



PS3 PTA Meeting Minutes Sept. 19, 2017 - 8:30 am

Introduction

- Co-President's welcome and introduction of new PTA Executive Board members
- Review of Sept. 19 agenda; motion to approve; motion passes
- Review of June meeting minutes; motion to approve; motion passes

Presenters

- Principal's report from Lisa
 - Recap of new arrival procedure. Two key tags distributed to each family to avoid showing ID and signing in. Extra tags cost \$2. Safety issue, as someone snuck into the building last year. Worked to find way to allow parents into the building, and grades pre-K through 1 still allowed at drop off. Parents allowed to enter building after 8:35 a.m. for committee meetings, appointments, business, etc. If you have paperwork to turn in give to NON-security staff members to hand into office. Kids have been adjusting well.
 - Class size explanation. DOE mandates class size cap: pre-k, 18, K, 25, 1-5, 32 students. Cannot turn away anyone zoned for the school until you reach caps. First-ever year with 1st graders coming in exceeding the number leaving. Tremendous fluctuation in application process due to wait lists for G&T and other schools. This is an election year, so get political on class size and other issues by reaching out to lawmakers.
 - Recap of District 2 budget struggle. Until this year, PS3 has been able to absorb class size with very little flexible money. Teachers won overdue contractual raises. City has funded average teacher salary, but PS3 average is higher due to experienced teachers who stay longer. Essentially amounts to a funding cut in real spending power. Very expensive for PTA to fund cluster teacher. If outside entity or outside agency awards grant, PTA has to pick up fringe benefits of about \$180,000.
 - Recap of diversity initiative. Only able to make offers to students who qualify for program in last couple of weeks, when most families already have selected another school. Initiative aimed at economic diversity, and we're not allowed to talk about ethnicity. Priority for kids who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Speak to Carrie or SLT about concerns. Some 70% of NYC students qualify for free or reduced lunch, which is not representative of PS3.

- Parent Coordinator Report from Carrie
 - Parent Room 408 is available for meetings, and parents may use it after 8:35 a.m. for school business, volunteer efforts.
 - Sometimes easier to volunteer for another class rather than your kids' class.
 - Effort to consolidate email communication to families.
 - Lice checks at end of next week, per DOE regulations. Carrie will call you if your child has lice.
 - Workshop series to continue: Share ideas for topics or presenters to Carrie.
- Co-Treasurers' Report from Florin
 - Recap of budget. Ensure money goes to committees, people we want to fund. Balance sheet shows PTA assets are essentially funds held in regular savings account. Smaller part of asset base used for furnishings for clay room, clay, teacher, etc.
 - Donation recap. You can donate online, but checks are preferable to avoid fees.
 - Reserve of about \$165,000. Some cash will go toward expenses throughout the year.

Business of Meeting/Discussion

- Volunteer Opportunities/Needs
 - Mark: Be realistic about how you can get involved. Call to new parents to get involved. Suggested sending volunteer forms in backpack mail. Volunteer forms collected at meeting. Kids are aware of parental involvement, which helps parents improve education for all kids.
- Fundraising
 - 3Fund recap from Lauren. Will start pushing 3Fund in a month. Give whatever you can give. PTA spending about \$800 on each child this year. Goal in budget is about \$265,000, but real goal is 100% participation.
 - Company matches. Looking into whether classes can combine funds and leverage individual parent's company match.
 - Lauren and Corinne need new parent volunteers for Fundraising Committee.
- Borough President's Grant (Nicole Barth)
 - Last year, Nicole secured funds through Council Member Corey Johnson and Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer for new toilets and new sound system. New AC units installed last year.
 - Call for political action.
- Member at Large (MAL) opportunity
 - Must be new parent. Encourage parents in your class.

Announcements

- New parent social: Cowgirl, Thursday, Sept. 28, 6-8 p.m. Encourage attendance.

- Soulcycle recap from Stefani. Easy way to raise money in short period of time. Important to integrate teacher involvement by sponsoring teachers. Look into childcare options during events.
- NYC Marathon recap from Julie. 10 bibs per year, plus free training. Support Safety Officer Isaac (\$10 per family for Isaac suggested) and parents who participate.
- **Adjournment**