



PS10 PTA E-board Meeting Minutes // December 10, 2020

7:05pm Meeting Called to Order by Jenn / Seconded by Jennine

- 11/10/20 meeting's minutes approved
- Principal's Report: Laura Scott
 - We appreciate everything you do. Admin & I are totally exhausted & would be more tired without the PTA to rely on, so thank you for all you do.
 - The teachers appreciate the funds you've sent their way and have already started ordering things.
 - We'll try to be as transparent as we can when things arise and will post on Konstella & the website. We try to share everything with you as soon as we tell the teachers. Sometimes we get the information at the same time you get it, so please know it's not that we are holding back information.
 - Random COVID Testing: We will be doing it regularly in school. Testing happened at 10 and K280 on Tuesday randomly for grades 1 - 5, as well as some staff. They allowed us to test the whole staff at K280. The medical team we had was very good, gentle and great with the kids and staff. We even had security guards tested at K280 but not at 10 as they limited who we could test, and we had a list we had to adhere to. Sometimes they can sneak in extra people. We tried to post info about testing on our website, trying to encourage families to do it. Families have let her know if there were situations they encountered over the holiday, she called them into the DOE COVID Situation Room and following protocol, they didn't come into the school. The Situation Room is helping people with what they need to know whether they need to quarantine or what.
 - Gym: Many have requested this; we are trying to schedule it, we only have 1 gym teacher. E3 Sports gave us videos to post, Gary Wong posts them, plus our virtual content specialist for grades K-5 will also post videos. Links to those

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classes should be in the Google Classrooms for all teachers. Jennine is the sole gym teacher, going to see if she can cover a few other classes as well.

- Curriculum Night: Some parents were looking to hear about the curriculum, but we've been overwhelmed trying to roll out live instruction and the teachers haven't had time to plan for this, but they did post on the website all their plans for curriculum for the year. Some teachers did virtual workshops before the Parent-Teacher conferences. They can reach out to the APs with any concerns.
- Grading: Grading policies were posted on the website. 3s & 4s will be, 4 exceeding, 3 on grade level. 2s and 1s will be graded as needs improvement or doesn't meet standards. NL is representative of children who haven't demonstrated or been able to be engaged in work, maybe they didn't have a device, or issues that prevented them from engaging. But they won't be penalized. Report cards will be released on Monday the 14th. APs are reviewing today.
- Student Council: Started today, she had so much fun with the kids. She had one representative per class for 47 classes. She shared her expectations and what they've done in the past, she wants them to help students in school but families outside of our school community, who don't have coats or who may be homeless, and the kids were happy about that. Next Weds is the next meeting, meantime they'll have small group meetings. Has to start from square one with the little ones, but they are up for it and will do a great job. The Kindergarten kids were as engaged as the older kids.
- Devices: We needed a lot of devices, over 150. Yesterday we received 117 devices from the DOE. Gary Wong was trying his best to match them up to teachers and classes because they only had kids' names on them. We are going to get the devices into the hands of kids by the latest Tuesday. K280 PTA bought 12 iPads for back to school. We are giving them out to IEP students first. Trying to manipulate the budget so we can get additional devices for those kids who still need them.
- Art: Kindergarten parents asked about art programs, some classes have art twice, Devon and Ms. Vining. Devon is teaching to the standard, and Vining is Reggio inspired, which is different and unique. For classes that have both art experiences on the same day she'll try to fix it so they have music & art on the same day instead of 2 art classes. Will work on this and definitely fix it by Jan.
- G&T Testing: No information on this yet, when we do will post.

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- Kinder Application process: Opened up today, through January 19th. Sandy Fagjier has workshops for families who want more information about IEP driven programs, she will try to see if we can get info about virtual tours being done. Maddie has put together a virtual tour and will post on the website by tomorrow.
- Middle School: No info yet.
- Grade 5 Science: Reem Zanta was prepped to do live instruction but then she heard about the new initiative around toy engineering and Rube Goldberg. Susie Farrell wants to continue with the 3rd & 4th grade program, so she wants the Artists in Residence to do the Rube Goldberg later in the week. Reem will work with the artists in residence on an engineering toys project for 5th grade. Gary & Gary will be working with her on this, right now she's in the process of learning the curriculum but she's going to try to combine this with the artist in residence program.
- Learning Preferences: 19 families requested movement from remote to hybrid. Were able to accommodate everyone. They saw what a wonderful time the kids were having and that they wanted to be with their peers. Really happy about that.
- 5-Day Attendance: For us it's a challenge because our cohorts are so full. A letter was sent to families regarding this; our cohorts already have 7 to 9 kids, rooms can only accommodate 12 people and in some cases with teachers and paras we are at that limit. That's one issue. With PS10 there are no vacant rooms available so if I wanted to open another class with a new teacher, there's no space. We have room at K280 but we would need to find teachers to hire who could hit the ground running, understand the curriculum & culture and assign a class to them. After working for 4 months with 1 teacher, being assigned to a new teacher would be very unfair to students. Will keep things status quo for now. We are accommodating 5 days a week in our self-contained classes. Special needs K280 kids will be coming 5 days a week as well. She has colleagues who only have 7 kids in the whole building, and some 17 - they can easily have 5 days. We have over 100 each day so we are using every room to its full capacity. Would be too difficult to accommodate. Won't give up looking for ideas so send them to us.
- Inclement weather: That's been a challenge as we try our best to let the kids be outside, they were out in the snow the other day! But we were able to order & receive plexiglass room dividers in the cafeteria and auditorium, and a wonderful set for the gym as well, softer panels so they won't get hurt. We can divide the gym into cohorts on inclement weather days.

