



## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // February 25, 2021**

- 7:07 pm: Jenn made motion to start meeting, Jennine seconded
- Minutes from January 21st General Membership Meeting approved by majority
- Principal's Report: Laura Scott
- Chuck Simmons:
  - March 23rd at 7 pm, one of our expert retired teachers from D15, Richard Bluttal will work with Anita Skop (District 15 Superintendent) to help families, focusing on Equity in the Classroom. He'll also talk about observational tools in social studies, and how we talk about sensitive topics like racism & slavery. We can have more workshops to dig deeper if needed. Look out for details coming soon on Konstella.
- Laura Scott:
  - Thank you to parents, we had an amazing meeting with K parents in the Town Hall on Tuesday night; everyone is so supportive. We are all frustrated, kids are as well, we are pulling together to try and make their experience positive.
  - Change in administration assignments:
    - Dr. Wong is going over to K280 to help out with technology now they are attending 5 days, they are doing some instruction on smart boards, and need to move kids into different cohorts. In the meantime, Rob Grant is coming to PS10 to support the 2nd - 5th grade science program.
  - 5th Grade Science:
    - We just initiated Toy Inventions, the 5th grade science program taught by Josette, the daughter of one of our old teachers. League of Young Inventors is working with her on this initiative.

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- A parent, Miriam Weiner, makes donations to the school to support science, so we may be able to also do a Rube Goldberg initiative as a result of her contribution.
- Ralph Dalonzo's working with our younger students, they are learning a lot and having fun doing it cause he's a funny guy. We are moving forward in a positive direction.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences & Report Cards:
  - Kids will be dismissed at 11am on March 4th, the conferences will be virtual over Zoom, or you can request a phone call with teachers.
  - The afternoon session runs from 11:50 am to 1:50 pm, and the evening session runs from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.
  - Teachers will reach out in order to work with families to schedule the conferences; they will be accommodating to parents who can't meet during those times.
  - Report cards will be distributed the following week on Thursday, March 11th and Friday, March 12th and then 'released' electronically on Saturday, March 13th for remote students.
  - We think it's better to get the report cards after the PT conferences, it facilitates better conversations with parents & teachers.
- Testing:
  - The DOE is talking about having kids tested in ELA and Math, and though we won't be held responsible for what test scores are, they are intending on going forward with testing; how we don't know yet. Chuck Simmons and Gary Nusser will be going to a workshop about how they plan to roll this out, because physical distancing is a huge concern.
  - ELA will be held April 20 - 22 for hybrid and makeup dates will be April 23 - 27; remote learners will also be doing their testing at that time. We will have more information about opting out of testing. Chuck will help. Math is planned for May 4 - 6, and the make-up & remote learner sessions are May 7 - 11. ELL testing is April 19 - May 28th, make-ups will also be in that time frame. The Science test for 4th graders will be planned between May 25 - June 4 with a written test on June 7th.

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- Thanks to Barrett Braithwaite & Sandra Fajgier for getting leveled books together to go out to remote learners. Families have been calling and are happy to be getting these books. Contact the school to arrange for pick up.
- Shout out to Sandy Fajgier, who has helped with the K280 5-day initiative, she is also now the co-chair of the NY State Early Childhood Advisory Council (<http://www.nysecac.org/>), which deals with policies around early childhood education. Sandy decided to join because she's concerned with equity and the segregation inherent in the NYC school system. She thinks the 5-day initiative is the best for our school, and had positive experiences with the K280 switch to 5 days; with lots of communication it went really well. Any questions or concerns, voice to teachers and admin. We would love to see the same transition to a 5-day program for PS10 (K & 1).
- We had the first conversation about a 5-day Kindergarten program with parents 2 days ago, we shared why we thought it would be a good idea, now parents are talking to teachers about who will be moving into the new classes and who will be remaining, so we can have 100% of hybrid K classes attending 5 days. If that is successful we plan to move on to 1st grade. We have special needs kids attending 5 days already.
- Music has started for grades 1, 3 and 5. They are excited about that. We thought we could only do 2 grades, but now we are able to do 3. Might be able to continue providing music for the grades that just finished, 2nd & 4th with another initiative that just became available.
- Q: If 1st grade goes to 5 days, is there a plan for the upper grades, and what's the plan for the fall? A: At K280 there are empty classrooms to accommodate kids and keep physical distancing, that's the case at PS10 but far fewer rooms. We could identify some classrooms for Kindergarten, and hire some teachers who are familiar with our school community. We'll have to do the same thing with 1st grade. In terms of September we have no idea, but we are hoping we can return to normalcy. The DOE is talking about changing the physical metrics, if so we will be able to have more students attending during the day and hopefully not every other day. We haven't started discussing September yet.
- Q: 5th Grade: In terms of graduation, some semblance of a prom, what is the plan if any?

