

PS58 PTA
General Meeting: 26 September 2018
Meeting Minutes

1. Co-Presidents Welcome

- Minutes from June 2018 meeting approved

2. Principals' Update

- Joan B. has worked with staff to develop relevant monthly FAQs – extracts from handbook
- Curriculum updates – teachers have been working to develop social studies curriculum connected to state and city standards, Grades 1-2 will be piloting with new materials this year
- Student life update – new requirement for graduation around service learnings, all 5th graders will be involved in service learning project by class
- Facilities update – boiler replacement project is our current priority, work has begun with a temporary boiler placed in school yard and construction in the basement, project expected to last about one year, objective is to replace oil heat with gas heat which is more efficient and friendly to environment. Mechanisms to accommodate – rotating utilization of small schoolyard, pushed up dismissal of younger students to 3:05pm for their safety. Will be updating all thermostats in classrooms – only work outside the basement that students will see. Suggestion to close-off Carroll Street to create larger space for recess. Requested temporary boiler to be placed on the street, but DoT did not grant permission.
- Be on the look-out about the 5th Grade story about the boiler
- D15 updates – Middle School process has changed for the district, now a lottery based application with family priorities for schools, no longer based on grades and attendance, 52% set-aside for certain students (free lunch, English language learners) to promote diversity. Information sessions recently co

3. SLT Report

- Set dates for meetings, once per month, Mon prior to PTA meeting
- Discussed changes to D15 Middle School process
- Efforts underway to partner with PS 261 and 29 on parent workshops
- Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP), which sets goals for school-year around 5 pillars, re-visited for new school year
- Discussed current committees: diversity, DLP liaison, green team, wellness. Wellness being transformed into a council with support from grant, contact Joan B. for more information

4. Parent Coordinator

- Sends eBlasts every Mon, Wed and Fri. Encourages parents signing-up for eBlasts for the first time to ensure they indicate their kids' grades – since grand-specific announcements are sometimes sent
- Scholastic Book Fair coming up soon, Oct 15-19. Event organizer (Jenn Divina) is aging-out next year and looking for someone to join this year and take over the event next year. Please contact

Jenn via Konstella with any suggestions. Sold ~\$22k worth of books to raise \$5,236 for the school.

5. Financial Report

- Budgeted this year to take in about \$300k and spend a little more than that this year – taking advantage of the surplus from last year
- 2018-19 budget to be approved officially at next meeting
- One proposed change to current draft budget from Rachel Killian, Enrichment Coordinator. Request to increase ICP budget by \$9k this year, in order to extend chess to 4th grade, introduce new service learning project for 5th grade, and cover Kindergarten music (14 weeks with Amas Musical Theater – supported by \$10k grant applied for and received over the summer, filling gap created by Mr C's new role). Increase does not cover all new initiative costs, but they are off-set by surplus from last year.
- Review of ICP for each grade...
 - PreK: 1 6-week project with Materials for the Arts leading music and art with recycled materials, Outrageous Pets with live animals in each classroom, Author visit, Puppeteer storytelling
 - K: Broadway musical review (14 week, Amas Musical Theater), MAT residency, Puppeteer storytelling, Outrageous Pets
 - Grade 1: Chess (15 weeks), 6-week residency with Brooklyn Ballet, Outrageous Pets, 1-day weather workshop
 - Grade 2: NYC Ballet Tales (12 weeks), Chess (14 weeks), League of Young Inventors partnership (Brooklyn Bridge project)
 - Grade 3: MET Opera program (20 week), EarthDome, Trout program (year-long), Chess, Mano a Mano workshop (1 day)
 - Grade 4: Ballroom dance (20 lesson program) with Dancing Classrooms, Birds of Prey workshop, Lenape Wigwam workshop, Theaterworks performance, additional Native American program being considered, Chess
 - Grade 5: Ballroom dance, Mano a Mano workshop, Outrageous Pets, Gowanus Project (custom curriculum based on canal), Anne Frank Museum drama-based program (6 weeks), New service learning projects
 - Field Trips are separate from ICP. Currently the best way to manage trips is collecting funds as cash and collecting permission through trip slips. Aware of suggestions for alternatives. Effort made to request funds in round amounts. No student is ever excluded from a trip for financial reasons – contact Joan B. with any concerns about trip costs. Clarification that exact trip fees are not required – Ok to round-up, extra money will be applied to covering costs of same trip. Encouragement to contact Rachel at rkilian@ps58online.org

6. Committee Chairs

- Fundraising
 - Report of results from 2017-18 Fundraising & Programming Survey
 - Meet & Greet: New event coming up soon to gather socially, share more personally what the PTA will be doing this year, and soft launch the Direct Appeal

- Merchandise: Successful pilot last year, will build upon this year, volunteers welcome to help
- Holiday Fair: Successful pilot last year, will expand this year, volunteers welcome to help
- Spring Auction: Hold on Bell House for March 16. Will start brainstorming meetings in two months and begin planning in earnest after the holiday break.
- Operations
 - Two-pronged focus this year: 1. Creating online store for merchandise 2. Streamlining PTA operations and communicating them better, how to expand reach of PTA beyond meetings and expand participation. If you have any thoughts about pain points and opportunities, please share them to incorporate into our work. Will be starting with improvements to supply closet
- Correspondence
 - Trying to ensure that everyone is using Konstella, quick user guide available to help get parents started, currently working on companion guide for Class Parents
 - Trying this year to streamline communication from PTA
 - Encouragement to take three steps...
 1. Register
 2. Join/update child's classroom
 3. Check Konstella Feed and Calendar regularly – will be updating frequently, alleviating need to search back through e-mails
- Volunteer Coordinators
 - Class Parent list recently approved
 - Initial Class Parent breakfast in early October
- Community Events
 - Separate from Fundraising – objective is to get entire school together for fun
 - Legacy events -- Movie Night, Game Night, Costume Carnival
 - New events – Parents night out/dance, community service opportunities
 - First event coming up on Oct 26 – Costume Carnival, need many volunteers to prepare for and conduct event, volunteer sign-up will be published soon
 - Rummage sale coming up in early November
- Arts & Culture: Talent Show and International Food Festival coming up in the Spring
- Mini-Grants: Over \$30k awarded in two categories: classroom grants and grade-wide curriculum grants
- Lice Program: First lice check 10/22 with information to be sent home later this week

7. New Business

- Greenhouse: Meeting on 9/28 to begin process of raising money to construct new greenhouse, volunteers welcome
- Community Involvement: New initiative focused on PS58 involvement with community and equity across schools, looking for volunteers interested in this topic to shape this initiative
- Clean Team: Steam cleaning of all rugs has been approved and will be conducted soon, Looking for volunteers to help with ongoing efforts of team
- DLP Liaison: currently working to find funds for DLP to meet its own needs (e.g., adding new books to program), conducting book fair in Nov to raise funds for program

8. Open Mic

- Question about how to find Suggestion to create list of committees, opportunities to contribute and people to contact in order to learn more
- Follow-up e-mail to this meeting in order to share content with folks who weren't able to attend? Minutes to be posted to Konstella with announcement