



## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021**

**7:05 PM** Meeting Called to Order by Jenn / Seconded by Julie

- February 25, 2021 meeting minutes approved by majority vote
- Principal's Report
  - Thanks to the PTA for all you do! The teacher gift cards for supplies and GrubHub gift cards were amazing, teachers were in shock.
  - 5-day Transition: This is going well, Pre-k was successful, all Kindergarten classes are transitioning to 5 days, parents are happy and children are happier. 1st grade is underway, parents have been cooperative in volunteering to move into new classes; we only have to open 2 new classes. Right after the holiday we will start 5 day 1st Grade.
  - Across the grades teachers have found a way to pull in kids who need it for 5 days, most of the kids they are focusing on were kids with IEPs or ENL learners, special needs students. Some teachers have been so creative they may be able to pull in their entire class, both cohorts. Parents will be notified when they can do that.
  - Hoping more information will come from the new Chancellor on the new distancing metric; 6 ft may be lowered to 3 feet. We still have to physically distance the kids but we have given teachers materials to help with this, like plexiglass table dividers when they're eating or engaged in conversation. We're trying to get as many kids into the classroom as possible.
  - In terms of remote, we haven't heard about letting them opt in to hybrid; for K or 1st Grade we weren't given the opportunity but we think the Mayor will announce something shortly.
  - We got another grant to fix the lunchroom! Not sure what we are going to do, but we will make the monitors bigger so if there's something going on in the auditorium they can see from the lunchroom, or if the kids want to engage in

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021

chess they can see it on the monitor. Right now we aren't using the space except during inclement weather.

- Kids have been outside an hour each day; 2 grades go out at a time. E3 Sports: can't thank PTA enough for facilitating this, they are doing a great job with the kids during outdoor time.
- Grades 1, 3, 5 started music with Mr. Michel from BK Conservatory. Thanks to Ann Gregg 2nd and 4th will be involved in choral singing with James Shipp, who is affiliated with Carnegie Hall.
- National Dance Institute has started this week w/Grade 4.
- Chess in grades 2 & 4 has started, kids love it.
- The Student Council has been meeting regularly this week was focus on superheroes, and those they are in contact with every day; Mr. Oramas (social worker) talked about his role in the school and how he didn't think he was a superhero but the kids did. They know what they share with him is confidential unless a parent absolutely needs to be involved.
- UN approached Ms Scott because our program with them was a hit last year; we will be getting more info on this.
- Starting to publish & post videos of students thanking superheroes.
- Teachers are using iReady for assessments and lessons, kids have been actively engaging in the activities through the iReady program on their own without being encouraged by teachers. She's been having mid-year conversations with teachers and they seem pleased the kids are comfortable with the program. Hoping the parents also feel this way.
- Report cards went out today for Cohort A, some kids who attend 5 days, B cohort will get theirs Friday 3/19. If you don't get it it'll be online on Saturday the 20th for all. That goes for remote families as well.
- Leveled books have been distributed to lower grade families, remote and in-person. 1st grade has been giving out remedial/review packets to enable less screen time.
- Enrichment Google classrooms are also available, code is posted in your child's Google classroom.
- Full information on state testing is not yet available. It's been reduced to one day and will be multiple choice questions only, for Grades 3 - 5. School & children will be held harmless if they decide to take the test. She will speak with [Rebecca Haimowitz](#) as they will have a meeting to help families learn how

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021

to opt out. The Parent Action Committee wants people to know what their rights are. Parents need to be aware of what they can and can't do.