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- Title 1: Wendy is coming up with great Title 1 Workshops, Tuesday, Dec 22nd is a Kwanzaa one. She's opening it up to K280 as well.
- Maddie is arranging a workshop for both schools re: eligibility for free NY state healthcare in the middle of January.
- iReady: Chuck Simmons will share more, but the assessment will help inform instruction and make it more meaningful across the vehicles we are using, be it Zoom or hybrid in class.
- Q: Re: Budget Report: In the 1st meeting she mentioned because of decreased attendance, she would have to pay back the DOE money.
 - A: This was because of registration - not attendance. PS10 wasn't affected as adversely as some of the other schools. Were told they had to pay back \$287K, which was alarming. She discussed with the team of principals she collaborates with on a regular basis from PS 321, 29, 58. PS 321 has to pay back \$650K+. The DOE hasn't decided if we have to pay them back now, or they'll subtract from the budget for Sept 2021, or forget about it altogether. They had to go over the numbers to let us know what the deficit looks like based on the registration loss. When we started the year we started with many more students, and some have left, but not as significant a number as other schools.
- iReady Program: Chuck Simmons, instructional coach who's also overseeing the assessments and data team. He shared a presentation on it.
 - The data gathered by iReady allows us to establish benchmarks. We will use it to modify instruction, set performance goals and form academic intervention goals. Every year we do this, but this year we are using iReady. They use TERC benchmarks, Exemplars, and CCLS in grades 4 & 5. Also this year we are using Running Records, Spelling Inventory, etc. No state assessments or performance tests, those were eliminated. Still have published writing pieces and iReady. Plan is to use iReady for ELA as well.
 - Decided to do the assessment completely remote, so they can take it at home on their devices. It will not be any part of grading but will be used by teachers to inform conversations with students.
 - **iReady Q&A with Chuck Simmons:**
 - Q: Families didn't know it was happening, and didn't understand. Some kids were taking the diagnostic at home without knowing it wasn't going to impact grades, were very upset and melting down over the length of it and feeling that they were getting things wrong and didn't understand

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the questions. If a child reaches that point of distress, what are the consequences of opting out. Is the system capable of capturing if a kid only gets halfway through?

- A: They can take breaks, or take it over days. If they want to finish in school, they can. If they are having a breakdown over it, then stop - it's OK. We don't want to cause more anxiety and stress. It's not high stakes and there are no consequences. Look at it as any other remote activity and have them do their best. But don't help them as that will make the system think they can do it. Mental health comes first. They encouraged the teachers to tell students they don't have to stress over it, but it's designed to inform and improve the quality of instruction.
- Q: Our teacher didn't get much information about this diagnostic, are they able to access the content and scores?
 - A: The data team is trained in it and will be collecting the data and training teachers on how to use the program. At this point there isn't a lot we can show teachers because we don't have the data. They just got it very late, were hoping to get in Sept/Oct, and were trying to roll it out quickly so they could play catch up.
- Q: Some of the frustration was that the Konstella blast was earlier in the week and then the assignment was sprung on kids to do at the last minute, upending the schedule.
 - A: Some students in blended learning completed it in 20-50 minutes. The diagnostic toggles up & down to establish the baseline where the child is. Teachers can take Monday and Tuesday to finish this with their hybrid kids. We just need it before the end of the year.
- Q: Messaging of this wasn't enough for parents, Heather thought it was an email about a resource, and didn't open it. The city & DOE are putting a lot on parents. This presentation should have been to parents in the last PTA meeting or SLT when we were aware this was coming. Her 5th grade child and others in her grade took 2 hours. It also was said that it wouldn't be a large part of the children's grades, while in reality it's not a part of their grades.
 - A: Laura Scott: It was our intention to roll it out earlier this year, but we didn't get it until very late. It was \$20K for the program, so

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we purchased when we could and rolled it out. If possible, let's send out another note to parents letting them know some of what we discussed. Teachers are posting in Google Classroom, request is that it be sent tonight so it's the first thing parents see in the morning. Messaging from teachers wasn't consistent, and we apologize. He would be happy to come to the PTA meeting and discuss.

