



PS10 PTA General Meeting Minutes // November 23, 2020

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

- 10/8/20 PTA general meeting minutes approved
- Konstella Guidelines:
 - Reminder - be kind, be mindful of your audience. Assume positive intent. Make sure that Konstella stays a safe space for the teachers, staff & other parents.
 - We cannot promote or authorize anything political or religious as per DOE guidelines.
 - More in-depth guidelines will be going out soon.
- Principal's Report: Laura Scott
 - Thank you to the PTA for their support. Thanks to parents who have been sending supportive messages & emails. It goes a long way.
 - When we closed the staff & I were so sad. We know the kids were sad as well, we were speechless. Everyone stepped up to make sure the hybrid learning went smoothly and it really did. We haven't heard what we will be doing moving forward. We are still in the dark, it was very sudden when schools closed. If we hear any updates we will post on Konstella and the website as quickly as we can.
 - We have been doing random testing in the school, we've done twice already and no cases were revealed. Parents have been transparent, and if they encountered an issue or were traveling they were up front with admin sharing any issues they had. Made everything in our school successful.
 - I credit the teachers w/the smooth transition into remote learning. They worked hard to make sure classrooms were ready for transition. There were some bumps but we were ready this time. Parents were reaching out with

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suggestions that we appreciate, hoping this won't go on much longer. We look forward to that time, in the meantime we want to meet all students' needs.

- To make sure kids get what they need and are consistently engaged some of our staff members developed an enrichment Google classroom - one for grades K-2 and one for grades 3-5. Teachers have posted links to these in their Google classrooms, if you don't see them, reach out to the classroom teacher to ask them more about it. Includes virtual tours, things to support what they are learning, read alouds, fun things the teachers don't get to focus on like cursive writing. Something you may want to look at if your kids have the time and want extra enrichment.
- Parent-Teacher conferences went very well, I like them better than the ones in the past, as they were always after the report cards - these came before so gave parents an idea of what they needed to do to support kids. The conversations the parents had were more meaningful and objective and they heard what teachers had to say. Students are working harder because they don't have the grades hanging over their heads. Report cards period ends Dec 4th, and grades will be released on December 14th.
- We have started programming music, art, science pre-k to 4 and 5 last week. Trying to make sure every child has access to our gym teacher. Trying to be creative and innovative. She & APs have been working on this over the past week, by Wednesday if not Monday we will have in place.
- Thanks to the PTA for the PPE, we have all we need and are ordering more via the custodians, the other day we were able to put in plexiglass dividers in the gym, they're already in the cafeteria and the auditorium. It does help us keep the kids safe if and when we use the common spaces. Mostly we have them outside as much as possible but in the case of a storm we have nothing else we can do but have them in the common spaces. Having the dividers makes it more safe. The other day I was dancing with the 1st & 2nd graders in the gym, I hope the kids had as much fun as I did!
- Starting with the Student Council soon. Usually we start this earlier, but this year we're starting the 1st week of December. Teachers are already sending names of who would be the best representative of the class, and will be creating activities for them to engage in.
- Extended Day Update: Nick Moons

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- We are scrambling to try to work out with the admin, DOE and custodial on how to deal with school being closed while continuing Outdoor Camp; doing our best to be there for the parents.
 - We are working on getting approvals from the city to install tents in the schoolyard, we have a down payment and are trying to work this out. Alex Low is doing a great job with this.
 - Cold weather Clothing Drive happened at the beginning of the year, now we are looking to do another to get warm clothing for the staff & kids who might need it, so we can continue to offer Outdoor Camp throughout the winter.
- Treasurer's Report: Ann Gregg
 - Refer to the spreadsheet that was sent via Konstella.
 - Budget Presentation:
 - As of the end of October,
We are on par with last year in terms of donations.
 - Expenses to-date are \$26K
 - Budget also includes a line for Extended Day & K280.
 - We bought more Merch hoping people would want to buy PS10 branded goods.
 - We are reframing some of our events & continually thinking about how to move in-person events to online.
 - **Vote:** We would like to adjust the budget to change the teacher gift certificate line to \$12K, moving funds from the push-in teacher line. We aren't adding money to the budget, just moving it from other areas. This helps reimburse teachers for school supplies as the DOE lost this budget. **Motion was approved by the majority of meeting attendees.**
 - Budgeting process:
 - We are working month to month so we can see what's coming in & out. Our auditing / financial review process has started.
 - In terms of fundraising: Please set up PS10 as your charity on Amazon Smile. It generates significant money for the school.
 - For those in the hybrid school model, if we don't return to the building we will save the money and work on other ways to use the expense.

