



PS10 PTA E-board Meeting Minutes // May 10, 2021

7:02PM Meeting Called to Order by Julie / Seconded by Jenn

- Introductions & welcoming new member A. Nicole Roberts
- Meeting Language Proposal (Jenn)
 - Interested in shifting away from the formal language cited in Robert's Rules of Order - e.g., instead of "call the meeting to order" we say "now the meeting is starting." We can look into whether Robert's Rules of Order or DOE rules have changed. We will continue to follow the rules, but without the challenging language.
 - Other feedback is to wear PTA sweatshirts to appear more approachable vs. being dressed up.
- 4/15/21 meeting's minutes approved
- Principal's Report
 - Cafeteria renovations are moving forward, monitors have been ordered. This way those who cannot be in the auditorium can see what is happening from the cafeteria. These will be 85-inch monitors, so much larger. Won't increase screen time and does enhance visibility. Working on water bottle fillers. Also will paint, and kids want better tables to facilitate socializing with friends. DOE's \$10M grant will be going forward, new windows, roof work, new doors - all the things an old building needs for an upgrade. School will have a major facelift!
 - K registration is underway, parents seeking seats from K280 may have more of a chance, so we will accommodate some out of zone kids.
 - The 5-Day initiative is going very well, kids are happy, and teachers. Some of the shenanigans are going on, nothing major. The kids stopped by her office

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and went to check on her to make sure she was OK. They were able to include 51 remote kids in addition to cohorts, we have 570 students in the school. Our biggest challenge is breakfast: talking to the admin team about early drop-off which would benefit parents, challenges are getting tables cleaned and that space is adequate for physical distancing. The APs get in at 7:30 and start cleaning off tables. Gave out parent awards on Friday, there were some parents who were out and helping us clean and design canopies for shelter outdoors. Mallory and David are coming to finish measurements to order canvas, and got blessings from custodial to do it. Will provide one large sheltered area when it drizzles.

- Gary Nusser has been taking 5th grade across the street to Mayrose park, and Fridays are a lunch release day and the kids were so happy. The kids feel responsible and more adult, but they were safe and responsible and did everything we asked them to do. Crossed streets carefully, etc.
- 5-Day - The teachers are happy not to have to repeat lessons, testing is going well, more opted in than we imagined. Math starts tomorrow. There's no interference with regular classrooms because everything is being done in the gym and library. We are using the admin and couple support staff to facilitate testing so we aren't interrupting instruction.
- Q: For next year, how many students do they think PS10 can take in? A: No information other than they are trying to fund smaller class sizes than 32:1 in grades 1 - 5, might go down to 25:1. In which case we can have an additional upper grade class. But will lose one of our cluster classes if that is the case. Will try to hold onto the music room but art might end up being virtual. Will be as creative and innovative as we have been recently. Won't do articulation of classes until the summer, until we know more.
- Q: Will we still offer remote instruction? A: We may have 1 remote class in every grade. Teachers have let us know who is interested in doing that. One teacher moved out to Long Island, instead of transferring might stay at PS10 and just teach remotely. We would hate to lose him.
- Q: Are they talking about how to deal with the social-emotional needs of remote students returning to the classroom? We think all kids would need support, especially kindergarteners who have never attended school. A: In our hybrid classes we spent 2 weeks on social emotional without even touching the curriculum, we will revisit some of those activities to accommodate our newer in-person students. Because cohorts are now

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meeting, the remote kids don't feel left out because they are meeting new kids too. Everyone is experiencing something new together. We are embracing initiatives like "No Place for Hate" and how we will support one another as friends. Gave teachers \$600 to purchase books around diverse topics and \$500 to rebuild classroom libraries, they're doing read alouds around this topic, cluster teachers are also doing community building activities. Trying very hard to address this, but also playing catch up with the curriculum. iReady has proven to be helpful in terms of seeing what is happening in gen ed and remote ed, as it can be used across both, to determine where kids are struggling. 21% was behind or not making progress. Now we have narrowed it down to 7% - when we were reviewing numbers with the superintendent she was blown away with the progress and how the kids are progressing. Even remote kids, teachers have played catch up because there is something about connecting with kids in person. We had a major visit by the Superintendent, she was with us for 5 hours. 45 minutes with Laura, how we support kids, ENL, special needs, ICT, and struggling kids. She wanted to know about the data, and the social emotional, and how we worked together as a community to get ready for the experience over the summer. Showed her our FAQs with 150 questions and how we tried our best to answer the questions. WE knew everyone was nervous, because we did that 67% of our students went in, in person. Some only had 20% report for in-person learning. She wanted to know why that happened, and it was because of what we did as a community over the summer. She showed the powerpoints, the website, and Remind and Konstella, to message parents in ways that our school does. She spoke to some parents in a meeting and ended up being there for a half hour. She gave us an outstanding review based on how we came together and helped each other, and came together to make this year work. She was very impressed. She was also amazed at how the OWL cameras worked. She could visit classes because of this, and could see the whole room and interact with kids. She visited an ICT class and watched kids engage with their teachers, one remote class, and a pre-k class. She got to visit with 2 classes doing a Jeopardy game, on immigration. This was made possible by the OWL cameras the PTA helped buy. Part of the social emotional piece is having the kids have fun together while learning, like they did in the live Jeopardy game.

