



Executive Board Meeting: 05 December 2018
Meeting Minutes

- Co-President's Report (Linnea/Adam)
 - Call to Order
 - Approve Minutes

Secretary of Recording unable to make copies of minutes from last meeting. Will distribute via e-mail for review and approval after today's meeting.

- Principal Report (Katie)
n/a (Did not attend meeting)

- Treasurer's Report (Darrin)
 - Financial Report

Our financial performance is generally tracking budget. Fundraising is slightly ahead of performance at this time last year.

- Line of Credit options

Treasurer is currently investigating new business line of credit now offered by Amazon, in order for the PTA to make purchases directly in a way that both complies with our regulations (e.g., no debit or credit cards) and avoids the unnecessary payment of sales tax. He will continue to gather additional details about this new product and present at the next General Meeting a proposal for the PTA to establish such a line.

- Community Outreach (Jubi)
 - PTA support for other schools (Anik)

Inspired in part by experiences emerging in public school PTAs around the country, support that our own Kindergarten teacher Julie Criniere is already coordinating for a teacher of students with special needs at a neighboring school, and a regulation expected next year from the NYC DoE that all PTAs publish their budgets, the Community Outreach committee is currently considering ways for PS 58 to share its resources and support one or more local schools with a need for them.

The Committee is in the early stages of considering different possible models for engagement and support (e.g., service projects, PTA-to-PTA mentorship/knowledge sharing, direct cash transfers), different potential partner schools, and different ways to start and grow this activity. At this point, the Committee is looking to include the PTA Board in this conversation in order to develop these ideas further before bringing them to the larger community.

We need to review of Certificate of Incorporation dating from 1958 to discover the parameters within which we can undertake activities benefiting other schools.

It may be possible to implement a program like this going forward, but it is likely not permitted and would not in any case be prudent to do retroactively – which is to say allocate money raised for PS 58 to entities outside PS 58.

If we do undertake activities benefiting other schools, it will be critical first to communicate with parents about the PTA's expanded purpose, the broader destination of funds we raise, etc.

Teachers seem to be strongly in favor of such initiatives. They appreciate Julie Criniere's independent current initiative to support an individual teacher and seem eager to scale-up such activity.

PS 676 might be a good candidate for a partner school. PS 58 already has a relationship with the school – Katie has a connection to the their Principal, and our teachers are mentoring their teachers. Plus, the school is currently establishing a PTA.

Katie has an idea of giving programming, rather than dollars to a partner school. For example, our PTA could raise money not only for Ballet Tales at our school, but also at our sister school – making this programming possible for it also; the programming would be conducted separately at each school, but we might have a culminating event together.

The budget of each PTA will be published by the NYC DoE next year. Our PTA will appear to have a much larger budget than it does because the Afterschool Program is accounted as part of our organization. So, we should consider either changing this structure or improving our accounting disclosure to communicate our budget more accurately.

Another idea that is suggested for further exploration is donating time, instead of money – in the form of mentorship between teachers, administrators and/or PTAs. One possibility that seems appropriate for PS 58 (as one of the first and oldest DLPs in NYC) is building mentorship links with the dual-language programs which are currently expanding throughout the city.

A question is raised about whether there are already models here in NYC for such support relationships between schools. We need to reach out to other PTAs to discover the experiences that are emerging locally.

The opportunity to support other schools has been raised at PS 58 for 10+ years, but the perennial objection is that resources would be taken away from our students. To address this, a suggestion is made to start such an initiative small and allow it to become part of the fabric of our community before attempting to grow it larger. Another suggestion is made to put this idea to vote in order to confirm our community's intent before proceeding. Another suggestion is made to build specific partner relationships and create specific benefits for those partners, instead of providing general financial support. Another suggestion is to align such activities with the new student service learning initiative, in order to create benefits for our students.

The next step is to develop a range of proposals in order to bring a structured conversation to the broader community. Specifically, we need to (i) determine the parameters/boundary conditions for any activity that our PTA undertakes, (ii) identify the models/paradigms that we might follow, and (iii) identify potential partner schools.

In the meantime, we are already gaining some experience and building some momentum with small projects. We are (a) partnering with Arab-American families to buy 100 toys for the holiday season and (b) planning a day of service (e.g., gardening) in Spring.

We should also be aware of and potentially communicate the service that we already do for those in need within our own school. For example, Joan has historically made a holiday gift list and collection for less privileged families. And, we offer more than \$100k per year in Afterschool financial aid to less privileged families (e.g., students who live in shelters).

We should also communicate what we're already doing for our kids (e.g., a two-page narrative on the state of the PTA, how much we've raised, what we've done), in order to "get ahead" of next year's regulation for PTA budget transparency.

- Fundraising Report (Renee)
 - Direct Appeal update

Direct Appeal is ongoing and ~\$9k ahead of where it was at this time last year.

- 24 Days of Holidays update

24 Days of Holidays campaign is ongoing and working well.

- Holiday Fair (social media support)

Holiday Fair is taking place this Sunday at 10am-4pm, and all tables are filled. There is a need for more awareness of the event. We plan to move the banner to the front of the school and request that we all provide social media support. Suggestion is made to connect with Katya, in order to post something on the popular "Pardon Me for Asking" blog. The Fair this year will include a wrapping station and toy donation table in order to promote service.

- Holiday Book Sale (volunteer shifts : Dec 12-14)

The Holiday Book Sale will take place on Dec 12-14 at 8-9:30am and 3-5:30pm. This year we will accept credit cards (using a chip reader which the PTA recently purchased) and price books at \$6 for hardcover and \$3 for softcover.

- Merch update

We need to remind the community of the Dec 7 deadline to order the new merchandise with the paper order forms that were distributed recently in backpack mail. We also need to communicate more clearly what to do with those order forms.

- Mini Grants (Shelley/Negar)
 - Deadline and approvals
- Afterschool Report (Carolyn P)
 - Registration update

There were software issues during Winter 2019 registration (i.e., errors in creating and communicating the waitlist). A call is scheduled with our vendor (ASA) this week to request a rebate on the fees we pay for the service (e.g., ~\$15k). We are considering switching software vendors because of issues like this as well as a deterioration in customer service, which we have experienced increasingly.

- Secretary Correspondence (Barbara)
- Arts/Culture (Cathy/Michele)

The International Food Festival is scheduled for Feb 3 at 1-3pm. This year it will include some programming, including music, food preparation demonstrations, activities for the kids (e.g., bake-off) and move to the Gym. We are exploring a potential partnership with Emma's Torch and considering inviting refugee families to cook food.

- New Business
 - Sound system upgrades (Adam)

There was an initial meeting recently between a parent who is a sound engineer and Mr C about improving acoustics in the Auditorium and Cafeteria. Ideas discussed included getting better use out of existing systems. We intend to do a more detailed walk-through to measure the spaces and evaluate the existing equipment, then create a proposal with options for moving forward.

- Wellness Council (Linnea)

n/a