



PS10 PTA E-board Meeting Minutes // March 11th, 2021

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

- February 9th meeting minutes approved
- Principal's Report
 - 5-day Progress:
 - Kindergarten: 7 of the 8 classes have transitioned to 5 days, one class we need 1 child to volunteer to leave and we will have 100% 5-day K classes. The line is incredible around the building trying to get into school!
 - Meeting with 1st grade families just ended. The 1st grade parents were great, it'll be a little bit more of a challenge [to transition to 5 days]; many parents indicated that they didn't want to leave their teachers and the numbers who would need to leave in that grade is higher than Kinder. It'll be a team effort and if 2 or 3 of classes end up going 5 days that's OK, and we will feel like we accomplished something.
 - Grades 2 - 5 won't be able to transition to 5 days, but we have set up individual scenarios, e.g., if a class has a cohort of 8 or 9 and one of them needs extra days for support or because they are struggling, that child can come 5 days a week. Teachers are being resourceful and will reach out to families based on what their metrics will allow in their particular classroom. Classes may be able to expand, we will see if [the DOE] changes the social distancing protocols.
 - Music is happening, we are working to expand the grade 2 music program with Ann Gregg. We interviewed 2 new full-time music teachers but one was more innovative and knew how to write grants and get money from foundations so we don't have to lean on the PTA as much, we hired this

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person and he came into school today, we are so excited for him. He wants to do band for 5th grade, and has a lot of really great ideas.

- Chess is live in K, 2 and 4. Dance is starting with the National DAnce Institute for grades 3 & 4, Mr. Nusser helped get that underway.
- Student Council:
 - SC meeting happened yesterday, we are discussing essential workers as Superheroes and hosted Mr. Oramas, we discussed essential workers in our lives, and he talked about how he works with kids and how everything is confidential, they are going back to classes to share what they learned with their peers. Talking to Jen & Jennine as she wants to do a Superhero Day, get tees for teachers, staff, and exec board with “PS10 Superheroes” on the front, and walk into school on the 16th with the shirts on and let the kids know that we are superheroes too.
 - The UN was so taken with the presentation the Student Council did that they want to do a new initiative for passive house projects, they want to do another with us. She will find out more next week.
- Report cards are due the 18th & 19th and will be online the 20th.
- Leveled books & science materials have been going out to in-person and remote families. All of 5th grade got their science kits and are ready to go with the activities they are working on with Josette [5th grade science teacher]. A parent made a sizable donation and wants us to use it for more science, we may be able to do a Rube Goldberg project in late spring.
- We also have owl cameras set up in some classrooms; these are placed in the middle of the room and can zoom in on children when they're speaking to help teachers be able to see and hear the children better.
- The new Comprehensive Educational Plan guidelines are being shared in April. They put together guidelines for goals for next year that are being rolled out next month.
- Testing information: we haven't heard anything about how they want us to roll this out. Laura is talking to [Rebecca Haimowitz](#) about this as well. The Biden Admin may not require states to be held accountable to testing.
- Budget update & Projections for Fall 2021: Budget looks good, Ally has been trying to move around money, priority has been opening new classrooms to move to a 5 day model, also trying to meet a March 18th budget deadline.

