



General Membership Virtual Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order and Introductions at 7:05pm - Stacey Shick Samuels
 Quorum

- **Approval of Minutes from September General Meeting, 2025**
 There is a motion to approve minutes, and a second.
 Minutes approved at 7:08pm
- **Approval of Minutes from September 25th Special SLT Election Meeting, 2025**
 There is a motion to approve minutes, and a second.
 Minutes are approved at 7:10pm

- **Treasurer's Report** - Jin Qiu

- [2025 Financial Report](#)

	PTA	Afterschool	Total
Opening	\$ 27,046.10	\$ 161,891.29	\$ 188,937.39
Income:	\$ 4,106.60	\$ 68,373.76	\$ 72,480.36
Expenses:	\$ (1,089.00)	\$ (3,262.07)	\$ (4,351.07)
Ending	\$ 30,063.70	\$ 227,002.98	\$ 257,066.68

- **Principal/Parent Coordinator Report** - Ms. Wong
 - Welcome message and introduction to new members.
 - Announcement that Ms. Irene Bougatsos, Parent Coordinator is leaving AEA. Tomorrow will be her last day. Until her position has been filled, please reach out to your classroom teachers for any matters concerning the class, and reach out to Ms. Donna for any general school inquiries.
 - Class Parents - we still need volunteers for 3 classes. Notifications have been sent to those classes. Once all classes are filled, the official list will be sent out.
 - 4th Grade production this year will be Annie! A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for parents to discuss the production and auditions.
 - 5th Grade Harlem Renaissance, has been scheduled. 5th grade parents: stay tuned for a zoom invite to a virtual production meeting with school staff.
 - Middle School Open Houses have begun for 5th grade families. Everyone is encouraged to attend open houses for any middle schools they are curious to learn about.
 - If you attend an open house, the middle school will give you a yellow paper to bring back to AEA to turn in stating you attended. If you turn in a yellow paper, it is an excused absence.
 - Halloween - We hope that you are getting your costumes ready! Everyone is encouraged to dress up!
 - Trunk or Treat - the students will be participating in trunk-or-treat in the school parking lot. Please donate candy/trinkets if you are able so that there is enough for everyone in the

school to have a full bag of treats!

- Be on the lookout for permission slips to be sent through Operoo that caretakers need to sign in order for their children to participate in both the Halloween Parade, and Trunk-Or-Treat.

- **Old Business:**

- Shake Shack Fundraiser - the first time we did this and it was a success! It was nice to not only get some money back from this event, but to see so many families gathering and eating together, one of the main reasons we do events like this!
 - We raised \$897.25 through this fundraiser. Thanks to all who participated!
- School Picture Day (Ms. Wong)
 - School pictures will be October 21 & 22nd. We use Stomping Ground to take our pictures.
 - 5th grade will go last to accommodate the middle school open house schedule.
 - Emails are being sent with your group and day.
 - Background color is Royal Blue
 - Stomping Ground is also a fundraiser! The more people who purchase, the more chances we have to make money back.
 - If you signed up to volunteer, emails will be sent to you if you are chosen.
 - (question asked about timing of pictures) - Pictures are taken throughout the entire day. Classes are scheduled at different times.
 - Make-up day will be in December. More announcements to come on that.
- Harvest Fest Bake Sale Fundraiser (Heather Hernandez)
 - We are always looking for more people to sign up to donate baked goods, treats, waters, etc. Please see the sign-up sheet that has been circulating to let us know what you will bring.
 - If you need to drop off items before the date, reach out to one of the PTA Board members to arrange.
 - You may volunteer to work a table, and leave to join the parade if you like. We will have enough coverage at the tables.

- **New Business** - Stacey Shick Samuels

- Global Classroom (presented by Mr. Koines)
 - We have used Global Classroom for the past two years, and it is a great program that supplements the social studies curriculum. A different global guide that teaches about a different country each week. About 10 global guides that come in and teach about cultural customs, traditions, a typical day in the life, and ends with some sort of craft/game/activity. We believe it's worth every penny - but this year we have an extra class, so there is a slight increase in the cost. They are giving us a discount but it is still more than in previous years.
 - Original budget was \$4K payment, and this is an increase of \$1500 to \$5,500.
 - Vote via poll to approve extra spending for Global Classroom
 - Motion is made to approve extra \$1500 spend for Global Classroom.
 - Motion is second.
 - Vote conducted via poll.
 - 96% is in favor, 4% abstained
 - Motion passes.
- Cool Culture (presented by Michelle Gandhi)
 - A non-profit program that is founded by NEA (National Endowment for the Arts), the NYC Council of the Arts, and NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs. Being a part of this provides free, unlimited general admission for up to 5 people per family, giving access to approx. 90 different cultural institutions across the 5 boroughs including museums (Intrepid, Whitney,

Guggenheim, Flushing Town Hall), zoos, seminars, etc.

