



## **PS10 PTA E-board Meeting Minutes // January 14, 2021**

**7:06pm** Meeting Called to Order by Jenn / Seconded by Jennine

- 12/10/20 meeting's minutes approved
- Principal's Report:
  - Gary Wong: "Remind" new communications platform:
    - We have purchased it and begun to use it. We are porting student rosters over to their system to verify, experiencing some glitches but they are troubleshooting. Our rep will train staff on how to use it.
    - School Messenger / robocall service has ended. Everything we put out is mirrored on the website, Remind and Konstella. With Remind, we won't have robocalls anymore, we'll just have text messaging, and the parent can automatically translate it into their preferred language. Families can choose to get messages via email or by text. We will check if parents will be charged for text messages. For those concerned about families that may not have an unlimited text plan, it will be challenging no matter what to get messages across to some families, but with the website, Remind and Konstella, we have multiple ways to reach families.
    - We think Remind will be good, Danny is trying to get our families' information into the system. School Messenger wasn't seamless, and was confusing to connect to and some families had graduated and were still on it. We are making sure the system has all students & teachers first before communicating to families.
    - For school wide messaging they will use Remind - it'll instantaneously send a message to PS10, K280, one or the other. It is also connected to ATS (school-based attendance system), and Konstella is not.
    - Another benefit with the Remind service, we can include attachments to a text message.

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- The most urgent messages will be sent out via Remind, teachers will also share urgent updates. If less urgent they can send through Konstella.
- The teachers will also share the Remind app login information with parents in Google Classroom.
- Laura Scott:
- School is reopening on Friday the 15th, we were closed to conduct an investigation by Test & Trace trying to link COVID-19 cases. All were outside of the building and nothing occurred within, they were all prior to or during the break. Test & Trace wanted more time to look at everything with a fine tooth comb. Laura knows someone in Test & Trace who was able to expedite reopening. K280 has been open all along. The Buildings Report has been reporting incorrect information, which is concerning. When this happens next, we will send out information to parents letting them know the info is inaccurate.
- Middle School info was provided today & yesterday. We heard good things about it, Gio & Mr. Nusser put together the information quickly and will roll out anything additional to make sure parents are in the know.
- Chess ended for grades 1, 3, 5 last week and grades K, 2, and 4 begin next week. Thank you Heather for pushing me into doing chess. The kids love it, become competitive, and learn strategic thinking. It also gives them another elective when the blended learners are working on remote days.
- Music will be going on through Feb 12th for grades 2 & 4. On Feb 22nd grades 3 & 5 will start. Kindergarten is getting music via Jonathan from Pre-k and will have the rest of the year. Kids are enjoying it. Ann Gregg can put together a list of teaching artists who would be available so we can hopefully continue grades 1, 2, & 4 through the end of the year. Also, Laura is interviewing a new music teacher who would be hired for the fall of 2021.
- 5-day program initiative at K280: We are doing some of that at PS10 as well, since our special needs kids are attending 5 days. We will start looking at ICT classes going 5 days a week for our IEP kids and ICT kids at PS10. No empty classrooms makes this a challenge. For K280 we had some challenges implementing it but were able to get around them. We are pushing for this at K280 as kids are only getting minimal days in the classroom, and we want them to get more instructional days. They redirected some of the money to hire additional teachers to change the metrics of the classes, opening 4 - 5 additional classes and moving some groups around.

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- We surveyed parents, we know remote parents were upset because they were told we were going to pull some of our teachers from remote into hybrid, because we wanted experienced teachers in the classroom. Lots of parents expressed concern because they have developed bonds with those teachers. She's working out another plan with the DOE so may not have to touch the remote teachers. General Ed ICT will be attending 5 days, on Jan 25th the new classes will be attending. It's safer when the kids are in school 5 days per week, when they are part-time the kids have more exposure to others and it's riskier.
- Teachers are beginning to get vaccinated. If that happens we will be in good shape.
- Science:
  - Ready to roll out the teacher for 5th grade, she met with the teaching artists and will be getting regular professional development.
  - Admin pays for the vendor fee (e.g., Kiddie Science) and PTA pays for the supplies.
- Kelli Hardiman raised that Eric Adams has a capital grant application right now, which we can apply to. Need to determine what we would want to apply for. We can also go back to the Trust for Public Land who had initially put in for the playground improvement project to check the status. One idea would be a bottle-filling station, but also we could use an electrical system upgrade. Per Laura, the \$10M grant does include an electrical upgrade. Maybe we can apply for the Eric Adams capital grant for bottle-filling stations.
- Cohort A & B - We need to try to get the cohorts tested equally, as they aren't currently.
- The chess program is giving free chess sets for every kid at PS10 & gold level access to ChessKids.
- **Question for Laura:** "Is there a definite word as to whether 3rd grade will be taking the standardized tests?"
- Extended Day Report: Alex Low
  - Update on Tents: Submitted proposal to put up 4 tents to the DOE. Our admin has been helping, we got some partial good news but a big catch: because we want stable tents that have to be staked into the ground, they have to get dept of buildings approval as well. They are in a quagmire now, they met with DOE recently and there was some frustration; DOE is helping but now we have to get approval from the Dept of Buildings. We can get a 30 day permit but it is only for

