



PPAS PTA **General** Meeting Minutes September 13, 2018

Meeting called to order by John Young @ 6:40pm. Everyone was thanked for being in attendance for this first meeting of the 2018-2019 school year. Introductions of the Executive Board were made by each board member.

Heather Lanza, the Director of PPAS Drama/Waterwell – Spoke briefly about the drama program affiliated with Waterwell and making sure that the students are becoming well equipped for the future. They will be “artists as citizens” as they mature. Heather@waterwell.org for more information.

Guillermo Asca, Coordinator of PPAS/Ailey program – This is the 60th Anniversary of Alvin Ailey. The program started as a partnership with PPAs in 1995. The students receive outstanding professional training on various levels. They become well rounded dancers and graduate with proper technique. January explosion will be 1/10 and 1/11/19. Spring concert will be 5/30 and 6/1/19. GAsca@alvinailey.org for more information.

Jeff Stotile, Artistic Director @ Rosie’s Theater Kids/PPAS – The organization was founded by Rosie O’Donnell in 2003. This will be Jeff’s 10th year with PPAS. The program has eight full time staffers and a few part-time specialists that work with the students of PPAS. The program aims to deliver the best possible training in dance, drama and music to the students. Most performances will be held at PPAS. Jeff@rosiestheaterkids.org for more information.

Amy Siegler, National Chorale – This is the ninth year of the collaboration with PPAS and Amy’s fifth year as Director. This will be the 50th Anniversary of the Lincoln Center concert series. The program offers vocal technique, classical music study as well as choir rehearsals. There is a pre-conservatory program as well.

Before a brief break for refreshments, Principal, Keith Ryan thanked the Arts Partners for coming to the meeting. He would like to see the social element of the PTA meetings to continue. Meaningful meetings are important. What do you, as parents, want to see at a PTA meeting?

President's Report – John Young

The minutes from June 2018 are available on the PTA website for those that did not receive a hard copy.

The Amazon Smiles account is set up. The PTA receives .05% of the sales. Please use and support the PTA.

Fall SLAM Talent Show will be on 10/12 and 10/13/18.

We will need to form a by-laws committee and we will need help with the website as well.

Treasurer – Rob Famighetti

We are starting off the year with \$120,000 in the PTA account. There were gains last year with the Gala and the Annual Contribution Fund (ACF). ACF can be monthly or a single donation. \$4000- was raised over the summer.

A letter was sent in February 2018 with the budget cuts. Close to \$5000- was raised on behalf of the letter.

Principal's Report – Keith Ryan

14th year as Principal and I have no artistic talent!

The arts partners spoke from purpose and belief. What is their (the students) purpose? We need to know the “why” in why we do what we do. My purpose, my why? “I believe in my heart to tap into what the students care about”. It’s empowering. Tap into what is most prominent in their minds. I want the students to say, “Mr. Ryan pushes me to think”, “Mr. Ryan cares about what is important to me”. Go through the world with purpose.

The school must absorb the teachers raises. The average salary has risen, and the arts programs are being affected. There is approx. \$130,000 less in the school budget. Rich arts programs are still being given despite the budget cuts. Programs are down by 30-60 minutes and/or 1-2 classes per week.

We are equitable in the way we distribute funds from the PTA. Each major receives \$15, 000-. You can donate to the program of your choice through October 31st. The funds will ramp up each individual program.

High school applications are moving to an online system. You will need to set up and use the DOE’s My School account. See Teri Gindi, Parent Coordinator, if you need access to your account. Test scores are scheduled to be available in October. Give us your email address for us to communicate with you.

Q – Is the donate to a program for high school only?

A – No, it is for the entire school, grades 6-12.

Q – Do freshmen get identification cards?

A – Yes. They will also have a Pupil Path account that you will receive more information about in the near future.

President – John Young

The PTA as hired a part-time bookkeeper to assist with the books. The budget was discussed. Proposals from the school have yet to be submitted. Motion to accept the budget as is to be presented for approval at the October meeting.

1st – Alissa Silverberg

2nd – John Sullivan

All in favor ... 0 opposed, 0 abstentions ... motion passed

The PTA is looking for ideas. What worked in your former schools? We are willing to explore new ideas.

Meeting closed at 8:13pm by John Young