



PS10 PTA E-board Meeting Minutes // October 6, 2020

7:30 PM Meeting Called to Order by Heather / Seconded by AnnMarie

- PTA President Heather Volik Update:
 - Elections are coming Oct 22nd.
 - Heather has had her 2 year run as President; Jenn Cribbs will run for President and Heather will run for VP.
 - For the Expedited Election we will announce the names of who is running during the meeting.
- Extended Day: Alex Low, Treasurer & Nick Moons ED co-chair
 - Alex is in his 3rd year as treasurer.
 - Working on tenting the playground, we had a call with Mike Kelly (custodian) re: tent process, he gave us advice and laid out for us a path forward and Ms. Scott will have to liaise with the help of superintendent, Alex has reached out to our elected officials and we are trying to get a ball in motion with DSF by the end of week for their OK of 4 tents in the playground. 2 20x40 and a 20x30, along with a 20x20 tent. We have purchased them already and they're on their way. We now need to get the approval through DSF to be able to install them, they might have a vendor for installation. They are semi-permanent. The vendor has worked with hospitals and the Red Cross, other schools, so are a reputable vendor. Looking into ways to better weatherize the tents and also heaters. They would be potentially used for outdoor learning as well. The new tents will be much better when we have inclement weather. The tents will have sides that pull down to better protect from prevailing wind, weather.
 - We don't have the numbers we hoped for but we have received a lot of positive feedback. We have a daily challenge in keeping kids separate, masked, and in their cohorts. These are new patterns that we are learning.
 - The curriculum support has had abysmal enrollment. Velma has done a good job of keeping them on board, but they're at their wits end. We have sent out multiple emails, Konstella blasts and we don't have the enrollment numbers

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we need to keep the vendors on board. We need to put together a last call for this week.

- What is the barrier to entry? Jenn Cribbs said we are still working out our schedule day to day, and we need more time.
 - Laura Scott said if we were fully remote there would be more interest in curriculum support, but now no one knows what they really need.
 - AnnMaria also mentioned Zoom fatigue. But once the weather sets in for winter, it may be that more people want to take advantage of it. Also people are doing a lot of outdoor after-school activities.
 - Can we have the class parents help get the word out to their classes? Ralitsa will help do this, but we still don't have class parents for all classes.
 - Jennine agreed that we are in a transitional period, and there is confusion about when the programs start, and what's in person vs. online.
 - We will hold off the vendors as long as we can.
- Principal's Report; Laura Scott:
 - Thanks to Nick & ED team, they took advantage of the tents as well when they needed them due to inclement weather.
 - Children set the tone, teachers had reservations about opening, it was good that K280 opened first. The 4 year olds were accepting and ready. Parents were so supportive. They had some music to lighten the mood, get kids excited. Started off well, as did PS10. They did a lot of planning and spent a lot of time figuring things out, keeping kids socially distanced. The parents were also super cooperative in the reopening process.
 - And they had the challenge of hybrid remote times: she had 5 cluster teachers to cover the whole school. They had to use the cluster teachers to teach remote classes so it was a challenge. The PTA stepped up with the Chess program, kids and teachers are excited, music starts next week. And E3 Sports will be doing their thing along with the ED team playing age-appropriate games.
 - Some challenges, couple days we had no nurse right away, outdoor play in inclement weather was a challenge. We also have 110 kids who still need devices, she received 11 yesterday and are trying to get them out to families. They also have workbooks for remote learning which are going out over the next couple of days. Families have been notified.

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- We also have 2 cases of COVID, one at K280 and one at PS10 The protocols around that are overwhelming. They don't allow the principals to do what they normally do, parents are upset because they don't know right away. At K280 the letter stated that families were notified who were in contact with the child , but it wasn't done until 12 hours later. The parents in both schools are understanding once they get the whole story.
- At PS10 there was a family who the father worked at a private school, one of his colleagues had COVID and they all got tested. One of the children tested positive, they called school right away. Child was with a group of kids on Friday where they had to seek shelter together in the cafeteria. Once she found out the child was amongst those children she called to ask if she should be concerned, they decided to quarantine all the kids and staff that were in the school, including Barrett & Gary Wong. The father called today and thinks it was a false positive. He is having the test done again. If negative everyone can go back to school before the end of the quarantine period. Meantime they are quarantined until 16th.
- Friday Oct 9th will be the start of random testing. DOE Dropped the ball when they didn't mandate testing before entry to school for kids and adults, the likelihood of cases wouldn't be looming over us. If there is more than one case, the school will be shut down which she hopes doesn't happen, because kids and teachers are so happy to be back in the school.
- Jenn wants to reiterate how we are here for the administration, and that it's a privilege to work with you.
- Kelly Hardiman: What is the update on the exhaust system repairs? A: Still in process. A lot of the rooms have been addressed but not totally throughout the building and are still addressing the roof, the peeling paint on the 4th floor, new doors & windows. Ventilation has been addressed, most windows are functional across all floors.
- Per Jenn, the group working on the air purifiers has a one pager for teachers about where ventilation ports are and where to put purifiers to max their functionality. We still need to send these out, however, per Laura, most teachers are aware and are working on figuring out the best place to situate them.