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- A: Nusser is in charge and has been meeting with parents to engage the kids and make their last year a bit more memorable. Don't know what their plans are at this time but they won't go out without a bang. We'll have more information next month.
- Q: Testing: How much will it take away from limited in-classroom time? We already have so few days of education for the kids. Can you voice that concern when you meet with more senior people in the process.
  - A: Duly noted and we mirror your feelings. We as an administration were just discussing and within SLT, talking about how we don't intend to teach to the test. Used to have test prep on Saturdays, not sure if we will be able to do that but we don't intend to teach primarily to the test.
  - Chuck Simmons: To echo what you said we aren't teaching to the test, in fact any after school books we usually order, we aren't going to order this year. Teachers asked if they need to test prep; no, we can modify the test format and it'll be digital. The state will decide whether the students can actually take the test remotely.
  - Laura: We're concerned as well about being able to accommodate all the students and keep physical distance. We are waiting to find out more about the plans for testing.
- Q: This year's 4th graders never ended up doing any testing last year, as we saw in the earlier iReady evaluations there were kids who became stressed out about the process. Wondering if you'll give extra time to alleviate stress for students.
  - A: We'll do whatever we can to make kids comfortable. We don't know how they want us to rollout testing, but we will include our guidance counselors on our social emotional conversations to prepare them for this experience. In terms of timing, the tests are always untimed giving kids as much time as they want.
- Q: How can we open up to 5 days of both K and 1st grade?
  - A: We have the space, but we need to find the best teachers for the job. We definitely found those teachers for kindergarten; one class is starting next Wednesday and one next Friday, another on the 8th. We are moving in the right direction. 1st grade will be a bit of a challenge.

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Finding good teachers that mirror what our current teachers do is a challenge.

- Q: For kids moving classes, when will parents be notified?
  - A: We aren't selecting the kids we are making it voluntary, based on parents opting in. As soon as we know we'll have the conversation.
- Q: If we reached out to Barrett and she didn't get back to us, does that mean rooms are no longer available?
  - No, we are trying to determine who to move and who not to move. We promise you will hear back as soon as possible. We still have 3 classes we are looking at, we'll be transitioning into the 2nd class.
- New PS10 Nurse Melanie Viviano:
  - She's the new public health nurse from the Dept of Health, Office of School Health program; 90% of NYC schools have this. The biggest change, we don't have a nurse practitioner on the team anymore, it'll be her and another agency nurse, she is the permanent nurse. No longer functions as a primary care clinic, they don't do vaccines or doctor visits.
  - The biggest issue is, she has 500 kids missing physicals; the DOE requires every child to have one on file after the age of 5. It's not a matter of compliance, but for her, if she doesn't have any info she has to guess. This information will go into the system for the rest of their time in DOE schools. She has started to compile this info, but if you can please get the PDF from your doctor, make a copy and send it in with your child or email to Danny Depaz: [ddepaz@ps10.org](mailto:ddepaz@ps10.org) with electronic copies of medical forms. Turnaround time is 1 - 2 days, she'll call with any questions. She needs to know if the kids have allergies or take any medication.
  - Her hours are 7:30 - 3:30, she has an open door policy. She has been a nurse for over 20 years. She's happy to be here. Any specific concerns, please reach out to me. She knows kids are having vague somatic complaints, that they are having difficulty adjusting. She has toys, things to redirect their energy. If their kid is struggling, give her a call and she's happy to work with you. Her goal is to keep the kids in school.

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- Sylvia Morris is the other school nurse, and her hours are the same. We have a lot of great initiatives around asthma. Also, if anyone is struggling to pay for glasses, she registered with New Eyes for the Needy who can help with a program to give free glasses. She is also doing EpiPen training on Monday, helping the paras as well with this, especially training on generic EpiPens.
- Q: A student's Pediatrician has closed down, and their immunizations are missing. They don't have a way to get their records.
  - A: She may be able to find it, there is an immunization CIR number which links to a database / registry. As long as a parent has that number they can access it. Danny Depaz is managing all of those immunization records.
- Q: Do you need records for all kids or just hybrid?
  - A: Without the well child visit info, she doesn't know anything. Ideally we would have it for all kids including remote.
- Upcoming March and April Community Events
  - Read-a-thon update: Feb 5th - March 5th (AnnMarie Anderson)
    - We have surpassed \$35K in pledges, thank you for signing up for Pledgestar, we think it's a great platform for this event. We're trying to exceed our \$40k goal so please keep asking for pledges! The reading log stops March 5th but we can still collect pledges after. There is a change this year, when we calculate the winners per class, we will average the minutes per student in the class to make up for the different class sizes. We updated the class leaderboard to reflect this. Please let your kids know this.
    - This Sunday 12 - 3 outside the schoolyard, we are having a Book Swap. Bring kids books, grab, trade, and we'll also be selling PS10 merch. If your kids want new books to read in the last week of Read-a-thon you can get them here.
    - We are starting a book club for parents, the first meeting will be Thurs April 8th, time TBD over Zoom. The book will be Ruth Ozeki's "A Tale for the Time Being: A Novel" available at Terrace Books. Link to buy: <https://www.communitybookstore.net/book/9780143124870>
    - You can email [ps10reads@pta.ps10.org](mailto:ps10reads@pta.ps10.org) if you are interested.

