

DRAFT

PTA General Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2017; 3pm

Attended: Ruth Wong, Co-President
Amy Chen, Co-Secretary
Tony Monsanto, Treasurer
Zoe Ye, Co-Secretary
Sarah Pinto, Principal

Ruth opened the meeting with a welcome.

Principal's Report

Lunar New Year week reflections. Teachers are thinking of how to make it even more inclusive next year. What worked well, what would we change? Ex: How can we work logistics to get ALL kids to performance and feast rather than just Mandarin Dual Language classes? Principal is working with Ms. Torres, school librarian, on how best to build a parallel program for DL Spanish classes. As new and growing DL Spanish is still just 2 teachers, it will require more manpower to launch a similar program -- in brainstorming mode.

Principal efforts to get funding for the following improvement projects:

Rooftop Garden.

Met with Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President, to discuss how to put in a roof top garden. Number crunching phase. Sarah has submitted paperwork for a feasibility study and breaking the total project into smaller pieces applying for several grants working with borough office and building a relationship over time rather than a one time effort.

Replacing Smart Boards

Principal has submitted for a grant to replace Smart Boards (constantly breaking – screens, lightbulbs, etc) with Promethean Boards – which affords more efficient maintenance program.

Auditorium air conditioning and Pre-K playground

Principal has also submitted capital requests for air conditioning in auditorium which is used by larger community not just PS20. Also, as requested by Gale Brewer, Principal has turned to City Council Member Margaret Chin's office to support renovating our "little playground" for PreKs. We are offering to plant a tree in ABC playground in exchange for removing the tree in little playground for safety and space efficiency.

Professional Development

Current focus for Professional Development:

1. How to norm assessments (our CEP is moving kids running records – making it consistent and accurate across all grades)
 2. How to support ESL learners
 3. How to visually support classroom environments to reinforce independent learners.
- Next Professional Development phase will be to plan for next year.

Wellness Week/Family Fitness Fun Night

Great success! Also thinking how we might improve on the success going forward. In talks with parent to stage a Healthy Fair on the same night as upcoming Teacher Parent conferences for PS20. And for next year to stage a Healthy Fair for all of District 1. We don't have final data, but, 233 families registered and all events were full. It's projected that 250 families participated. Apple recipe in classrooms was a big success – all classes created a no-bake recipe for using apples, Sunbutter, raisins, and pretzels.

Raz Kids (online reading program)

Sarah is in talks with them for making it available to whole school. The problem is that all emails had been going to previous principal and Sarah is just now getting current communications. Requires getting a direct quote from RK to her. Quotes are projected at \$3000-\$4000; 2 year subscriptions would be \$8000. In ongoing negotiations to reduce that figure.

Summer/Afterschool/PreK/School Enrichment Programs Additional Programs and Services

In talks with Talent Prep and SWAN to develop additional programs. The challenge is that it would be 2 Mandarin programs at PS20 and no Spanish programs support Spanish DL learners.

New coach: Rob who is working on indoor recess program and working with aides in playground training.

Recess enrichment: Spoke with Kids in Motion: Through our partnership with Wellness in the Schools (WITS), they provide sports and cooking enrichment. But it is not ongoing throughout the school year. They help the school get up and running and then withdraw. However, we need ongoing manpower. In looking for a replacement for fitness enrichment, Principal talked with Kids in Motion – their estimate \$36,000 for 3 days/week which is far too high for our budget. Principal plans to reach out to Asphalt Green for recess enrichment, but wants to check in with WITS before proceeding as it could pose a conflict.

Translations via DOE – submit to Sarah and CC: Tina, Tracy, and/or Carrie on requests.

Teacher Discussions

Recycling at PS20. Julie Tran and Amy Soffer: Visited PS41 and to learn more about their recycling program, Recycling Champions, and how we can model their effort here at PS20. They their recycling efforts. WITS can also send a representative who will meet with each class and teach how to sort. Also speaking with Principal and PTA about getting more/better storage and signage. Goal to have this in place in March. Also Wellness Committee was considering establishing a Green Team (3-5 students) to establish recycling in classrooms. We must have correct bins, signage (in multi languages), and custodial buy-in so that material are handled and processed successfully throughout the stages. Teachers College grad student volunteers can come for lunch (and breakfast?) periods. In the past, we had a recycling program called Cafeteria Rangers – each grade took a month and each class took a week to plan and execute responsibilities for sorting and managing process at each meal. Perhaps this is something that Green Team can take on? Re-establish Cafeteria Rangers?