- Q: Can students who opt out on that day still attend school? A: We don't know yet, hoping for more information next week as we are supposed to test the week we get back from vacation. We'll post as soon as we know more.
- Science is underway, 5th grade has taken off and the kids are enjoying the toy invention activity they are engaged in with Ms. Josette.
- Fall projections: Based on what we see, the staffing ratios sent from DOE are very similar to what they were 2 years ago, K is 1:25 and Grades 1 - 5 is 1:32. This is what was presented to principals across the city. They anticipate attending this fall without social distancing protocols. Last year the ratios started off the same, but they changed over the summer.
- Sex Education program will be rolled out, we want to make sure 4th & 5th graders are aware of what they should be. Some of the information is a little challenging so asking parents to sign permission slips.
- Q: Are there teachers requesting medical exemptions/accommodations for the fall? A: Many teachers who are teaching remotely now do have accommodations. We don't know if we will offer remote instruction in September. Will have more information in May. Many of our staff members have gotten the vaccine, but we can't share who [HIPPA regulations].
- Q: What is allowing classrooms to bring more students in for 5 days without a change in the distance rules? A: The cohorts aren't even, so we can move kids around between them. Some teachers have taken over small classrooms to do breakout rooms, and we have opened 3 additional classes in Kindergarten and 2 in 1st grade, using rooms vacated by teachers who were teaching remotely. This helped to maintain physical distancing guidelines.
- Q: For the whole school to go back in the fall, would we still have distancing? A: We would not be able to have physical distancing in the fall if all students came back into the school.
- Lunchroom Grant suggestions. PTA will forward the ideas raised in the chat over to Laura. Ideas include:
  - Sound baffling / sound proofing
  - Water bottle filling machines
  - Hand washing stations to accommodate more kids pre-lunch once we return

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021

- Children's Theater Company Presentation: Wendy Hernandez
  - Title 1 Committee bringing this opportunity to our school.
  - We create theatre as a tool for moral reasoning, letting kids create musicals that speak to the issues they inherited and how they can be a voice for change.
  - They adapted a children's book story about a slave who boxed himself and sent himself to freedom into a musical, "Henry Box Brown." It won a prize at the Edinburgh Fringe festival 2 years in a row.
  - They found Wendy after developing that musical and showing it at their theater in Greenwich Village.
  - They present half hour, one-act musicals. They want everyone to be involved across the school.
  - Parents can sign up to the program here:  
<http://www.childrenstheatercompany.org/ps10brooklyn>
  - Program dates:
    - OPEN HOUSE / AUDITIONS (During this session, you will learn more in-depth information and can register for the program. Please note, everyone who wants to join will be accepted into the program.):
      - Friday 4/9 @ 5-7pm
      - or
      - Saturday 4/10 @ 9am-12pm
    - SESSION DATES:
      - Fridays 5pm-7pm
      - April 4/23, 4/30
      - May 5/7, 5/14
      - Saturdays 9am-12pm
      - April 4/24
      - May 5/1, 5/8, 5/15
  - FINAL LIVE STREAM SHOWCASE (via Zoom):
    - Friday, 5/21 @ 6:30pm-8pm
    - Saturday, 5/22 @ 10am-11:30am
- Upcoming March and April Community Events
  - PTA Executive Board and SLT Elections (Jenn) - Next month we will be doing PTA e-board elections, and for SLT. Think about if you are interested in giving of your time, both are opportunities to partner closely with the

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021

administration and do great work. If you can't run for next year's board, but would like to support the election process we are losing Kathryn Kercher who leads the election committee, we need someone to partner with her to inform us what has to be done.

- School Photos (Kelli Hardiman) - We are holding in-person photo days Tues April 13th for Cohort A and the 14th for Cohort B. Remote students have 2 options: signing up to come into the school on the 13th or 14th in the auditorium, with strict distancing & masks. When your child gets up on stage they take the mask off and then put right back on. The other option for remote is to sign up for an online photo session with Stomping Ground staff, check Konstella for details. Any questions, email [schoolphotos@pta.ps10.org](mailto:schoolphotos@pta.ps10.org). More information here:  
<https://www.konstella.com/app/school/57bca26de4b06d68cc8510bb/announcements/604d0d26105c0243ef1bd986>
- Read-a-thon report (AnnMarie Anderson) - Finished up March 5th, thanks to everyone we have a new record of \$61,000! Thanks for reaching out to family & friends for pledges. We'll be announcing winners next week before the break, we are finalizing the details, but we will be informing winners through different mediums soon. We have winners in each grade. We evened the playing field by averaging out minutes read across the class.
- Parent Book Club - April 8th at 8 pm on Zoom (AnnMarie Anderson) - We have a new parent book club, the book is A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki. Get started soon it's long. Email [ps10reads@pta.ps10.org](mailto:ps10reads@pta.ps10.org) if interested.
- Kickboxing Returns (Felicia DeVita) - Sunday, March 21st at 4:00 PM.
  - Calling all superheroes! Coach Ricky's special video message:  
<https://youtu.be/CZRgAq0unas>
  - Sign up here:  
<https://www.konstella.com/app/school/57bca26de4b06d68cc8510bb/sales-sheets/604965f6105c0243ef11aad7>
- Square1 Art for Mother's and Father's Days (Felicia DeVita):
  - It's super easy to do on your phone, if you don't have art paper, you can use regular paper. We'll be posting some examples & instructions to Konstella. Deadline to order is March 26th. Email Felicia with any questions: [fobrien226@yahoo.com](mailto:fobrien226@yahoo.com)