- Q: What was the urgency to roll this out now?
 - A: Laura Scott: Last March through June teachers were trying to do remote instruction, started this year behind and wanted to see a snapshot of where the children were to move forward in the right way and address their needs effectively. Yes, it felt rushed and it was. But we felt at a disadvantage and that the kids were nowhere near where they usually are. Wanted to be able to address any learning deficits in January. We didn't have enough data from the previous school year.
 - Gary Wong: One of the edicts from Central was that as a school we had to generate data. Not knowing how our school year would be, fully remote or what we have currently (with hybrid and remote), we liked that they could access this program from home. At a previous school children were able to complete it in the school computer lab. Because the program adapted based on kids' skills, as long as they use it at home, the students will see significant gains. The DOE anticipates having state assessments, but they aren't sure. We need to know where we are so we can help struggling students. At least we will have some data to be able to see where kids need help. This is the sole purpose of iReady. Once we get past the diagnostic portion we should start to see the value in this program. We are better off letting kids experience computer based testing now so they are more prepared in the future.
 - Jennine: We're not against the concept of assessment, but the timing, COVID time and quick turnaround, and messaging around it, and understanding the impact on grades.
 - Jenn: The PTA Meeting is too long to wait for something to go out that is targeted and will hit as many families as we can. Maybe

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tomorrow they can put something out? Make it universal & ask teachers to post on their Google Classroom.

- Q: What happens if kids can't complete iReady?
 - A: If children can't complete it they will look to use other assessments.
 - Q: Is this something we will use after COVID?
 - A: Yes, to assess kids who might need intervention. Weren't sure if they would be remote for the whole year, so wanted a remote assessment tool that could be used.
 - Ann Gregg: We will work on an FAQ page that addresses all of the questions reviewed here, and distribute it.
- School Yard Tents: Alex Low
 - The application has gone in and we are making progress. We have submitted extra paperwork to the DOE, so we are now just waiting to find out what more they need, if any. The government approving the vendor is what's holding it up. They have to be approved for procurement & insurance.
 - Once the vendor has been approved, then it should move more quickly. Some schools didn't go through the process we did, and just went ahead.
 - Our maintenance staff are some of the top people in the company contracted by the NYC DOE to do custodial. So this wasn't going to happen without their signoff & going through the proper channels.
 - Extended Day Report: Nick Moons
 - Scholarship Overview - Reviewed with Velma, a full semester of 13 weeks @ \$20 / day is \$1,300 total. Cost is 30% higher than normal, but our costs are a lot higher. We have loosened the reins on scholarships, and have been able to offer to more families, covering up to 90%. But at this point we are bleeding so much money as well as our rainy day fund, that we are more than willing to offer a scholarship to cover whatever people think they can afford. Recently we offered 35 scholarships, but only 7 enrolled. So we think we should offer more scholarships. It's been a hard conversation to have with people.
 - Q: Are we at capacity or would we need to add staff if we added more kids?
 - A: Because we have to have a buffer of staff to allow for staff calling in sick, we are always a few staff members over. When we put together our

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budget in July/Aug we tried to hire for a much larger contingency of kids. Our enrollment is down 65% from previous years, but it's also down more than we thought so we should assess what we're doing wrong. We can definitely accept more kids. And we will offer scholarships & reduced pay. The goal of the year is to survive, whatever it takes, and help the community.

- Looking at new initiatives:
 - Working on setting up classes in neighboring middle schools, to start getting some 5th graders into better enrichment courses and get acclimated with middle school. Will keep up with this initiative.
 - Sequential Spanish course: If you enter PS10 in K you can take Spanish 1 or 2 days, and continue taking to the end of your 5th year. You can enter at any time, but the idea would be to have a comprehensive language course to take someone through from K-5.
- Christie O'Brien procured some cold weather gear for Extended Day.
- Ms. Dalton has handwarmers she's sending over for the staff & kids.
- COVID Testing: Staff comes in with a negative test every 3 weeks. We do our best to have everyone have masks and socially distance. Heather raised that this doesn't follow guidelines, but the CDC has changed theirs. Nick and Laura will work together, and work with the DOE Situation Room to assess & take appropriate action on any situations that arise.
- Treasurer's Report: Ann Gregg
 - Presentation of budget report, highlights:
 - Total Income: \$33,936
 - Individual, Covid giving, online sales, event
 - Total Expenses: \$38,769
 - ED numbers: \$95,596 income; \$165,879 expenses.
 - \$4K will be reallocated from 4th & 5th grade performances that won't happen.
 - Venmo reimbursement: Treasurers discussed it and because of some of the reporting considerations and that it was being tied to individuals personal accounts, they won't reimburse individuals through Venmo going forward, checks will be mailed, or hand delivered.
 - Jenn: Shout out about our events - Kickboxing, Holiday Market, Holiday Raffle - thank you, you did an incredible job.