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- Chess is also something we have supported for the fall semester.
- Upcoming PTA Events in Nov/Dec:
 - Kickboxing Event on November 29th at 4:00 pm with Knight Code Fitness, a great event to work off that turkey!
 - Tuesday 11/24 at 5:00 pm - Native American performance from the Redhawk Native American Council
 - Square 1 Art - Projects are due on December 2nd. You work with your kids and send it in, you can send in multiple projects and get keepsakes in time for the holidays. Search for "PS 10 Magnet School."
 - Pampered Chef Event - 20% of proceeds go back to the school, great option for holiday gifts. Ends December 6th.
 - Holiday Market application is live. It's \$100 for a virtual table and you get tons of advertising for your business. The deadline is 11/27, and the online market runs Dec 1 - 14th.
 - Holiday Raffle Baskets - Tickets on sale December 3rd - 11th, winners are notified on the 14th. Will be online this year.
- Community Q&A:
 - When will live teaching for 5th Grade Science start?
 - Begins next week (11/30) with Reem Zanta.
 - Will the Student Council include remote classes?
 - Yes, we will have representatives from remote classes as well.
 - Some kindergarteners have art with Ms. Rachel, but it falls on Monday so they end up with 4 Zoom sessions back to back. Is there a way to have art on a different day so they don't have to have so many classes? This is for Cohort D.
 - We will look into it.
 - Will there be an opportunity to have a student town hall? There is a missing sense of community and connectivity, especially now that all students are remote. What about a Student town hall or small event / spirit day?
 - Laura can make this part of the Student Council initiative.
 - For Remote classes, will there be a second pick up for supplies? Extra paper, or other things? They tend to add up.

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- That's been ongoing some families picked up materials today. Teacher will reach out to the admin, and will arrange for families to pick up, no problem.
- For Remote classes, does the admin plan on sitting in on remote classes to do an audit to monitor content & engagement from the students?
 - Yes, starting to do that, sitting in on all classes beginning this week. Supposed to have staff development on that because it's different from sitting in on regular classes. Laura sat in on Heidi Bookman's class and loved it. You will see admin popping in from time to time.
- Some parents weren't aware that there were music classes, are they happening during in-person days and not online?
 - All clusters are happening on remote days. We started music in 2nd & 4th then will be moving to Kinder, 20 sessions then will move to 1st and 3rd.
- Teacher end of year gifts: Can they be a Visa gift card instead of Amazon, as it gives them more flexibility?
 - Visa gift cards have high fees. If anyone can help us with that, please let us know.
- In lieu of families getting together for classroom lunches around the holidays, would it be possible for teachers and kids to eat together remotely to replicate in-school? Also, can we bring back Parents as Learning Partners remotely?
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 - Laura: We will see what we can do. Especially for kids who are remote the whole time, any way we can enhance connectivity would be welcomed. Usually this would mean parents are walking into the classroom. Anyone has any ideas how we can do this remotely, she's open to hearing them.
 - PTA: We welcome opportunities to offer feedback on events we can be doing, not just to earn money - if anyone has an idea of a community-building event opportunity, please send it to pta@ps10.org. We will be sending out a budget Google form, open to suggestions about budget ideas and questions.
- Mental health for kids: some are dealing with anxiety, what resources can the school offer?

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- Laura said we haven't addressed it like we need to, Sandy Fagjier and Chuck Simmons are leading in these conversations, if anyone has any ideas please share with them or the APs. Maddie will ask Mr. Oramas to offer a list of organizations who can help at little to no cost, e.g., NAMI. They will put together a list.
- Live teaching for 5th grade science next week: what is the teacher's experience?
 - She is a substitute but has had some science teaching experience, and is working with Ms. Venier, Nusser. They've been prepping her for teaching live, so she is ready to address the needs of the children. They are experienced in science because of their lab experience so she has to be on her toes. They're working with her very closely.
- Author Visits - AnnMarie Anderson
 - PTA has had this committee for years. Last Spring we had 3 visits during the remote period and they went well, we have some key learnings coming out of those.
 - Hoping to schedule 6 visits, but instead of doing by grade level we will do K-2 and 3-5. Visits would be targeted at lower and upper grades, and so kids would have access to 3 author visits instead of 1. We have a list of authors we're targeting, looking to do them at a low cost to the PTA to have something fun for kids & families during the school day. It won't be possible for everyone to get on (because of timing), but we will try to record them and have them available after.
 - If anyone wants to help out, please join the committee on Konstella. If anyone has ideas - we could do an event for parents as well. More information coming soon on Konstella.
- 7:56pm: Jenn made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Jennine seconded.