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- Q: Message about distributing materials, what time? A: Wednesday & Friday are the days they can come in and pick things up, from 9 - 12. She will make sure to notify families that they can pick things up on Friday as well.
- Q: Can we clarify the rules around the NYCStudents emails? There has been some confusion around these and what the capabilities are. It would be helpful to send out some guidelines around these. A: Jennine will draft some guidance on this, Julie will help run through Gary & Jonathan.
- Q: For 1st grade, her teacher has been out for a few days, they aren't doing substitute teachers, what is the plan? A: DOE is saying they aren't supposed to have a sub teaching remote, but we have a sub who has shadowed our first grade teachers and is a good sub. The teacher is in the hospital. Some think we should move forward and address the kids live, some think we should wait until she comes back. She may have Edith take the class tomorrow. Kids are used to having subs, and we think it is a great idea to have a sub so they can see the teacher and friends.
- Q: Parents are feeling that kids were upset and worried about being in quarantine, is there some way the social worker can check in with those kids or give advice? Someone with some training. Especially in light of random testing. Is there some way of having them offer some tips and help them through it? We have a new social worker who is pretty funny & engaging, he is working remotely. All the kids in quarantine are 3rd graders, so she will try to find a way for the social worker to connect with them.
- Laura spoke with an angry parent who was frustrated with the communication of the COVID case. She'll address this in Thursday's PTA meeting and explain that our hands are tied because of the DOE protocol. It will be reassuring to hear it in the meeting vs. reading it on Konstella.
- Should we let people send in questions ahead of the PTA meeting? We could issue an FAQ as a follow up to the meeting. It would be a challenge to answer ahead of the meeting, so we will set expectations that we have only 30 minutes for questions and we don't have the bandwidth to answer everything. We would prefer to have the meeting be more like a normal PTA meeting not a Town Hall. We will record the meeting for those who cannot attend.
- People need to hear the DOE protocols re: COVID reporting, and that should head off a lot of questions.

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- Budget: Jenn Cribbs
 - We can spend against the budget we have with the exception of the \$6,500 COVID line. We have surpassed this amount by spending against other projects. We've spent almost \$20K on school safety. We also are not going to need the \$25K for music so can move that off, because Brooklyn Conservatory is a DOE vendor. We also won't need the auditors \$3K at the same level this year. The COVID line would be \$35K after these changes. It has paid for microphones, thermometers, masks, purifiers and other things.
 - Ann Gregg: When we built the budget in June we didn't know what things would look like. We will create a running Google doc list of things we are questioning in the budget, anyone can check and see what is in review. We also are not sure of the income, as some families who gave money in the past have left. Flexibility & transparency are really important to people so we need to figure out a way to share with the school community.
- Fundraising ideas:
 - Halloween:
 - PS154 is doing a bunch of events and fundraisers around Halloween. Can we do something on 17th Street from 4p-6p when we still have it closed?
 - Per Melody, the PS10 Band also wants to do something, we could do it in the school yard and charge money. Have an outdoor dance party?
 - Also what about dropping candy through wrapping paper tubes, we could give out candy contactless.
 - Or an outdoor "drive in" movie night?
 - Read-a-thon: We can do this remotely, so we are starting to discuss this soon. We may use a company that has an online platform & prizes built in, given everyone's capacity for organizing. For Visiting Authors, we can also do those remotely. We may keep it in the month of February. We could make bookmarks and distribute them.
 - Re: fundraising, are we setting goals for the year or just whatever we can muster? We need to look at the goals for the year. Read-a-thon definitely has the potential to do at least as well as it has in previous years.

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- We need to have another meeting to just look at our fundraising capabilities and what we can do, Ann will send around some times. Julie has a list of virtual fundraising ideas like wine tasting, cooking classes. We have a bunch of new members who were at K280 who are excited to get involved.
 - Primary & other vendors we have deals with, we will send out a message on Konstella since it's prime shopping season with the offers we can do - Kelli will write the message.
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- Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm