



## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021**

**7:04 PM** Meeting Called to Order by Julie / Seconded by Jenn

- 12/17/20 PTA General Meeting minutes approved
- Principal's Report:
  - Gary Wong - Remind:
    - Remind is going to be our new messaging system, School Messenger (Robocalls) is ending. Gary is updating the contact list for that as well, to make sure graduating students don't continue to get calls.
    - Remind won't send robocalls but will send text or email automatically depending on what the user prefers. Every classroom will have a code, you get the app and enter the code, you will then get a notification system for the classroom & for the whole school. Example, when there's a snow day everyone will be notified.
    - Caregivers can choose their language, e.g., Chinese or Arabic, and all messages will be auto-translated. With School Messenger we could only do Spanish.
    - We have 4 platforms sharing information right now, soon to be 3 with Remind replacing School Messenger. We will continue to use Konstella.
    - Why we wanted Remind: - it's hard for some families to connect with their NYC Schools account. Remind is tied directly into the DOE roster system. The benefit for teachers is that if parents need to be contacted, the teachers can automatically contact them without sharing their personal number because it's done through the app, not through their phone. Danny, Jonathan & Gary will be troubleshooting this system tomorrow.

## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021**

- The bottom line is, it'll help us communicate better with the community.
- Once all the rostering is done, teachers will be sending a letter to each classroom with the code for the class, and for the school. Be on the lookout for that.
- Cateia is our District 15 Community Education Council Liaison - She is attending the meeting today to listen to our concerns, and take anything we want back to the Council to address. Everyone is welcome to e-mail her: [cateiacec15@gmail.com](mailto:cateiacec15@gmail.com)
- Laura Scott:
  - Thank you for the teacher gift cards, the teachers love them and are thrilled. Made everything lighter for them, as it's a hard time.
  - We reopened PS10 on Monday after a period of closure.
  - Some of the info being shared by the DOE Situation Room Test & Trace is inaccurate. Sometimes they close buildings to make sure they have the information right, and then reopen. That was the case with PS10; there were cases over the break and they wanted to make sure they weren't connected to cases that were known prior to school closures. Example: they had on one of the websites that one of K280's classrooms was closed, but it wasn't. We are concerned about this info being shared, and have reached out to the Situation Room to ask that they make sure what they are sharing is accurate.
  - We have been continuing to Covid-test students randomly weekly at PS10.
  - We are moving to 5 days a week at K280, and we want to make sure those students are tested as well, so we are working towards the goal of being one of the first Pre-K centers with weekly testing. If 100% of our Pre-K goes 5 days a week, which would be 25 classes, it makes sense to conduct random testing weekly.
- Gary reported that middle school meetings were going great so far, and he will continue to make everyone aware of any virtual meetings. He will use Remind and Konstella to post the information as well as the website.
- Chess - We're so happy Ian West [the chess program director] is joining us, grades 1, 3, 5 had chess in the classroom last semester, and now K, 2 and 4 have chess in the classroom this semester. Thanks to the PTA for this. It teaches thinking, strategy - it's more than a game. Thrilled we have this.

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021

- Music for grades 2 & 4 will end Feb 12, then after the break grades 3 & 5 will start. We are talking to the PTA about trying to get music for 1st grade. Good news: for Sept 2021, we interviewed an amazing music teacher who's as talented as Mr. Ellis and knows him. Excited for this person to join us in Sept which is when she's available.
  - Science for Grade 5: Artists in Residence & PTA are helping to get this off the ground. We have a science teacher, Reem Zanta, ready to hit the ground running who is doing professional development with the artists in residence program, and will combine what she learns with her lessons around inventions, toy inventions being the first initiative.
  - Tents: This program is moving forward nicely. Our parent community is awesome, we found out we needed a contact at the buildings department for tent approval; turns out one of our former parents has connections at the buildings department and is going to try and help us expedite approval. Hope to be up & running by next month.
  - 5-day initiative in school: At PS10, only the special needs & self-contained kids (K, 1st grade ESL classes, as well) are attending 5 days for now, we cannot extend to the rest of the school as we don't have the room in our classrooms to do social distancing. At K280 we may be able to do 100% 5 days a week and are working towards that goal.
  - Covid-19 Vaccinations: Lots of teachers have already been able to get vaccinated, about a quarter of our teaching staff so far. There is a vaccine shortage, so some were turned away from their appointments, but they are determined to get them.
  - The DOE's Fall 2020 School Experience Survey (which will be coming to your e-mail) is very straightforward, it's asking caregivers to provide feedback to the school which the DOE will share with sub-committees to deploy field teams and build a better future in this new environment.
  - Lastly, there is a K280 Turning 5 workshop happening Friday, 1/22. For more information, email Sandy Fajgier <sfajgier@ps10.org>.
- Chess Club and Chess in the Classroom (Ian West)
    - Ian West is the director of our Chess in the Classroom program and is available at [ps10chess@gmail.com](mailto:ps10chess@gmail.com), please email him and he is happy to help answer any questions relating to the program.

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021

- We just launched K, 2nd and 4th Chess in the Classroom this week. He has had 20-35 kids per session.
- ChessKid (chesskid.com) accounts have been created for every child at PS10. It's the best online resource for chess, geared towards kids. It's very secure - no one can message them outside of their peers at school.
- Every child has full access to ChessKids, it's a resource for them to study chess, like a tutor. There is a way to turn off the sounds, click the "gear" icon to switch off. It's intuitive and easy to use for kids. During class he teaches them how to play & use ChessKids.
- Passwords / usernames are here:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qhL1cXxtekWneHTb0zCYTVgiG3qKpmmRl4rK8XFccol/edit#gid=779156701>
- [Superstar League](#) tracks Chess engagement. They can track participation.
- Brooklyn Cup - The trophy moves from school to school. Hopeful our team holds onto it.
- Every child is also going to get a real chess board for free, by the end of the school year. We are also looking for donations to help get these free chess sets in the hands of every kid: <https://thegiftofchess.org>.
- Community Events:
  - Paint & Sip: Felicia DeVita
    - Saturday, January 30th at 8:30 pm, virtual parents night in, every package includes the canvas & painting supplies. You can come and get your supplies at the school on the morning of January 30th. Or, get the VIP package for delivery to your home including drinks from parent owned restaurant, Sidecar. Donated tickets (Pay it Forward option) will be shared with teachers & paras & staff. Go to <https://www.konstella.com/app/school/57bca26de4b06d68cc8510bb/sales-sheets/5ff8aff6c79c7415d2fee26f> for more info or to buy tickets. Ticket sales end Friday, Jan 22nd. Email Felicia for more info: [fobrien226@yahoo.com](mailto:fobrien226@yahoo.com).
  - Read-a-thon and Reading Under the Stars: AnnMarie Anderson
    - Overview of Read-a-thon - This annual event, our biggest PTA fundraiser of the year, will run from Feb 5th - March 5th. Encourages our kids to read more books and fosters a love of reading, all while

## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021**

raising money for our school. It'll be totally virtual this year, so a few things will be different from previous years.

- Tutorial: The online platform is called PledgeStar, families can set up their own page for their family, and ask for donations through this platform, track the minutes read as well. Prizes will be awarded for top readers in classes and classes in grade levels.
- Caregivers will go to [Pledgestar.com/PS10](https://pledgestar.com/PS10), there they can choose their language, there's an intro about Read-a-thon and a slideshow. Click on "not registered" which will go through the registration process which is very simple.
- There will be a leaderboard for the whole month of the event. You can keep track of minutes daily, or upload them all at once at the end of the week. Easier than using a sheet of paper.
- For the pledge request form, you can upload a picture, use the form letter, and then put in people's email addresses and it'll send either email or text messages to friends & family on your behalf. You can also get a link to share on other platforms and social media. The pledge money will also be logged on the site. We can also set a goal per child if you would like. Leaderboard will show how classes are doing.
- Class parents, please share this information with your classes. We need all families to register. Look out for more information coming on Konstella and Google Classroom.
- People will not get email solicitations from this company outside of correspondence relating to Read-a-thon.
- Feb 5th at 7:00 pm, save the date for Reading Under the Stars, a virtual event, this year it will be a Celebration of Black Voices in Children's Literature. We'll have surprise guests, a raffle, wear your jammies, and BYO hot chocolate! Stay tuned for more information coming on Konstella soon.
- On Feb 3rd we will be doing an author visit in honor of World Read-Aloud Day.
- We will also have authors record videos during Read-a-thon to get kids excited, and our Librarian Gracen Cloud will put together reading lists for each grade level of fun and diverse books.

## PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021

- Reading can happen on Sora, Epic, RAZ Kids, newspapers, magazines, or physical books.
- Any questions - email [ps10reads@pta.ps10.org](mailto:ps10reads@pta.ps10.org).
- Bidfest: For the people, by the people: Heather Volik
  - Bidfest is a new way to raise funds that leverages all of our innate talents. Think of what you enjoy and your talents, and we will auction it off.
  - We will talk to small businesses to see if they will make donations, but also we want to focus on your talents, what you love to do.
  - Example: her husband will be making Coquito. Her friend is donating handyman hours, another friend is great with computers and will offer help.
  - Heather will go to a local business and donate a gift card, or bottles of wine for people to bid on.
  - We need help running this - email [heather.volik@gmail.com](mailto:heather.volik@gmail.com). This year is tough on fundraising, so the more money we can raise means we won't dip into our reserve as much.
  - Will run April 17th - May 1st and culminate in a dance party for kids, then for adults later.
- Valentine's Day: Felicia DeVita
  - Not a fundraiser, but something we want to do to bring the community together and have fun with the kids.
  - This is still in the planning stages, so email Felicia DeVita ([fobrien226@yahoo.com](mailto:fobrien226@yahoo.com)) if you want to get involved.
  - We will be doing a day of love for our community, with little hearts where people can write messages tied to the gate of the school, Maria Leacy will find a way to facilitate virtual messages for the remote learners.
  - This is to show our love for our school and classmates. To help out or for more info, email [fobrien226@yahoo.com](mailto:fobrien226@yahoo.com).
- Treasurer's Report: Ann Gregg
  - Refer to the budget report & presentation (attached).
  - Budget Presentation:
    - Income: \$76K
    - Expenses: \$68K

## **PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // January 21, 2021**

- Income driven by lots of end of year individual donations, Families in Need project
  - Expenses - Things like teacher gift certificates. Thanks to the teachers for your thank-you notes!
  - We're discussing projections through the end of the year with Extended Day, to see if we need to make changes. There is money in reserve but we want to be thoughtful and clear with all of you as to how we spend it.
  - We are in the middle of an audit for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.
  - We are going to look at forging better corporate relations for fundraising.
  - Mid-year report to the DOE is due this month.
  - End of the year giving: we will see more of these funds hit our books in the next budget report, as well as the funds raised through Square 1 Art (thanks to Felicia for leading that).
  - Expenditures include: E3 Sports, Science Kits, and Carbon filters for air filtration systems.
  - The Families in Need project was able to benefit 26 different kids; people were really blessed by our community. Thank you for your generosity. If you need anything during this difficult time, please reach out to Admin, PTA or a school social worker.
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- 8:21pm: Jennine made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jenn seconded.