Student Council. Ronnie Filippatos leads this 2 month old program. Each class in 3rd through 5th grades has 2 student reps meets once a week to discuss what needs to be done at school. Brainstorming and ownership among student body. Elected positions. Also has a student council board with officers. New sports team in pipeline?

Fund Raising. Amy Soffer suggested two fundraising efforts:

1. Indian River citrus fruits: selling boxes of citrus fruits to be delivered over the holidays (just before Thanksgiving).
2. School concert/talent showcase/fashion show using school musicians students, teachers, parents.

New afterschool club proposal. Amy Soffer discussed launching an afterschool cooking club that would meet once a week. She has planned out her weekly itinerary and content. It would focus on nutrition, healthy snacks, soups, grains, herbs, breads and muffins, pastas, culminating in a graduation cooking party for families. Max of 10 students committing to 9 weeks (April-June). We are looking for supplies and materials; assessing what we have on hand (set date when we return from mid-Winter break to go through Cook Shop and WITS boxes); determining what we will procure via donations/purchasing. Once that's determined, Amy can set a budget and PTA can secure the funds. She would welcome an assistant to help with prep and clean up. Inviting Amy Soffer and Rosemary Siders (music teacher who wants to start an afterschool school orchestra) to the next PTA Executive meeting to present and secure authorization. Then we can proceed. These two efforts could be valuable high profile projects to show (at Parent/Teacher conference night and Spring Fling) the school community the value of PTA involvement.

Treasurers Report

Last Month Bal \$12,813.62

This month \$15,004.44

Checks outstanding due to Lunar New Year, Wellness.

We have pending deposits of \$356 netted from Lunar New Year photos, \$1755.99 photos from Robert Simon school photos, \$159.70 from BoxTops (program has ceased at PS20 because it wasn't really worth the effort).

Spring Fling

Planning committee – 1 person who attended has contact with Brooklyn school that had a successful auction. Putting us in touch. Trying to generate interest and help among the PS20 community to stage this – have high profile at Parent/Teacher night on 3/9 to reach out for help on Spring Fling. Projected date is Saturday, May 20th (weekend before Memorial Day weekend). WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS! Theme?

PTA Dues

Discussion of how this is handled at other schools. Along with dues, parents could get a discount on beginning of year school supplies and coordinate with teachers on their specific needs of items and timing. One parent was offered the option of just paying \$35 in place of gathering all school supplies – found that really REALLY appealing. Wasn't aware of any pushback among other parents.

Another parent mentioned – if it's not clear what the dues are for, families won't participate. Was then asked what would be worth paying dues for? Answer: Class trips, family activities, classroom/school equipment, field trips, wants to see physical representation of community based activities.

Class Parents

If we had parent representatives from each class acting as a conduit between the classes/PTA/Admin, we'd have an easier time gauging the specifics of and communication with each classroom. We're struggling to get class parents to volunteer because majority have conflicting work schedules. Not all teachers have put it in place. Not sure why there isn't a bigger push for it and teachers aren't sure what the benefit might be. A parent felt it could bring more support in classroom for teachers by having an extra body to wrangle the kids. However, there are regulations in place that require training and clearance like Learning Leaders program. Discussed what the role of the class parent is. The history grew from Dual Language families trying to schedule playdates outside of school across language barriers. From that there came a desire for class parents to coordinate needs of each class. Not all teachers get a volunteer parent because they all work. Might be easier to get those volunteers if we can provide a specific role description. PTA will put together a short description. 30 classrooms. Tina is putting together a list of how many and which classes have parent reps. Would like 2 reps per class to share the work load. Asked teachers to offer ideas on how that role would be helpful to them so we can build it into the description.