



**Minutes: General Membership In-Person Meeting
February 12, 2026 - 7:00 PM**

Agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18Cku0Ciks7jgU3BAesrainXJ046McuJQGPo8O8uKImY/edit?usp=sharing>

Call to order: 7:11pm, Stacey Shick Samuels
31 participants at time of Call To Order

Approval of minutes - defer the approval of minutes to the next meeting. We were out of practice with in-person meetings! Did not have the minutes printed in order for people to view and approve.

There is a motion to deferral minutes approval to the March meeting.

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Motion is approved to defer minutes approval to the March meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jin Qiu

As of end of January:

	PTA	Afterschool	Total
Opening	\$ 28,102.78	\$ 156,726.04	\$ 184,828.82
Income:	\$ 4,319.95	\$ 113,457.30	\$ 117,777.25
Expenses:	\$ (877.50)	\$ (42,081.42)	\$ (42,958.92)
Ending	\$ 31,545.23	\$ 228,101.92	\$ 259,647.15

Principal's Report: Ms. Sferrazza, Principal

- Last week our school hosted two big eventful days:
 - The District Principals' Conference with ~65 principals and district members
 - The Chancellor's visit. The Chancellor is doing a tour of all the districts and he picked our school out of the D28 schools. - SLT and PTA members were present, and students were chosen for the welcome committee, as well as a panel of 5th graders that were able to ask questions to the Chancellor. Students gave a small preview performance of the upcoming Harlem Renaissance to the Chancellor. Lynn Schulman, City Council member and Forest Hills native, was also here and said the group of visitors were impressed with our school.
 - Other events happening in the past week include:
 - Shadow Box Theatre came to perform for the Pre-K classes
 - Lion Dance for the whole school in celebration of the Lunar New Year
 - Respect for All Week - Thanks to those families that sent positive messages to the school administration during a time where we put focus on treating each other with kindness.
 - A new Parent Coordinator has been chosen - she will be announced most likely mid-March, once she completes the full hiring process.
 - School Surveys! - They are due April 1st. Please encourage your AEA community members to complete them by the deadline. We are hoping most families choose to participate.

Old Business: Stacey Shick Samuels

- AEA Ice Skating night at World Ice Arena is coming up on Saturday, February 28th. Please get your tickets in advance - they will not be sold at the door! Come join us for a fun night on the ice!
- School Picture sales with Stomping Ground - we met the minimum threshold for us to get a percentage back to the PTA. However, we are just 20 orders shy of the next level threshold and the deadline has been extended one more week to February 19th!
- Annual Appeal - If you haven't given to this yet, **please** consider giving. We are still at around 55/60% of our goal. This is one fundraiser we heavily rely on to support the year over year opportunities/enrichment programs for our students. The Annual Appeal is how we are able to fund many of the things our school is able to take advantage of such as the rights to the 4th grade musical, Operoo, 5th grade capstone trip, etc.

New Business

- This month we start forming the Nominating Committee for the May Elections - for next year's PTA Board. We must have 3-5 parents, and they may not be running for an office themselves. Being a part of the Nominating Committee is a great way to get your feet wet if you're curious about getting more involved with the PTA. The job of the nominating committee is to gather the candidates for the election, and to facilitate the election itself. We have a [google form](#) to fill out if you are interested in joining the nominating committee.
 - Mandatory positions that must be filled for PTA Board: President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. We also require an After School Program Coordinator to continue the ASP.
 - Non-Mandatory positions are: Vice President
 - Any of these positions can have two people running as Co- officers, but they must run together as one ticket.
- March - we will have a local/small business focus with our fundraising with two upcoming fundraisers:
 - Leidylicious will partner with us for 2-weeks. Anyone who goes to their bakery and mentions AEA with their purchase, they will donate 10% of the pre-tax total back to our school.
 - Little Pulp Print Shop - Frank Kiernan, owner and former AEA parent has offered to do a sketch book fundraiser. He will create and personalize sketchbooks for every order. \$5 of every \$20 sketchbook order will be donated back to the PTA of AEA.

Stay tuned for more details on these fundraisers!

After School Program Report - Michelle Gandhi

- The ASP is officially in the spring semester. The 3rd newsletter went out thanks to Fernanda!
- One of our Learning Lab instructors, Raquel M, has an art studio exhibit going on at Yant Studio on Austin Street. Go check it out!

ABC Committee - Adia Tucker

- The Shadowbox Theatre came today to perform for the Pre-K classes.
- An in-school event is being planned for 5th grade to align with their studying of the Harlem Renaissance. The first week of March we will be bringing the Apollo to us, with a Journey Through Song workshop.
- More programming to come for other grades.
- Sadly the Studio Museum trip was cancelled due to snow storm. It has been rescheduled for March 15th. Reach out to the ABC if you want to join the trip!

SLT Report - Ali Civins

- The SLT met yesterday morning (2/11) The following topics were discussed:
 - The chancellor's visit - which was a huge success for our school! Our school was chosen based on the arts background and we received wonderful feedback from the group of visitors.

- Respect for All Week - thanks again to parents who provided positive messaging to our school. We are AEA and we will make sure every student is safe, respected, and valued and seen for their uniqueness.
- We brainstormed ideas for our CEP goals - We are looking at priority 3 - is that all students have a high-quality academic experience.
 - Currently looks specifically at 3rd grade, with the focus on Global Classroom. It was discussed extending the goal to grades 1-5 while maintaining the specialty arts focus that each grade has an opportunity to experience. To do this, the committee needs to create beginning and end assessments (which was done for Global Classroom). We will continue this conversation, along with other CEP goals, as an overarching plan.
 - Global Classroom - already underway for this year. It is a yearly enrichment experience that the 3rd grade uses, which also helps us achieve our CEP goals.
 - CASA - the school has had this program in the past as part of an AEA after-school program. It fell through this year due to funding, but they have agreed to do a during-the-school-day experience for the 3rd grade, which is an 8-week program, with a different focus each week. We will find out more on this as it happens.

Ms. Wong Report - Elaine Wong

- Lunch Duty! - Ms. Wong desperately needs parents to volunteer for lunch duty. If you have been looking for a way to be involved and get a glimpse of what goes on inside the school, please consider lunch duty! Ms. Wong only currently has 3 parents signed up, and is asking parents to please speak to her if there is any interest. Please help her with lunch!

Closing

Pick of the 4 raffle winners! (numbers read by 4th grade students)

The next meeting is March 12th at 7pm on Zoom.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:51pm