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- Kickboxing Returns (Felicia)
  - March 21st is our next Kickboxing event. Sensei Ricky is amazing. It is on a Sunday at 4pm. Watch Konstella for details!
- Square1 Art (Felicia)
  - Starts next week and runs through the end of the month; Square 1 Art makes great gifts for Mother's Day & Father's Day. Follow Konstella for details!
- BidFest (Heather Volik)
  - Our team is putting together an awesome new event to raise money and have fun. Please donate your talents: we have already gotten a curry dinner, a Hungarian meal, hand-knitted scarves, a sake tasting, donations of camp weeks, and goods from local businesses. Our fantasy is to use the diverse talents of our community; everything is defined by you.
  - We need all donations by March 26th. You'll be getting a form in your yellow folder to submit a donation as well. Bidding starts on April 17th.
  - Ready to donate your talents? [Fill out the form here.](#)
  - Questions? Email us at [bidfest@pta.ps10.org](mailto:bidfest@pta.ps10.org).
  - Bidding ends on May 1st, when we'll have an amazing event, there will be a children's event in the early evening followed by an adults-only event later hosted by Joe Larson, our talented comedian for the night.
- Treasurers' Report: Ann Gregg
  - Budget documents:
    - [PTA Budget Presentation](#)
    - [PTA Budget Spreadsheet](#)
  - Mid-year budget review:
    - Our fiscal year is July 1 - June 30th, so Jan is mid-year. We want to make sure everyone knows we are anticipating we will have lower numbers in terms of income and expenses by June. That is mostly due to the way the year has functioned with COVID, with fewer in person events and school being closed, and with fewer students, impacting the classroom support line item. We do anticipate coming in flat year

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over year. We still need to raise \$110K this year, so keep the RAT pledges coming in, we would like to surpass the \$40K goal!

- Extended Day income is \$133K and expenses are \$251K; they are running a deficit. They are revising plans to end the year with a \$56K deficit. Thanks to all on the ED team for their thoughtful planning around the budget, though it will be in the red it isn't as much as it could have been. We do need to vote as to whether we'll pay for a deficit. We do have savings in the PTA and ED accounts to pay for the deficit and still have enough savings to run programs successfully in the fall.
- Meeting attendees to vote to cover \$60K ED shortfall with the ED savings account. They have been very generous about helping families with affordability of the ED program.
  - Voting Results: We received an adequate amount of "Yes" votes.
- The audit is still in progress.
- Tax donation letters: We sent this out via Konstella, thanks to everyone who donated in 2020, if you need to know a specific amount, email the treasurer account ([treasurer@pta.ps10.org](mailto:treasurer@pta.ps10.org)). Happy to give you that amount.
- Extended Day Report: Nick Moons
  - We've been working towards being up & running and having a viable program for the fall as we have come to expect. We're trying to put together 2 major things:
    - We are hoping to run an affordable summer camp this summer, it's a 2-prong idea, we think it's a good offering to have something local with your classmates, and affordable.
    - We also have attrition between spring & fall with our staff, so ideally we would be able to keep the staff on over the summer. We think this would be good to hold them over the summer and have a strong team in fall.
  - We are working with K280 to be the umbrella over their after-school program as well. It would increase enrollment, increase leverage with vendors, and we can hire and promote staff. Also gets incoming K students familiar with extended day.
  - We are also planning to do a 4th & 5th grade immersion program with middle school, and an 18-unit Spanish program, from K - 5th grade.



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- For spring, we are going to save money by scaling back 3rd party vendors. We will increase rates a nominal amount. We will also be increasing our scholarships to help people out.
- Q: Can ED Outdoor Camp end at 5:30 for Spring.
  - A: We can look into this as the weather changes and it gets lighter.
- Q: Which 3rfd party will remain?
  - A: Mr. Steff & Mr. Rondell will remain, but we will check on the exact specifics and get back to you.
- Community Q&A
  - No questions
- 8:18 pm: Jenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jennine seconded.