

# PPAS PTA General Meeting 2023-10-19

## Call to Order

- We'll be using Robert's Rules of Order to organize the meetings this year

## Ice Breaker

- Please partake of the cheese, grapes and chicken salad in the back! Note that our bylaws are on the website so take a look.

## Executive Board Intro

- Each member of the Board introduced themselves with a sentence about their responsibilities and connection to the school.

## President's Report

- Last night at 23:01 our first grant proposal was submitted to the American Theatre Initiative for new lighting & sound systems. This was helped greatly by Kristin Polattzo [sp?](#); Justin & Marty were a great help too.
- Ballet & Film shirts are in stock!
- The Board needs your help! Five superpowers required to accomplish our goals:
  1. Technology (maintaining the PTA website and our presence on social media)
  2. Physical Mightiness (help with sets and costumes)
  3. Hospitality
  4. Fundraising
  5. Administration & Finance

## Elections

- All passed with at least majority votes, most were unanimous
- Film Delegate: Yanet Cruz & Andy Kris
- Sophomore Delegate: Jessica Delorenzo
- Freshman Delegate: Laura Einhorn & Terry Yarde
- Vice President of Fundraising: Donna Dukes
- Vice President of Membership: Mary Dennis & Mike Grassotti
- Cultural Delegate: position remains unfilled. This Board member helps the parents and PPAS community understand LGBTQIA issues and ease racial tensions, so we are hoping it will be filled by someone from marginalized communities.

## Treasurer's Report

- We are currently within our budget projections; a few thousand \$ under but Debbie thinks we can close that gap with careful management and there is \$109K in checking account. However, we need to hit our revenue goals with a very tight tolerance — we have no reserve mechanisms to cover a shortfall, and overages must be spent.

## SLT Report

- Meets once a month, with parents, teachers, Principal. Last one was about the Comprehensive Education Plan, cell phones, and peer tutoring (to minimize summer school). Next month's discussion will continue those last two topics.
- If you want the SLT to cover something, tell the Board.

## New Business

- The process on this will be for members to raise points for discussion, then everyone gets a month to think about it, then discussion occurs next meeting.
  1. Dance Delegate is not aware of what's happening in non-Aley programs (e.g., SAB, ABT, MYB) and the PTA has no official contact with Partner organizations. (Proposed by Kristin, seconded by Erin.)
  2. The Film program is brand new and has no history or institutional memory. Maybe ask parents what they do in their non-parenting lives, build a network of industry professionals? (Proposed by Mike, seconded by Helen.)
  3. The budget should be modified to include 5 majors (accommodating Film); we understand that the current budget was approved before Film existed. (Proposed by Jodi, seconded by Laura.)

## Principal Dyer's Report

- This is the 7th week of the school year, believe it or not.
- She has met with families, students and Partners to learn the uniqueness of the school.
- Teachers are setting up students for success and have set educational goals
- Next week is the open house
- Using the Danielson Framework for Teaching, focusing on Engagement for all, including special needs of performers and those with IEPs
- Example of engagement: Mad Forest prep
- The College Office is trying to get more parent engagement, e.g., morning announcements include all colleges that are visiting to remind everyone to check them out
- Email newsletters to all parents are finally working properly, as well as text messages; next will be reports on student performance (new NY DoE system filters grades down from Google Classroom and even includes app — available now)
- Parent-Teacher conferences coming, unfortunately City-wide decision was made to keep them remote
- Kids with high PSATs will be enrolled in scholarship applications
- Q: How will Partners work with the College Office? A: Ms. Gindi will get back to us on this, but the off-the-cuff answer is to look in Naviance
- Q: What communications should we be getting? A: Emails and text SMS come from "Gamma" system, a centralized NYC Education system. Text is reserved for important stuff, like the flood last week. Go into your NYCSA account and check to make sure your contact number is correct.
- Curriculum Night letters went out, teacher emails are listed

- Google: parents can sign in to get a summary, but for details you need to sign in as your child. Parent accounts can change child passwords.
- Contact Info: there will be a Google Form sent out to gather information to update PTA records
- Homecoming: the Pep Rally is November 17, Ms. Dyer will double-check planned activities; note that if the students put on a club event or similar it won't be on the PTA calendar, as we have no way of knowing about it.

## MYB Liaison

- This Partner is running a food drive, working with City Harvest to assemble bags of non-perishable food and toiletries for homeless people and coordinating with the 8th grade field trip to 42nd street to see the problem first-hand. Mr. Wells' office is the storage location, bring donations in by November 21. There will also be a bake sale to raise funds.
- December will be a coat drive, please get your donations ready now.

## Parent Coordinator Terri Gindi

- Very busy last few weeks, apologies if you have been waiting for a response on something. Ms. Gindi promises the backlog will be cleared soon.
- Note that PPAS is still admitting grade 8-12 students, as some families moved away or had other life events. Please refer any candidates directly to Ms. Gindi.

#family