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021

- We also have a budget to give kids who don't have the funds the ability to do a project for free and create a gift. Email [treasurer@pta.ps10.org](mailto:treasurer@pta.ps10.org)
- More info on Square 1 here: <https://www.konstella.com/app/school/57bca26de4b06d68cc8510bb/announcements/6047b662105c0243ef0bbbd6>
- PTA Meet & Greet (Felicia DeVita) - We will be doing a table again April 29th & 30th, come and stop by and see us, get some merch!
- Community Bidfest (Heather Volik): [Email [bidfest@pta.ps10.org](mailto:bidfest@pta.ps10.org)]
  - What is BidFest? Check out our video: <https://youtu.be/gD-KNIJ3bvg>
  - We are having a Talent Show for 4th and 5th graders on May 1st!
    - Sign-up sheet: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14dG1Cldhyf5dEqXeOn4z-HuCM323TJU4iwRX829COds/edit>
    - More info: <https://www.konstella.com/app/school/57bca26de4b06d68cc8510bb/announcements/604c07f3105c0243ef1a067b>
  - We are still looking for donations; local businesses have donated, Winner has given us some amazing gifts including a chicken dinner, we have homemade food from families, a 12 gallon planter of spring flowers, jewelry, an ink drawing of your home, lots of cool things. You can also go to your fave local restaurant and buy a gift certificate. [Click here for more info.](#)
- Treasurers' Report: Ann Gregg
- Link to reports:
  - [PTA Budget Report Presentation](#)
  - [PTA Budget Spreadsheet](#)
  - Merch Vote Proposal - We produce things like tees, hats, sweatshirts for the community, and want to buy new products & designs. We have some great new design ideas. We want to vote on the following: if the merch team breaks even (income = expenses) they can get \$1,500 & another \$1,500 after that, to keep expenses & income in check but still make new designs. Of 42 participants, over half voted "yes" on allowing more money towards the Merch line. The proposal passed.

## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // March 18, 2021**

- Audit is complete; a budget committee is forming in April. Goal is to make a 21-22 budget to be voted on in the last meeting in June. There will be 4 meetings, we will survey the PTA committees & parent community. Please let us know if you are interested in joining our budget committee by emailing [treasurer@pta.ps10.org](mailto:treasurer@pta.ps10.org).
- Extended Day Report: Nick Moons
  - We got another PPP grant for \$77K, through the bank, the implication is that under \$150K will be forgiven, we have been using that to keep our structure and are ready to go in the fall.
  - We also have vendors we are trying to keep with us, and have been losing money to keep these relationships because enrollment is down 75%.
  - Spring numbers are lower than we had hoped, it starts April 5th, we have 71 participants and we would like 45% more. We'll do more outreach, do our best to send out more information. We have a 6 pm pickup option as well.
  - We have tents, but one of the suppliers is behind in their orders. It looks like the tents won't be here for another 6 weeks. Alex Low has been leading this effort and has done a great job.
  - We are hoping to offer summer camp this year, it's been slow to get going and is new to us, we want to offer an inexpensive, fun camp for the kids. We are running up against permitting issues with the DOE, but are hoping we can do it. We have a structure in place and want to keep our employees.
  - We will be acting as the umbrella organization at K280 to be able to make a better experience for the kids & parents, and offering the same vendors they always had. Also to offer our vendors increased exposure.
- Community Q&A: No additional questions.
- 8:32 pm Jenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Julie seconded.