- We qualify for this program because of our racial diversity in the school.
- This is only for AEA students and their families. It cannot be transferred to friends outside of our school.
- The request is to approve \$4,000 to join this program and allow our students and families to register and take advantage of this program.
- Passes are good through next October, 2026.
- Motion is made to approve \$4,000 for Cool Culture program
- Motion is second.
- Vote conducted via poll.
- Motion passes - 96% in favor
- Champion's Martial Arts "Parents Night Out" AEA Fundraiser (presented by Birsen Memet)
 - Champion's Martial Arts would like to host a "Parents Night Out." Friday Nov. 7th from 6:30-9pm. Cost is \$20 per child and there are only 40 spots available, but **all proceeds** go directly to the PTA of AEA! We have the potential to make \$800 from this fundraiser.
 - Flyer will be sent out following this meeting. There will be activities for kids, and the parents can have a few hours to themselves!
- Lost and Found (Heather Hernandez)
 - Lost & Found is posted on our FB page, and we will be asking our Class Parents to also help distribute the link to classes. Please regularly check our L&F postings. Sometimes we don't know we're missing something!
 - Lost & Found items are in a box outside of the front office. The PTA regularly cleans this out and takes them to the PTA office. If you don't see an item in the box that was posted, reach out to the PTA as we may have moved it.
- Clothing Donations for Nurse Mila
 - Nurse Mila is asking for clothing of all sizes **in decent condition** to be donated in case a student has an accident during the day and doesn't have a change of clothing with them.
- AEA Event Polls (Marc Hanon)
 - Please be on the lookout for a poll to be sent out to help us plan the following AEA community activities: Ice Skating, Mets, NY Islanders. We want your input on preferred dates to host these events. Keep a lookout in your emails for the poll to come out!
- Other Upcoming Fundraiser Mentions:
 - AEA Chipotle Night - November 16th
 - AEA Spiritwear Store
 - Stay tuned! More details on both forthcoming
 - [Minted.com](https://www.minted.com) - we have a coupon code with this site! Use our coupon code **FUNDRAISEPS303** and AEA gets 10% back, and YOU save 20%!
- Annual Appeal
 - Our yearly direct ask for money. If you're tired of fundraising and just want to donate to the PTA - this is for you!
 - Our Annual Appeal goal is \$22k. Tax deductible! Corporate Match available!
 - A formal letter will be sent with more details. You can give through GIVEBUTTER or via Check. No cash please.
- **SLT Report** (Catherine Dauphin)
 - Discussed CEP goals for the 2025-26 school years. There are 5 goals in place. If you are curious about these, reach out to SLT members.
 - Two highlights from the meeting:
 - 1) Utilizing the HMH Growth Measures to help the school measure students against their improved reading skills.

- 2) Soon be implementing “Turbobo” - a stuffed animal that every classroom will be getting to help aid mental awareness - One of the school goals centered around social/emotional awareness.
 - Discussed roles and responsibilities of members - for the new SLT members.
 - Future - SLT will be discussing plans for the following year and how we can improve, and what metrics we want to start looking at for next year.
 - Discussed the potential to expand the Global Classroom program to other grades. There are still more details to be flushed out so TBD on that.
 - Discussion about the Ready Set Future portfolio (typically done with only 5th graders) to potentially also be expanded to other grades.
- **After School Report** (Given by Michelle Gandhi)
 - We have a new on-site coordinator. Susan is working with Muhammed.
 - We are currently paying sept vendors. Reminder our ASP charges the month prior on the 15th.
 - Getting off to a great start this year.
- **ABC (Antiracism and Belonging Committee)** - (Given by Sonia)
 - The book has been selected for the ABC Book Club: *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*, by Cathy Park Hong. All are welcome to join. Reach out to the ABC if interested.
 - Book club meets virtually once a month and 1-2 chapters are discussed.
 - A great way to build community and interact with other AEA parents and community members!
- **Resources and Reminders** (Stacey)
 - Reminders of the PTA social channels and email addresses. Resources can be found on the 2nd page of the meeting agenda.
- **Closing Remarks** (Stacey)
 - The November meeting will be IN-PERSON! November 13th.
 - More info to come - See you there!
 - Quick recap of the Halloween Day/Parade/Bake Sale/Trunk-or-Treat. Bring cash for the bake sale!
 - Mrs. Leto dedication of the theatre was previously discussed to happen on Halloween. This has been postponed to a later date.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm