

**PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**

132 WEST 89<sup>th</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024

PS166.ORG

**PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:30 AM, Zoom Meeting

DRAFT TO BE APPROVED AT November 19, 2020 Meeting

**I. Call to Order**

Co-President Ms. Polimeni called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

A QUORUM was established.

**II. PTA & SLT Elections: Nominating Committee, Ms. Madelyn Storms & Ms. Erin Volkmar.** Ms.

Volkmar addressed the virtual mode being used for elections. She then informed all attendees that each parent/guardian is entitled to one vote but must log in on separate devices to have the votes count. Ms. Volkmar further explained that only parents or guardians of current PS 166 students are entitled to vote and non-voting attendees would be placed in a breakout room prior to the vote. Finally, Ms. Volkmar informed all attendees the meeting was being recorded.

**Election of Co-Presidents**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for President / Co-President. One nomination was taken for Rachel Polimeni and Daria Kim. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA President/Co-Presidents closed. Ms. Polimeni and Ms. Kim each spoke briefly.

**Election of Vice President of Grants**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Vice President of Grants. One nomination was taken for Kristen Savov. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Grants closed. Ms. Savov spoke briefly.

**Election of Vice President of Volunteers and Events.**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Vice President of Volunteers and Events.. One nomination was taken for Annalisa Peterson. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Volunteers and Events closed. Ms. Peterson spoke briefly.

**Election of Vice President of Fundraising**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Vice President of Fundraising. One nomination was taken for Simon Franceschi. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Fundraising closed. Mr. Franceschi spoke briefly.

**Election of Treasurer/Co-Treasurers**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Treasurer/Co-Treasurer. One nomination was taken for Will Kolb and Wanda Lin. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Treasurer /Co-Treasurers closed. Mr. Kolb and Ms. Lin each spoke briefly.

**Election of Financial Secretary**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Financial Secretary. One nomination was taken for Emilie Wang. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Financial Secretary closed. Ms. Wang spoke briefly.

**Election of Recording Secretary**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Recording Secretary. One nomination was taken for Chandini Prakash. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Recording Secretary closed. Ms. Prakash spoke briefly.

**Election of Communications Secretary**

Ms. Volkmar opened nominations for Communications Secretary. One nomination was taken for Amie Ray. Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations from the floor for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Communications Secretary closed. Ms. Ray spoke briefly.

**Vote to Fill Positions for 2020-2021 PTA Executive Board**

Ms. Volkmar informed attendees that a vote for each position for the 2020-2021 PTA Executive Board would be taken via anonymous Zoom poll in which they could vote in favor, in opposition or abstain from voting for each candidate or slate of candidates.

Prior to the vote, all non-voting attendees were placed in a breakout room. Members attending by phone were placed in a separate breakout room where their votes were taken orally by a member of the nominating committee.

There being no questions about the voting process from the floor, Ms. Volkmar made a motion to

elect the single candidate or slate of candidates for each uncontested PTA Executive Board Position via anonymous Zoom poll. The motion was seconded by Madelyn Storms. The anonymous poll was left active for approximately 2 minutes to allow sufficient time for members to vote. The motions passed as follows:

The vote to elect Rachel Polimeni and Daria Kim as PTA Co-Presidents passed unanimously; The vote to elect Kristen Savov as Vice President of Grants passed unanimously;

The vote to elect Annalisa Peterson as Vice President of Volunteers and Events passed with one abstention;

The vote to elect Simon Franceschi as Vice President of Fundraising passed unanimously;

The vote to elect Will Kolb and Wanda Lin as Co-Treasurers passed with two abstentions; The vote to elect Emilie Wang as Financial Secretary passed with one abstention;

The vote to elect Chandini Prakash as Recording Secretary passed with one abstention; and

The vote to elect Amie Ray as Communications Secretary passed with one abstention.

**RESOLVED** , That the above-listed uncontested candidates are elected to the PTA Executive Board for the 2020-2021 academic year.

### **School Leadership Team Elections 2020-2021**

Ms. Storms reported that she and Ms. Savov are stepping down from their SLT parent representative positions due to term limits. Ms. Volkmar requested floor nominations for two open SLT parent positions but none were put forth. Ms. Volkmar presented current candidates for SLT : Candidates for SLT positions:

1. Ms. Emily Pollock
2. Mr. Barry Waldman
3. Ms. Osy Harrison
4. Mr. Vineet Goyal
5. Ms. Katarina Kuhlke

All the candidates addressed the meeting.

Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the positions. There being no further nominations Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for SLT closed. Votes were taken anonymously via Zoom poll. On cumulation of the votes the results were announced via email. New SLT members are Mr. Barry Waldman and Mr. Vinnet Goyal.

### **III. School Reports**

#### **● Principal Debra Mastriano**

- Safety Guidelines - The school is complying with all safety guidelines, and children have been following instructions and complying with the mask requirements.
- Covid Testing - COVID testing has not started yet. She presented what would happen once it starts.
- Ventilation - All windows are open at the top and bottom. She has requested additional information on ventilation from School Facilities.