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- Health & Sex Ed Class for 4th and 5th Grade: Will try to see if we can invite back the guy we had last year, but we don't know if he was paid twice. Because he wasn't paid in a timely fashion by the DOE, the PTA initially paid him, but we don't know if the DOE also paid him, it might be that we are due a free session. We will reach out to him and find out soon. Heather mentioned a friend that does this. Maria Leacy said she knows someone as well.
- Vaccine progress for teachers & staff: 65-70% of our teachers have been vaccinated, she cannot say exactly who due to HIPAA but some teachers have called and said that they can't come into work because they aren't feeling well because of the 2nd shot.
- The Chancellor is trying to change the physical distancing measures to one that makes more sense to accommodate more kids in the classroom. It may be business as usual in the fall, and we are hoping it will be the case.
- Question: What things do you value about the way school works during the pandemic such as additional outdoor / recess time for kids? Can we survey parents about this?
 - A: We can look into this.
- Extended Day Report
 - We're hoping to be back to normal in the fall.
 - Working on a number of new initiatives for the fall as well.
 - Right now we're trying to launch a low cost summer camp for kids. There are some hurdles with permitting but Velma & Qushema are working on that.
 - We are also looking to be the umbrella organization at K280, it'll be a better experience for the kids over there and a way to also grow the pipeline of kids coming in, increase our ability to hire staff and expand our pull & stretch with vendors. Meeting next week with Gaylene & Gary Wong.
 - Our PPP Loan seems to have come in, we secured \$77K we will use to keep our staff employed so that come fall we will be business as usual.
 - Current Spring numbers of enrollment are down. We are at only 62 participants, 53 families. Spring season starts April 5th.
 - Tent situation (Alex Low):
 - Things are moving in the right direction. We got an exemption because if you keep tents under 400 square feet (the tent company let

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us resize our order to smaller tents) we can get 30-day permits for them. Though we are using stakes, we can still get the permits. Our plan with Mike Kelly's blessing is to do 3 20x20 tents for 30 days at a time, we will leave the stakes in but take the canvas down, and then reassemble them. We may be able to install them during the spring break.

- Question: What is the ratio of children to staff members? A: We have way too many staff members per child, we can host another 100 children. We're keeping as many staff as we can.
- Question/Idea: Can we have a Zoom call Q&A for parents who are in the program to help address parents concerns who are interested in the program but maybe have some trepidation. People need more of an understanding of what goes on in the program, what do kids do during the Outdoor Camp?
- More ideas to help increase ED and summer camp enrollment:
 - Make a 3-minute promotional video to time with the parent Q&A session.
 - Also for the summer camp, families need more detail about what the activities will be, what they will be doing - a sample schedule for the day / week. And if we can promise a low staff to student ratio.
- Co-Treasurers' Report
 - Report:
 - <https://zoom.us/j/92221788873?pwd=UmNtbyswdmcvdS9BcGhzdit3YTR6UT09>
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 - Corporate match went up by \$4,000. This is a big area of change for us, happy to see it grow.
 - Read-a-thon - Projected goal is over \$59K of pledges, paid so far is \$46,455. As of the end of Feb, \$25K has come in. We had a 50% participation rate in the Rea-a-thon, but that's typical for this fundraiser. The online portal, virtual program paid off. Laura Scott heard all about the competition between the classes, it was incredible.

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- Expenses: E3 Sports, Robotics & Engineering, Teacher Feast, Financial Review/audit (just concluding). Teachers were in shock and so thankful for the Grub Hub gift cards.
- Extended Day \$77K PPP grant will hit next month.
- In next month's e-board meeting, we will talk about what we should prioritize. We also need people to join the budget committee (Maria Leacy said she will join). The budget also goes through a committee process & needs to be voted on in the June meeting, by the general membership. Budgeting process runs April - June.
- Q: Have we received any feedback in our budget feedback form? A: Usually we send a survey to parents asking about budget priorities and will need to do this in concert with the budgeting process.
- Goal with Music is that all kids in school have it, right now 2nd & 4th don't have it but we may be able to do it with different educators this spring. There is also a 4th grade sing-along program that may happen with Mr. Michel. The goal was music K-5, and in the spring we are able to accomplish this, and will come in at \$7,500 - which is under budget.
- PTA is helping to pay for the Extended Day tents, as part of the Covid Relief budget.
- Corporate Sponsorships:
 - Into the Future is Ann Gregg's family's program launching in the summer, she raised a question of how can we share school-wide about this program which led to wondering how can we create a family-owned business directory and help families get the word out about their businesses?
 - We need to figure out a way to give our donation partners additional advertising opportunities. We will discuss in the Mind the Gap meeting.
- Actionable items that would benefit from teams (sign-up time!)
 - Current Events:
 - March Meet & Greet Table (Felicia): Meet & Greet just started today, picked the corner of 7th & Prospect to hit different grades. We are missing other grades, ideally we would have one table on each corner. Was great to talk to parents, and we sold \$100 in merchandise. We

