



GENERAL PTA MINUTES
NOVEMBER 29, 2017

President's Report

- Approval of October minutes – approved
- Seeking PTA president – if you are interested, the position starts now as co-president with Nora. Contact Nora McCauley (nsmcc@mac.com)
- NY State Free skiing passes to 3rd and 4th graders. Be on the lookout for more information!

Principal's Report

- Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) LY data... huge growth in trust, reading. Math is stagnant – creating partnerships with local schools to figure how to improve
- Math Partnership with BK new school and PS321 and 29.
 - VP Alex – math professional development (k-1); Math homework help workshop for families. After dropoff in the library.
 - 12/13 – 5th grade
 - 1/10 – 4th grade
 - 1/17 – 3rd grade
 - 1/24 – 1st & 2nd grade
- Partnership with Boerum hill school and Riverdale school – how to be culturally responsive
- **IMPORTANCE OF FUNDRAISING** – We are projected to lose \$125K from PS261 budget from DOE. PTA works year round to raise money to help the school to keep staffing and programs
 - Ms Katherine 5th grade teacher (ICT classroom) –PTA raised money to bring in technology to the 5th grade classroom new smart panels in the classroom, chrome books. Helps broaden the teaching technique and access for kids in the classroom. And more exciting for kids and more confidence. More interaction with reluctant writing students. Elevates the learning environment with teachers and peers. Need a tech expert, to troubleshoot, learn the technology and upkeep.
 - Librarian – paid by PTA. 3 days a week

Treasurer's Report

- **Need Bookkeeper** – Paid position by the PTA. Looking for a person who is highly proficient in Quickbooks. Approx 5-20 hours a week. Email interest/application to Leo Chan and Nicole Clark (ps261ptatreasurer@gmail.com)

Fundraising Committee

- Direct Appeal Update – LY 96K, TY goal – 150K. Raised \$85K so far. \$7500 from #givingtuesday
- Taste of Brooklyn – Raised \$15k. Huge success bringing Alumni's and community
- Alumni Association
- Participatory Budgeting – each councilmember is allotted \$ to give back to community. TY we are asking \$250K for stem technology. 2 mobile stem carts, 3d printing, robotics, mobile lap top carts 2nd grade. Smart panel for 2nd and 3rd grades. Projects need to be placed on ballots. **WE NEED YOUR VOTES! GO out and vote on PS261 projects in April.** Takes care of tech from 2nd – 5th grade with PB.
- Movie Night – December 15. Pajama party 6:30

Wellness Committee

- Received grant from DOE to form official wellness council \$2500. With grant money, committee hired Wellness counselor to train staff – to help kids to deal with stress in classroom. Bring in for residency for 5th grades to deal with wellness. Buy recycling bins



- Partner school for Spoons across America – PS261 has been chosen to be a partner school for Spoons across America. A program teaches children about nutrition; farm to table; importance of eating well. Program will start in December in 1st and 2nd grades.
- Launching Sleep Awareness month in January. Workshops to promote importance and awareness of sleep.
- Running club – Rising Road Runner club. If your child likes to run, come out Wednesday mornings at 7:30am at the big yard or in the gym if weather conditions are bad
- Afterschool wellness additions:
 - Running club
 - Healthy cooking club

SLT (school leadership team)

- Made up of 6 teachers and 6 parents, union leader, Jackie/alex
- Math workshops – a glossary will be put together. Online component on ps261brooklyn.org for math resources.

5th Grade Committee

- Every year 5th grade committee has fundraisers to raise money for the following
 - caps and gowns
 - 5th grade dance party
 - 5th grade trip
 - yearbook
 - scholarships
- Dues - \$240/family

Student Action Committee

- National Day of Service – Monday 1/15
 - For families! Workshops all day, interactive and family fun. Potluck lunch. Service projects in the afternoon.
- Borders Crossing training – February 3
 - Workshops around race, building relationships about race, prejudice. Offsite. 6-7 hour. Working out childcare.

Afterschool Committee

- PTA Afterschool pays for 50% recess and lunch counselors
- Musical is paid in full by PTA afterschool...open to community
- Extremely positive feedback from kids anti-bullying workshop through NYC children theater during parent teacher conference.
- Counselor trainings with PASE training workshop Managing behavior on 11/30. Conflict resolution and molding behavior on 1/26
- Homework challenges for Mon and Tues – finding quiet environment for homework
- Financial aid at \$125K
- **Electronics – please have conversation with your child about electronics and not going to take out during school/afterschool hours**
- Musical auditions 12/5 and 12/6.
- Next session signups start beginning December
- Any questions regarding counselors/programs please contact Sanrda Bodden, Afterschool director. (ps261afterschool@gmail.com) or Ricky

STEM Committee

- **MAKER NIGHT** – Wednesday 12/6 @ 5:30pm. Partnered with Arts committee to make a STEAM event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math). **Family event!** Pizza and STEAM!



Arts Committee

- **ARTS WEEK** in Spring – Arts committee is looking for parents who can help out during Arts Week in the Spring. Please contact
 - **Jessica Hamlin** (hamlinlandewe@gmail.com)
 - **Holly Scull** (hollyescull@gmail.com)

Misc updates

- **VOLUNTEERS!** If you are not able to be in a committee, volunteer at an event! Beginning of each month a golden sign-up sheet is sent home in your child's backpacks with all the upcoming events that are in need of volunteers. Come support your school, our PTA, and meet the community!