- Library - The library is still a work in progress. A current PS166 parent is an architect and is helping with design.
- Schedule for blended learning - The schedule could change if more students come into the building. The school will strive to keep consistent schedules for students and teachers, but it is a possibility that both may change.
- Teacher's Assistants - Principal. Mastriano stressed the need for TAs. She informed everyone that they are a huge help to the school, that they are present in every class, help with both in-person and remote learning, assist the teachers with classwork and grading, and are being trained in the Teachers College Reading and Writing Workshop. She informed everyone that the PTA funds the TAs, and requested parents' support in the form of PTA donations..
- Recess - There is no recess. Having lunch outside while following the safety guidelines may be complicated because of staffing issues. PE kids come outside with Mr. De Vito for movement exercises.
- Curriculum Night - No outline has been sent from the DOE as of now.

● **Parent Coordinator Deb Markewich**

- Admission - G&T admission and General ed. admissions are not open yet.
- Middle School Admissions - Middle school open houses and tours haven't started, but will probably be through zoom.
- NY schools accounts - Ms. Markewich encouraged all families to set up accounts, especially now when everything is online.
  - Remote only students - send an email for the information needed for it.
  - Blended students - received the necessary information last week.
- Move from remote to blended - Mr. Markewich stated that the school does not have information but will pass on any information to everyone as soon as she has it.
- School Newsletters - Ms. Markewich encouraged all families to read the school newsletter as that's currently the only way she can send out information to everyone.
- Attendance - Ms. Markewich stressed that students must attend a full day class till 2 pm. Attendance is taken for every subject and will affect grades.

● **Nurse Elizabeth Hamilton**

- Nurse Hamilton requests the following:
  - That everyone gets a flu shot.
  - Physicals for all new students and the updated ones.
  - Medication forms for kids with asthma and other health problems as she will only be able to administer medication once these forms are filled out.
  - Updated immunization by Oct 23rd, as students can't do blended and remote schooling if immunization is not updated.
  - A doctor's note for students with fractures and sprains who wish to use the elevator.
- Nurse Hamilton stated that if the student is not well, the student needs to stay home. If the student is not well in school, the school will call parents.
- Nurse Hamilton presented four categories of COVID-related symptoms - new cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, new loss of taste and smell. If in school with symptoms, the

student will be taken to the isolation room viz. the community room for pickup. The student needs to get tested and see the doctor. If the test is positive, the student needs to isolate for 10 days before they can come back to school.

- Nuse Hamilton presented and later clarified that if a parent travels outside of NY State, but the child does not, the child does not need to quarantine. If the parent becomes symptomatic, the child should quarantine, assuming they were in close contact, while waiting for the parent's test results. If the parent tests covid positive, the child will need to quarantine for 14 days. The parent should quarantine separate from the child, in case they become ill - this can be done in the apartment if there is appropriate space and if there is another caregiver for the child.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from February, June 2020 general membership meetings A**

MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on February 13, 2020 was made by Ms. Polimeni. The MOTION was seconded by Ms. Kim. The minutes were passed unanimously.

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on June, 2020 was made by Ms. Polimeni. The MOTION was seconded by Mr. Josh Weinberger. The minutes were passed with two abstentions.

#### **V. Presidents' Updates**

- Safety Committee Report - Ms. Kim reported that meetings are held once a month. At the last meeting, the committee discussed preparations for return to in-person learning, health screening, COVID testing, ventilation system, and PPE.
- Ventilation Update - Ms. Kim reported on the current ventilation system, the opinions by Custodian Judith Koonce that there is adequate ventilation due to constant fresh air flow through the school, and about the meeting with the Deputy Director of School Facilities in Manhattan, John Hession.

#### **VI. Vice President and Committee Updates:**

- VP Volunteers and Events - Ms. Petersen reported on looking for volunteers to help in creative ways for children and families to stay connected. She asked anyone interested to contact her for creating digital activities etc. She specifically needs help with the auction, spirit wear and corporate sponsorship.
- Treasurers - Mr. Kolb and Ms. Lin reported about the summer's approved budget and explained that the budget for the rest of the year will be discussed now. Mr. Kolb informed everyone that a minimum amount has been spent so far and that financially the PTA is doing well. He requested everyone to donate time if they can't donate money.
- VP Fundraising - Mr. Franceschi reported that the fundraising campaign will kick off as soon as the budget is approved. He mentioned the possibility of DOE budget cuts.
- VP Grants - Ms. Savov reported that the participatory budget was cancelled last year. She said that even though we won grants from Helen Rosenthal and Gale Brewer's offices, the funds were frozen by the mayor's office. Therefore, parent fundraising is very important this year given the situation.
- Green Committee - Mr. Weinberger, head of the Green Committee introduced himself and reported

that it is difficult to carry on with all the efforts that the green committee used to carry out. He will be sending out the link for the first Green meeting and he invites parents to join.

#### **VII. 2020-2021 PTA Budget Presentation**

Ms. Kim presented the 2020-21 budget. She reported that there will be no in-person events currently planned for this year. She noted that the PTA will have to revisit the budget periodically under the present circumstances. Anyone with questions regarding the budget can reach out during the upcoming budget review meetings or get in touch outside the budget meeting too. The vote to approve the budget will take place on October 29th, with time of the meeting to be determined.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Chandini Prakash, Recording Secretary