

PS58 PTA
General Meeting: 27 February 2019
Meeting Minutes

1. Co-President Welcome (Linnea Olson - co-president2@ps58pta.org)

Minutes from 1/23 meeting reviewed and approved by vote

- PB vote for playground week of March 30-April 7 (Jordan Kaye)

Now on the ballot for District 39 participatory budget. Other schools are also on the ballot (e.g., MS fiftyone for a gender inclusive bathroom), and the process is competitive. So, now we have to focus on winning. Voting lasts one week, and voting sites travel around the district. The key days are when voting will take place in Carroll Park and Stone Park. We will need to raise awareness in March and get the vote out. Anyone over the age of 11 is eligible to vote.

We now need a team to make a poster and undertake a marketing campaign.

Question: How many votes have been cast in the past? How many votes do we need to get out?

Answer: Not sure, but will ask about past vote tallies and provide feedback.

- Hydroponic Classroom grant (Lisa Collins)

Grant application submitted

- Cafeteria/Auditorium improvements update (Pablo Arraya)

Meeting scheduled next Wed to inspect Auditorium and develop proposal. Plan to do fundraiser at end of Auction for acoustic improvements.

- Amazon Business update (Darrin Cirillo)

Have piloted for the past month. Now ready to roll out on a large scale. Will distribute a sheet of instructions for users.

- Day of Service/Beautification May 18th (Jubi Williams)

Planning day of community service and potential school beautification for May 18. More details to follow.

2. Principal's update (Katie DelloStritto)

Lighting issue is being combined with Boiler Project, which will greatly facilitate this significant project within the same timeframe as the boiler project. Looking to replace wiring and fixtures. Hypothesis that we are receiving power surges which are causing flickering and damaging fixtures.

SCA is pushing for a closure to the school over the summer in order to complete the project, which means that we would have full use of the schoolyard in the Fall. We won't know the answer to this until later this semester.

Main work now is constructing the new boilers in the boiler room...with some inspections throughout the school.

Submitted a request to DSF (school facilities) for an Auditorium upgrade (e.g., new seating, audio visual system, flooring).

March is a busy month. Preparing for NY State testing (oi apr 2 3, math may 1 2, science jun 3. Conducting information sessions on 3/8 in am and 3/11 in pm about testing...with breakouts for families who are taking these tests for the first time vs experienced.

Panel on Fri around 9am about technology and social media, including PS fiftyeight parents and alumni.

- SLT Report (Amber Drabot)

Parent communication: Lots of ways of communicating with parents. Website for general information, Konstella and email for key information, Instagram celebratory.

Discussed bringing back Library committee for more visits during day and morning. Some interest.

BLM Week of Action. First time as whole school. Looking ofrward to doing again with greater experience next year.

Lunch clubs: Ongoing. Parents want to know more. Discussed distributing some information to parents. Idea is controversial because topics are somewhat sensitive by design, meant to be a voluntary safe space to explore topics. Decided to share what the topics are, but not who is leading them and what will be discussed. Doing this not to breach the confidentiality of students. [last point...turkey trot?]

- Parent Coordinator update (Joan Bredthauer)

Community Education Council elections: Took the place of School Boards, which oversaw decision making for NYC schools. More democratic process...parents selected by local PTA officers to 2 year term on a council. Public meetings attended by the Superintendent.

Elementary schools have their own councils by distribt, while high school, english language learners and special ed have city wide councils. Councils approve changes to zoning! PS thirtytwo has extensions that are being built which will require rezoning and could affect us. Approve colocations. And, active in diversity initiatives.

Please consider running for elections. Applications due by March fifteenth. PTA officers would have to resign to serve. Have had two former PTA Presidents served in the past, but not recently.

School Survey is coming up. Takes 10 minutes. Every single parent and teacher is eligible to complete this. It gives a sense of how parents feels about our school environment. Very, very important and doesn't take long. Our participation has been diminishing over the years. Paper survey will be received at parent teacher conferences. Please encourage families to complete this survey.

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- Vote for student non-attendace day June 24th (Dan Lupkin)

Staff has taken school based option vote which passed for non attendance day in the last Monday in June for professional development. Katie and Dan are willing to sign this. So, we're announcing at this meeting and will hold a vote at the next meeting. Time to reflect as a staff on what went well and what could be improved during the school year, which is very helpful to set

goals and make plans over the summer for the following year. Done for the past two years which has been very helpful and successful.

Question: Has any thought been given to consolidating the days off in June to make that time easier for parents to manage?

Answer: Camp will be offered through Carroll Kids to help parents provide coverage.

3. Financial Report (Mo - treasurer-offsite@ps58pta.org)

Amazon ordering system using our business account and line of credit is now up and running. Will work over the coming months to roll this out.

Meeting with an accountant to migrate PTA all work (e.g., reporting currently using GoogleDocs) to QuickBooks for greater convenience and stability.

Did something new this month by conducting a midyear check on fundraising and expenditure. The resulting projection is better than the original budget...now projected to run a \$34k deficit instead of \$44k.

4. Updates from Committee Chairs

- Fundraising (Renee - fundraising-coordinator@ps58pta.org)
 - Direct Appeal update

Reached sixty percent for participation. Already raised one hundred and seventysix k, plus expecting some additional corporate matching.

- Auction Update (Nikki Berry/Jess Weitz)

Auction team is working

- Read-a-Thon (Amanda Pisino-Galante/Brett Blair)

Scheduled for Apr 1 to 18. Planning a Spring book sale at the beginning of the event, if we can get new books...which Renee is exploring.

- Secretary Correspondence (Barbara - secretary-correspondence@ps58pta.org)

Request for interest in helping with the Nominating Committee in May. Barbara has done this the past two years, but can't this year because of a conflict of interest as a Board member.

- Afterschool Report (Carolyn Pravda - cpravda@ps58pta.org)
- Mini Grants (Shelley Stein/ Negar Treister - minigrants58@gmail.com)
- Arts and Culture (Michele Pravda/Cathy Diana – artsculture@ps58pta.org)
- Operations (Amarah Sedreddine - vp-operations2@ps58pta.org /Carly Strelzik - vp-operations@ps58pta.org)

Updating website with Auction announcements.

Considering ways to sell merchandise online.

- Community Events (Whitney Rallo/Anik Levy – vp-community@ps58pta.org)
 - Parents Night Out/Family Bingo - March 24

5. Wellness Council update (Becky Morrison)

- Wellness Month

First three weeks of April with three themes: mind, body, soul. Sustaining some successful activities from past years (e.g., nutrition workshops, pilates, yoga, lunch events, Garden to Café program will do tastings, sex ed for fifth grade). Need marketing support to communicate all of this, as well as volunteers to run the events. Request for volunteers with an interest in wellness to contribute.

- Water stations