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are there to see parents face to face - because there is Konstella fatigue. Maria & Felicia were at the tables today. We also had flyers for current events. In future, we would ideally have a 50/50 raffle, other things we can do to make money and have fun. We may be able to do both pick up & drop off. Since parents aren't coming to PTA meetings in the building, it's nice to be able to catch them outside. We are also having elections soon and have to recruit people. Can we also include masks on the table to sell? Drop off is OK, but pick up is better because people have more time to mill around and buy stuff. In April we will aim to do both pick up and drop off. We also got feedback from families on what they want for merch.

- Square 1 Art - Deadline March 26th (Felicia): There isn't that much to do. Art teachers are going to be teaching during class time in school and over Zoom. Targeting Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents Day gifts. Deadline is the 26th, but we can extend that.
 - Family Kickboxing - March 21st (Felicia): It was a lot of fun in December, we are trying to get the word out, offer it for free but with an open donation. The instructor is \$100, so even \$200 - \$300 in donations will pay for this and future ones.
 - Things like kickboxing and the hearts on the fence mean a lot to our families, it's not about making money but just old-fashioned things that lift spirits. For example, a flash mob - Miriam & team are interested in this.
 - Merch (Nattallie): We discussed purchasing new items, we can also set up an online store that is open for a limited time, we don't have to pre-buy it, but need to sell a certain amount to break even. This is good if we want to sell some non-standard sizes or designs. Can allow for the sale of limited-edition items. To break even, we only need to sell a small amount. Ex: PS10 Mom for Mother's Day, PS10 Dad for Father's Day.
 - Vote: [Jenn Cribbs](#) proposes that if we break even, Merch can have \$1,500 to use. All are in favor.
 - In our General meeting, we will have to have the general membership vote on this.
- Upcoming events:

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- School Photo Days (Kelli & Felicia): Process started with Stomping Ground, Tues April 13th for A and Weds April 14th for Cohort B for on-site photos at the school, outdoors. We know there are 5th graders who were unaware it was happening, we'll work with Gary Nusser to find out if 5th grade families need to reschedule. Gary wanted to know if we can schedule something for the 5th grade before or after that. We want to also give remote families the option to come on site on the same days (13th & 14th) to have their photos taken. This year Stomping Ground isn't doing on-site make-up photo days. You would have to book a remote session. For remote families who don't want to come on site they can schedule a remote session, using their phone and they would photoshop the student onto the background. Remote sessions are \$5 per person. Stomping Ground will also host sessions at their studios on weekends. We will do a save the date the week of the 15th.
- BidFest (April 17 - May 1) (Heather): 60 donations thus far, goal is 100. Couple more weeks to have parents and businesses donate. We have camps, Winner dinner. We are doing a live 4th & 5th grade talent show on May 1st in the early evening, during our closing night of the auction Zoom party. We will be putting out an announcement to 4th & 5th grade families recruiting talent for the talent show. Nattallie is working on our old auction donor list, we have had a lot of great responses. We will start putting it up in our auction system soon. We will have a sub-committee to reach out to parents who have donated and ask for the details around their offering. Jenn will reach out to the Diversity and Inclusion committee to get more meals. People want to help, so talk to your friends about what they can give. There will be an audition and a dress rehearsal. Teacher Raffle is also getting responses.
 - Q: Liability - For people who are purchasing / contributing, the PTA should be indemnified from any issues with food safety and preparation. We expect parents to use masks & gloves when preparing food. Can we add a disclaimer that the PTA is not responsible for anything related to the donations - even as far as a camp or a house rental? Where can we put that?

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- Joe Larson is willing to do a live end of year party, he needs an outdoor venue. Ann Gregg can speak to Sue Donahue at Prospect Park Alliance.
 - Schedule March Mind the Gap meeting.
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- 8:44 Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ralitsa seconded.