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smaller projects, and you have to take them down. There is the 90 day option but that requires more approvals. We need a “fixer” who can come in and get the right person at DoB to recognize what we are looking to do to help the kids spend more time outside. They have our proposal, and we are looking at other angles if there are people in the community who can help. We can also reach out to our elected officials. Laura will call up someone who works for DoB who used to be a PS10 parent.

- We are \$100K in the hole for the Extended Day budget. The one good thing is that there is another round of PPP loans, and we did well and got \$70K in the first round. We are hoping to get more funding in the 2nd round.
  - Could we also open up our ED online classes to people within the community who were at PS10 or in our neighborhood?
  - The program is running at a deficit which is on track to be \$280K by the end of the year. We need to discuss whether we should try and make some changes to reduce that.
- Treasurer’s Report: Ann Gregg
    - Presentation of budget report, highlights (refer to attachments):
      - Total income - \$72K / \$77K expenses
      - \$29K individual donations, corporate matches
      - Expenses - Teacher gift certificates, Families in Need
      - Store & Holiday Raffle expenses
      - ED & K280 expenses
      - We are running \$100K behind on the income side, but expenditures are flat. We need to set a meeting to look at budget revisions and fundraising plans. Melissa Walker has agreed to help us with this effort.
      - Another income note - School Toolbox drove \$1,496 in total sales.
      - Melissa helps with 10 for 10, and Ann will work with Farah on corporate relations.
      - Our mid-year budget report is due to the DOE this month.
      - Square 1 drove \$3384, and end of year giving drove \$22K. We earmarked the Families in Need giving line separate from other fundraising.
      - December was a huge push and lots of committees put in a lot of work.
      - Expenses - Recess with E3 Sports
      - Looking ahead, we will have a budget & fundraising meeting with all the e-board and Melissa who will lend her guidance on development.

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- Actionable items that would benefit from teams:
  - Current Events:
    - Paint 'n Sip (Jan 30th) - We need to get the word out to more of the community about this event, we have a limited edition face mask, and multiple levels of spending. We can message the class parents with a script to send to their classrooms.
    - Read-a-thon (Feb 5 - March 5) - AnnMarie Anderson:
      - This year will be different, we will need help getting the word out so parents sign up. We are using PledgeStar this year, parents will have to sign up for an account. We will invite people to sign up on February 1st. Parents can choose their language. Should be easier to ask people to sponsor kids, and enter their reading log. There are multiple ways to share with friends & family asking for donations. There is also a leaderboard for classes, showing who is in the lead. AnnMarie will present this during the next PTA meeting. She can also start to socialize this with the class parents.
      - Question from Helen - Can we post the paper logs as well? It is a lot of manual work.
  - Upcoming events:
    - Spring Teacher Feast (March 4) - There is a \$500 line for the Feast. Ann will share the number of pros in the building and remote, and think through some options.
    - Bidfest (April 17th - May 1st (Party)): Heather Volik
      - A group of parents have come together to run an event called "Bidfest 2021: for the people by the people." It is a community auction. We would like to start the "auction" on April 17 and have a zoom dance party (kids dance 7-8:30 and adult only 9-11) on May 1st. We would like to budget \$10k and costs \$1k (in case we need). Cynthia Cavaliere Nyamekye, Felicia DeVita, Maria Leacy & Carmen Powers are helping.
      - Businesses or individuals can donate anything like cooking a meal, a painting, a class; we are bringing out the talents of everyone in our community. We will have a much lower budget, but are hoping to get more parents that felt Auction last year was out of the price

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range of what they could afford. We also can have our parents donate things they do and are proud of.

- We will need to get the message out about what this is, tell your friends - word of mouth is best.
- New Business
  - Slack channel for events when non-e-board members are in planning committee
    - Difficult to do the coordination a major event requires outside of Slack.
    - There are some logistics around keeping one Slack with E-board and non-e-board members, or starting a new Slack. Julie and Heather will work on the logistics.
  - Fundraising: New vendor competitor for School Toolbox to review/vote on - tabled to next meeting.
- 9:03 pm: Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ralitsa seconded.