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- Motions to Vote on:
 - 1) We did approve \$12K for teacher gift certificates. We need \$500 to make sure Music and Library are covered. There are more classes with remote and hybrid. Motion approved.
 - 2) Thanks to Ms. Scott & Ally list of all the adults making PS10 run, something like 180. For the first time, with those numbers and understanding the people who work there we wanted to honor those people. We are adding \$1,700 to the gift certificate initiative. Would come from the teacher-student in-classroom intervention line.
 - Both motions will be voted on in next week's PTA General meeting.
- We are going to start to work on securing corporate donations. Farah Franqui assisting.
- December we have a lot of fundraisers. We should be coming in on budget with the different events.
- Money is coming in for Merch - over \$600 in sales since we launched last week.
- The 12 month projection worksheet is being filled out, we have to make decisions about amendments. Less events, and less income. We need to be honest about what we want to see for the budget by June, and if we pull from reserves. This is true of the ED budget as well.
- Individual giving is up, but without our events we have a shortfall. We want to be transparent about what the rest of the year looks like.
- Actionable items that would benefit from teams:
 - Konstella Guidance Document: Jenn Cribbs, Co-President
 - Issues have been raised regarding Konstella, and the history of how it's been used. We want to give parents a way to collaborate, meet on this platform, and have discussions. We were asked to take these concerns to SLT, and now there is a team from SLT including Jenn, Jennine & some teachers working on updating our Konstella guidance document. We welcome more people to join. SLT sent us instances of every time Konstella has been raised in SLT meetings in the last 6 years, and we apologize for any issues. We didn't realize how closely we had to monitor it, and that we have some cultural issues around support and how concerns are raised which need to be addressed. We will also make it clear to families that Konstella is a privilege and if they are using it in ways that are against federal, state, or local restrictions for PTA-funded

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resources, or that are damaging to culture we will stop the behavior or remove the offender.

- Families in Need Holiday Gift Bags: Heather Volik, Co-VP
 - This is a new initiative to help our families in need; they will get winter jackets, boots, and a small gift card for the holidays. We are working with the admin on how to identify these kids.
 - This should be a long-term goal for our school and we will revisit in the spring. We learned that our school has a large percentage of kids in need and we haven't been focused on them. We're thankful to the administration for supporting this initiative.
 - We have 10 shoppers now, but we need more! We will reimburse you (pending submission of receipts) for the \$100 - \$120 of upfront costs, you'd be given a number of the size of child, color they like, non-personal information, style of clothes & we would find the best deal. We'll package it in a reusable bag to be delivered.
 - Shopping starts next Weds, and I want all shopping to be done by the following Monday. Everyone in shelters is being approached to fill out the survey with what they need.
 - In the spring will do a more targeted outreach to those who are on public assistance.
 - We will send out a notice on Konstella with a link to the survey, if a family fills it out, it's possible they won't get what the families in transitional housing will get, but they will get something. Will be packaged for distribution so school doesn't have to do anything.
 - Jennine & Christie will help hand-distribute reimbursement checks.
- Materials for Families:
 - Please join our new group on Slack (#K-1 Printing) which will work on identifying how to get printouts to K & 1 families, as well as workbooks & art supplies.
- GoFundMe: Jenn Cribbs
 - The cost of plexiglass dividers between each desk is so much that teachers have been creating GoFundMe's to fundraise.
 - We are going to look at these and find vendors who can provide them more cost-effectively, if interested in helping with this please join us.
- Read-a-thon: AnnMarie Anderson
 - To do Read-a-thon virtually, we need to determine which is the best platform. Options include Read for My School, also Read-a-thon.com, and PledgeStar.

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- Goal is to choose something before the holidays if we can. However, this year we are considering extending Read-a-thon into March.
 - Farah, Felicia, Jenn said they can help with this next week.
- Kickboxing Event: Jenn Cribbs
 - Let's discuss making this an evergreen event. We loved the fundraiser so much, we would like to continue it. It was a great community building event, and also in our own families. Can we add this to the calendar? It's \$100 / session for the Coach.
- 9:10 pm: Jenn made motion to adjourn the meeting; Jennine seconded.