



PPAS PTA **General** Meeting Minutes October 18, 2018

Meeting called to order by John Young @ 6:45pm. Everyone was thanked for being in attendance and moving to the auditorium.

Minutes were read by Terri Cadet-Donald. 1st – Steffanie Petersen
2nd – Alissa Silverberg
All in favor ... minutes approved.

Principal's Report – Keith Ryan
9th grade students will receive their identification cards next week.

We are focusing on instructional focus, the way we give students feedback on their work.

- Weak vs informed takeaway
- Quality that builds on learning
- Each student needs something different

What does interactions with students look like?

- Teacher walk through of groups
- Conversation starters to develop critical thinking
- Teacher inter-visitation
- Developing a growth mindset

Mr. Ryan teaches Freshman Forum. “The energy of the 9th grade students are fantastic!”
There is now a Black Student Union (BSU).

President's Report – John Young

The Amazon Smiles account is set up. From 10/29 thru 11/2, there is a special promotion and we will receive an increase in the percentage. Sign up and purchase during that time.

Fall SLAM Talent Show was not able to be held. The dates for the Winter SLAM are tentatively set for 1/18 and 1/19/2019.

We are still in need of a volunteer coordinator.

Q – Can we just set up a volunteer website?

A – We still need a point person. Please email John if you are interested.

Monthly Presidents' Council meetings are held and attended by all the HS PA/PTA Presidents in the borough. It's interesting to see the issues in other schools. The main concerns overall are parental involvement and fundraising.

We will send a survey to the parents to garner meeting interests, agenda items and areas of concern that the PTA can address at meetings.

Treasurer – Rob Famighetti

Co-VP Membership – Andrew Jackal

There is a new accounting system and we have a bookkeeper on board. \$128,000- last bank statement. \$10,558 from the ACF.

Donations by category ...

- Dance, \$625-
- Drama, \$2,749-
- Musical Theater, \$1,697-
- Vocal, \$2,319-
- Middle School, \$5,264-

Donations can be made to each category through 10/31/18.

Monthly contributions are also popular.

Q – Who is the check made payable to?

A – PPAS PTA. If it's for a specific purpose, indicate on the memo line.

We are looking to have 100% participation rate, meaning every family to donate. Q – What is the participation rate right now?

A – Unsure, but last year was about 20%.

The participation rate is important for grants.

If your company offers matching funds, please contact VPMembership@ppaspta.org. For tax purposes, letters will go out in the new year.

There is a 50/50 raffle tonight! \$5- per ticket. This will be done at every meeting.

Q – Does it matter who the donation goes to?

A – Not really, as any donation to the PTA will benefit the children.

Q – Is there a paper form for donations?

A – No. It will be looked into for the future.

Q – At an elementary school, they did phone drives. Any thought on doing a phone drive?

A – We did in the past, but there is some legality of the school giving the PTA contact info for the parents.

Q – Have we contacted the parents regarding the end date of the arts drive? A – We do not want to badger the parents. They can also donate to the ACF.

Q – Middle school dance next week needs funds for refreshments. A – Middle school has a budget.

Vocal – Karla Ghaleb and Alissa Silverberg

Musical Soiree will be held on 11/8 @ 7pm in the Black Box Theater. \$20- adults, \$10- children & students. There will be a small reception following the performance.

Holiday concert at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament on 12/14 @ 7:30pm.

Lincoln Center (pre-show performance) on 12/19. Reduced price tickets are available.

Looking into field trips and vocal department fundraisers. All ideas welcome.

Some groups are going to see shows with Ms. Diaz with discount tickets from TDF. More info, vocaldelegate@ppaspta.org

Q – Are all these events on the website?

A – They will be placed on the website soon. The vocal dates will be sent via email.

Musical Theater – Steffanie Petersen

There was a parent mixer this past Monday. Showcases will be done for each level.

Drama – Shannon Burkett

Drama 3 performance of Machinal on 11/14 – 11/17, 7pm and on 11/17, there is a 2pm matinee as well.

We are \$8,000- short of the funds that we would like to raise. \$2,200- was raised so far. We are looking into having a professional video the show and we will sell a DVD. Videos are important for colleges and we have parent interest.

Greg Minnie handed in a grant proposal and will have an answer by December. There is currently a \$2,000- grant for a workshop.

Grants@ppaspta.org or Shannon.a.burkett@gmail.com

Q – The \$2,000- grant, is it for parents or students?

A – It is for specific arts related high school projects for the students. Can be used for a teaching artist, teacher, guest speaker, etc.

Dance – Dineen Jones

There will be an informal parent happy hour at Citizen Hotel on 10/24.

10/28 and 11/4 are auditions at Ailey.

11/1 there is a trip to the Guggenheim to see a dance performance.

11/26 – 11/28 is parent observation with a reception and student performance on 11/26. Student trip to see the Ailey Company perform will be in December.

Middle School – Anke Freund

- Facebook page created for middle school families.
- Middle school section on the PTA website coming soon.
- Trips being looked into.
- Do we have a budget for students in need?

- There is no crossing guard on 8th Avenue and there is many homeless in the area. What can be done?

Parent Coordinator - Teri Gindi

The crossing guard concern will be discussed and brought to the attention of our Councilperson.

Middle school tours will be held in November. Parent volunteers are needed for the tours.

Co-VP Fundraising - Morgan Neville

First Monday of the month will be **Merchandise Monday** where the students and staff can purchase PPAS related merchandise. Bake sale will also be done on this day. Merchandise prices will be made available online. There are new items coming in soon. The students can bake and donate to the bake sales for community service.

Q – Can you order merchandise online? A – No.

The GALA is our biggest fundraiser. Looking at dates in May (5/20, 5/21, 5/22). There will be a separate GALA page on the PTA website. For ideas, GALA@ppaspta.org.

We are looking to involve the students in the GALA. Art project from each class? The project can be auctioned off. Maybe an incentive for each class as well.

Q - Gift basket per class to be auctioned off?

A – Nice idea, but we can't see what's in the basket.

Charitybuzz - Louis Melendez

- A non-profit that hosts unique, online auctions.
- They have global audiences and a large network of people.
- High end clients that look to donate as a tax write off!
- A lot of NYC schools use this company.
- New York experience is always a good sell.
- Items must have a minimum value of \$1,000-.
- Small percentage taken (20%).

Budget review ... 1st – Andrew Jackal 2nd – Karla Ghaleb All in favor

50/50 Raffle, \$210- total

Alissa Silverberg was the winner!

Past years tax situation, we are behind in filing. This year's will be filed on time. We cannot miss three years, or we will lose 501c3 status.

Q – Student volunteer hours, are they registered with Presidential Volunteer Service? A – John will look into this with Principal Ryan

Q – Security concerns in the building.

A – Security concerns are addressed at the monthly safety meetings.

Q – 9th grade vocal ... Do the teachers consider the workload/exams of the students that have to perform during the week?

A – Mr. Vassallo sends an email to the teachers with the schedule. This was an isolated incident with a new teacher.

Next PTA meeting will be Tuesday – 11/13/18 @ 6:30pm. Meeting closed by John Young

Respectively submitted Terri Cadet-Donald