking the families who helped with these events (e.g. Harvest Parade and 2nd Harvest Parade, Aigner Chocolate fundraiser, Photo Day, Kew and Willow Book Fundraiser, Vaccine Bonus, Spiritwear sale, DoubleGood Popcorn fundraiser (\$4000), Kew and Willow Fundraiser). Stacey also thanked Jenny for her work on the PTA Instagram page.
- Michele speaks about parent involvement and also shared her many thanks. She wanted new parents to get involved in the school. Michele also thanked the Executive Board who worked as a team and the parent community. Finally, Michelle expressed a deep appreciation to Stacey for all of the work that she did to make this year run smoothly and for making the meetings run smoothly. So much happens behind the scenes to make PTA possible and a big round of applause was given to Stacey.
- Stacey offered to stay online if new families to the school had any questions at the conclusion of the meeting. No new families had any questions.
- Meeting concluded at 8:03 pm.