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- Q: Can we write to anyone to help keep the cluster rooms sacred? A: We are one of the only schools who has cluster rooms, if we make more classes we cannot keep the cluster rooms, we just won't have the room. Most concerned with keeping the science rooms.
- We discussed the possibility of also doing an end of year celebration at Greenwood Park featuring musicians from our community.
- Q: Can we have an end of year gathering where remote kids can come see their friends? A: Some teachers have set up picnics. Laura will speak to the staff as well and ask if more remote teachers can get together in person before the end of the school year.
- 5th Grade Graduation - Still trying to figure out. We want to do something in person if we can, so we will try to do it in the school yard. Challenge is to involve the parents safely. Gary Nusser is trying to figure this out.
- Q: For kindergarten, need to look into more core teacher instruction over Zoom for the remote students. A: Will look into what we can do.
- Extended Day Report
 - Not present.
- PTA Eboard, SLT, and Title I Elections
 - We are missing not just the Secretary role, but people who can help us with things like the social media piece, and another takes on Konstella, one does the meeting minutes, etc. so that we can be more strategic.
 - Can we put a call out for an editor, a social media manager, etc. to the wider school? Advertise for skills rather than the Secretary position. We can do a targeted post about these roles on Thursday.
 - One thing we also struggle with is a lack of native Spanish speakers on the e-board. How can we reach out to the community and let them know their voice is needed. How can we engage the community? This is something close to Wendy's heart. Should we make more of an effort to learn Spanish? There is also a scheduling issue. Almost 30% of our community is Spanish-speaking. But they can't come to a meeting. Part of the conversation is working on being more inclusive and involving people beyond the e-board meeting. For example offering food at meetings. We need to offer more parent resources, for example on our website. DEI has discussed earmarking funds to engage a

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consultant to help diversify PTA membership. We need to work on translation to be done in real-time during our meetings.

- Can we put a call out for a Chinese-English and Spanish-English dual language parent liaison position?
- Please try to think of people you can tap into who may want to join the e-board. We may also try to do another meet & greet. We can offer free coffee & donuts. Maybe we can do it Friday & Monday.

- **Co-Treasurers' Report**

- **Budget Report**

- BidFest & Square 1 Art will come into acct in May
 - \$14K for BidFest auction & raffle
 - Extended Day income is better than last month
 - Recess - We are no longer paying for the E3 coaches but are paying 4 Extended Day coaches and a management-level person to act as a playground lifeguard to help keep things civil. It has made a big difference. This spring we are piloting different programs to see what works. One of the things we are considering is having all Extended Day personnel. This is how it used to work, but we didn't have a management role overseeing things.

- **Budget Planning for 2021 - 2022**

- Parent survey came back & we are consolidating the information, Lizzie wrote to raise the top 6 things they want to see at PS10 next year. We're discussing these discussions with different committees and admin. We will be having a draft budget approval meeting next Monday.
 - We will also be looking at different initiatives across DEI and Health & Wellness, and other committees, Title 1, Admin and seeing where they overlap, what we can split the costs of, and what funds may be required.
 - An anti-bullying line item was suggested as an addition to the budget, to foster a school that is safe and inclusive, with zero-tolerance for bullying.
 - We can have a zero-tolerance policy, but if we don't offer a safe space to speak up without worrying about retaliation, then the culture won't

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change. How can we put zero-tolerance at the forefront of who we are, a mission statement, but not just empty words.

- Actionable items that would benefit from teams (sign-up time!)
 - Current Events:
 - Merch - We need more budget to purchase additional hats in case the ones we ordered (coming 5/21) sold out in advance of our June 24th event. Also discussing a mask giveaway with donations.
 - Brooklyn Cyclones Game (June 12)
 - We have a total of 112 tickets set aside for us and we have sold 58 of them. We could also do a second game day. A negative Covid test is no longer required. Discussed offering some tickets and refreshment vouchers to families in need, maybe on a lottery basis. We will send out an update to families.
 - Upcoming events:
 - Potential for having an end of year party at Greenwood Park, or maybe on the street.
 - New June Fundraiser for Kids (Felicia)
 - May Mind the Gap meeting to discuss the end of year party. Tentatively scheduled for Wednesday May 12th at 7:00 pm. Will discuss the end of year party and scheduling the next Meet & Greet. Also PTA e-board end of year party.
- 10:00 pm - Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jenn seconded.