

Minutes for PTA General Meeting - October 27, 2023 - 8:30 AM

Call to order, Welcome

Jimmy Schementi, PTA President

NEXT GENERAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 6:30 PM ON ZOOM

Meeting Slides:  **PTA General Meeting 2023-10-27**

Upcoming Events:

- 5k Fun Run - Saturday, October 28
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (½ day) - Thursday, November 2 - 11:40am Dismissal
- Election Day (School Closed) - Tuesday, November 7
- Graduation, Retake, & Sibling - Tuesday, November 14
- Next PTA General Meeting - Wednesday, November 29
- Equity Meeting - Thursday, November 30

Boo Bash Recap

- Exceeded our goal – raised \$25K
- Thank yous to our sponsors and food donors

Call for Volunteers on Committees

- Putting on these events takes a village
- Please consider joining a specific committee and/or volunteering to support PTA programming (e.g. events, programs, etc.)
- Sign Up For Committee:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSwe9SmxSBfTkp10S4AcYUpfoExrX0v6AMmO4N6WP1kwb5jg/viewform>

School Update

- Thank you for the contributions and help at Boo Bash – everyone had a ton of fun and it was a great community building event
- Tomorrow, 10/28, is the Fun Run – it's a fundraiser for Title 1 schools so sign up if you like to run and help give back to the community
- Diwali event coming up in a couple of weeks – will be inviting parents in to help with that
- PTC next week – they are happening remotely but you can request an in-person conversation directly with your teachers if you'd like
- Election Day is on November 7th – no school and no afterschool; there are places in the neighborhood that are offering one day camps

- Mr Buckley has been leading the Equity Team Planning – would be great to have more voices at those meetings; a lot of the cultural activities get organized through that
 - Use this volunteer form to express interest in the Equity Team:
 - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScR4RH0wVCEEx4mJCiceHySgdqNF65wkdJtEzwOhXyl7dox_AA/viewform
- 4th and 5th grade families – opportunities for students to play a role in the school are coming up and Mr Buckley will be reaching out; opportunities include visits to lower grade classrooms
- Debate Team starting – only have a limited number of slots available; requires giving up lunch and recess
- Field Trips – all grades have trips planned, K and 1 have completed trips already and other grades have them coming up or planning is in progress

Parent Coordinator Updates

- Parents have communicated they would like to bring back parent Fridays where parents can come in and visit the classroom; there are plans to do family mornings across an entire week (to be able to split the grades across days); Diwali activity will likely be the start of that
- Questions raised about opening up the school yard on the weekends – this is a DOE buildings department issue that requires permits, custodians, etc and would be a liability for the school and the PTA
 - For example, there are benefits and downsides to this, including giving up the school garden because it's not blocked off and would be accessible on the weekends if we opened up the yard
- There is interest in increasing parent workshops (e.g., tackling social media with kids or delaying cell phones until kids are older)

Programs & Enrichment Update

- Music is in full swing for all except 3rd and 4th grade (they're doing Media Arts first)
- Each grade will have a showcase at the end of each music and media art trimester
- Enrichment assemblies:
 - Can only do 3 big assemblies and have generally done the same ones the last couple of years
 - Did Calpulli Arts earlier this year for Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Would like to swap out Lunar New Year assembly to another culture that celebrates Lunar New Year
 - Would love to bring something new into the Spring
 - In general, looking to create a 6-year schedule of enrichment assemblies so that over the course of their time at the school every kid has exposure to different things
- Parent Workshop idea – delaying cell phones until 8th grade or older
- Please send ideas for parent workshop ideas to Cara Zwerling & Tanica Gordon

- For in Class Enrichments – teachers requested that we keep the ones we have for this year because they're tied to the curriculum
 - In-Class Enrichments: K -3 Chess // 4: Brooklyn Museum & NY Historical Society //5: Brooklyn Museum & Rachel Lotus

Financial Update

- Fall Carnival - \$5,056 net
 - \$8550 revenue
 - \$3494 expenses
 - Working to get \$1600 promised sponsorship
- Boo Bash - \$25,000 gross revenue estimate
- 5th grade dues - \$11K out of \$18.5K (60% of the goal!)
- Annual Fund - \$5,500 out of \$144K goal (4% of the goal)
- Our programming costs \$700 per student, per year; about half of that is covered through programs we deliver during the year; to cover the other half, we set our annual fund goal of \$144K. This is aimed at direct (tax deductible donations), which comes out to about \$350 per student
- The school historically had more students so our goal wasn't as lofty in the past

PTA Committee Updates

- 5th grade:
 - Over 60% achieved; hoping to reach the goal before the end of next month
 - Have been sharing information via a WhatsApp group so reach out if you want to be in that
 - Yearbook committee established
 - November 14th – graduation photos; there are no makeups (This is also retakes day and sibling photo day)
 - Will have the aquarium overnight trip in the Spring; 5th grade will have first dibs
- Fundraising:
 - Spread the word and encourage families to donate to the school and explain what the school gets for that funding
 - There will be a generations campaign later this year
 - Goal this year is to expand the pie for fundraising so we aren't only asking immediate family members year over year
 - Looking for suggestions for local businesses that might do a matching campaign
 - Would be great to have a toolkit that families can pick up and use if they have a few hours to give for making sponsorship and fundraising calls
- Website
 - We've updated the website to include today's lunch menu, upcoming events, the banner at the top
 - We have a sponsorship page now so donors can get a spot on our website if they sponsor

Election

- Chair of Community Events - This is for elements that aren't meant to raise funds and are meant build community; not a huge commitment over the course of the year
- Chair of Event Food
 - ELECTED: TOM KAUFMAN – tkaufman86@gmail.com
- Members at Large
 - Elected:
 - Daniel Nachimson; dnachimson@gmail.com
 - Tana (mom of Rowan) – twojczuk@gmail.com (3rd grade parent)
 - Tareth Mitch – tarethm@gmail.com (2nd grade parent)
 - Chris Shea; cmshea@gmail.com – (K parent)

New Business

- Redoing the playground discussion - Redoing the playground would require redoing the entire yard because of the drainage and plumbing in the yard; it would take a number of years and would take away yard access for kids for years
- Participatory budgeting is a way to get money and change things in the school – would be great to have a wishlist of things that would improve the school
 - Leila committed to creating this
 - Tana (mom of Rowan) will connect with Leila on this