

PTA General Meeting
December 21, 2016, 3pm
Meeting minutes taken by Amy Chen O'Connell

Ruth Wong started the meeting. Welcome to all of the teachers – good faculty turnout. Very informal meeting with a holiday celebration vibe.

Announcement of C30 process completion. Interim Acting Principal, Sarah Pinto, has been appointed permanent Principal at PS20. The PTA community congratulated her with applause and Sarah expressed her happiness and hopes for going forward.

Principal's Report

Principal, Sarah Pinto announced our school has many activities scheduled for the month of January:

- 1/17 begins the Wellness Week. Physical and nutritional activities culminating in Friday's "Family Fitness Night."
- The following week (last week in January) is a week-long Lunar New Year celebration. Mandarin Dual Language teachers will go to the Gen Ed classrooms to share activities with a Chinese holiday theme. This week long festival will culminate in "Family Friday" on the last day. Ms. Ciders (music) and Ms. Darby (art) will be developing appropriate cultural activities associated with the Lunar New Year. Each child through the whole school will go home with a traditional red envelope containing a quote or fortune inside.

Talent Prep is piloting an afterschool program that supports Mandarin learning starting in January. All families interested in this fee based program are invited to participate.

PS20 is also collaborating with SWANN for both Mandarin Summer and pre-K Chinese enrichment programs.

Ms. Orr wrote a grant for partnering with a middle school to use arts to build character in the school building. Social/emotional character building. \$24K to support this initiative. The Middle School partner, which we've partnered with in the past, has a Mandarin program.

We are working through our "Wellness/Green Team" in applying for a \$10K to support making our building green and sustainable. Including having our roof assessed to see if it can house a rooftop atrium. The Wellness Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:45am and includes teachers, staff, students. Students are still welcome to join.

Physical education teacher, Christine Drago is our liaison to NY Cares. They have come into the school to conduct wellness and physical activities in the gym. They also send volunteers to come in to help clean and upgrade our school building. They have contributed valuable work in

upgrading our school including improving our Pre-K/K playground, library, and ridding PS20 of a dumpster filled with refuse.

Administration and faculty have been working hard to give students a voice and channel their passion and commitment. In keeping with that, PS20 has a new Student Council spearheaded by Ronnie Filippatos. She reports the kids are really eager to get started! The Student Council is made up of 25 students – representatives from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.) The first meeting is tomorrow (12/22). They will be working on distilling what their vision for PS20 that can be incorporated into the school's mission statement. To earn a spot on the SC, there is a process of writing an essay that is considered by Sarah and Ronnie. The Council is planning and executing two projects:

1. Design a new PS20 logo
2. Spirit Week

Treasurer's Report

Balances

\$19,377.80 (last month)

\$16,813.62 (current)

Expenses:

\$3,000 for PS20's tech license from Learning.com which is a technology program for all grade levels.

\$60 for child care so parent can attend school meetings.

\$600 security system for photographing/creating ID badges for PS20 families.

Revenue:

\$1200 (net profit from most recent Scholastic Book Fair)

Big picture dreams and goals for PS20 community

What are we raising PTA funds for?

Ideas:

Ruth Wong would like to see an upgrade of the auditorium (especially acoustically)

Light bulbs for Smart Boards (\$300 ea) Tony Monsanto, in addition to being PTA treasurer is also addressing technology needs. He offered his perspective that we don't need a service tech to replace them. We can do it ourselves. He proposes just getting 1 bulb for each projector and not wait for them to burn out. He advises shopping around on the internet to see if we can get them cheaper.

MULTI-Cultural festival to be held on a Friday sometime between January and May. Bring in dance groups, arts, food, -- get parents on board! Many different cultures should be reflected – like Field Day, but, through a multi-cultural lens. (Ruth reached out to teachers who are preparing for Lunar New Year week and offered to line them up with people who can assist and enhance).

RAZ Kids for whole school community, not just ELL classes. \$1200 annual fee. SP has tried to get RAZ Kids to include the whole school on our "subscription." (Status?)

Other kinds of afterschool program perspectives. Not just homework focused, but, more enrichment based such as Arts club, Science club, Performing Arts classes, Chess club. Can we partner with other schools who have these kinds of afterschool programs?

Ms. Siders (Music teacher) got a grant and was able to repair 22 clarinets. She has many instruments and she'd like to see these instruments get out among the students and get parents involved! Little Kids Rock has apps for kids to practice with music. She needs parents to get involved to help flesh out the vision for a music afterschool program. Perhaps an approachable ramp-up is to hold a weekly clubs on Fridays rather than launching full scale afterschool.

Ms. Siders is also considering re-establishing school band and chorus which we used to have at PS20. Ms. Siders has asked parents and teachers to identify 3rd and 4th grade students who are good candidates for participating.

Ms. Reyna-Torres (Third grade) suggested we try and involve Henry Street.

A parent stated the 3 fundamentals that we need are space, teachers, and equipment. He suggested that we support PS20 teachers who want to launch an afterschool perspective rather than get mired down in the bureaucracy of other programs. Keep it internal. Ms. Siders will send us what she needs as a first step.

Amy Soffer (SETTS; K-5) would like to start an afterschool Cooking Club – aligning it with the school garden. She knows there are (or were) pieces of cooking equipment like toaster ovens and blenders in the building. As a start, she will also give us a “wish list” by the end of January and a description of her vision.

Ms. Drago (Phys Ed) announced that Nike has partnered with PS20 to stage activities and events. There are upcoming basketball and conditioning events along in conjunction with their flagship store on 57th street. Looking at a sports afterschool program sponsored by Nike for next year.