

PPAS PTA General Meeting 2023-11-16

Opening

- Thank you to all Volunteers!
- **MOTION:** Chair moves to waive the reading of October's meeting minutes.
 - Seconded by Debbie Greenwald
 - Passed unanimously

Senior Delegates

- Rosa Jaquez reporting
 - Senior Fundraising efforts to date: \$815 from The Wave (goal \$500) and \$690 from the Fall Festival
 - Senior Dues forecast about \$20,000 (114 students at \$175) and about 27% collected
 - Upcoming senior events
 - Giving Day 2023-11-22
 - Prom: venue secured, more news later
 - Swag Sale: back in stock soon, maybe before winter break
 - Newsletter will be out in next two weeks

President's Report

- Shawn Dell reporting
- Nomination forms for SLT positions and Cultural delegates were shared; 2023-12-12 closing date for nominations
- In-person elections to be held 2023-12-14

Treasurer's Report

- Debbie Greenwald reporting
- Revenue to date ~\$25,000 vs. \$177,600 budgeted for 2023-24
- Annual fund projection ~\$34,000
- Total expenses to date ~\$34,000

SLT Report

- Liz Beron (parent SLT member) couldn't make meeting, so Shawn Dell reporting
- C-30 process for the selection of a full-time principal
- Selection committee is current SLT Board members:
 - 2 students

- 2 UFT members
- 4-7 parent members
- 1 DC37 representative
- 1 CSA (Chuck Vassallo)
- 1 District representative (Marc Rush)
- 1 arts partner representative
- Survey going out to PPAS students and parents on characteristics/qualities they would want in a principal and questions for candidates
- Committee will interview candidates 2023-12-12, submit ranking to Superintendent.

Fundraising Report

- Donna Dukes reporting
- White Post Farms pie sale fundraiser very successful, \$800 raised in one week from 100+ sales

Principal's Report

- Principal Dyer reporting
- School Culture: clubs pushing forward, students have all sorts of things going on; 3 open houses and a lot of tours, sharing school community
- Instruction is focusing on student engagement, matching what you see in performing arts activities and making sure curriculum is aligned with state standards
- P-T conference scheduling using new system, going very well with no complaints at all!
- PSAT scores are in, school is ahead of trends but still a lot of math work to do to prep for SAT; another PSAT for 10th graders in spring
- NYC Schools account is very important for all families, best way to get messaging out – over 600 families got the last broadcast but that means it's not quite 100% so work with Ms. Gindi to fix your account if necessary. Your emergency contact information is especially important to update, but this is also a way to get forms to you for permission and consent.
- Grading works through DOE Grades system "Gamma" and sync to NYC Schools for status reporting.

Parent Coordinator Report

- Terri Gindi reporting
- Big tour today, ~30 people, lots of fun (COVID killed tours); more coming Monday and Tuesday, also toured Aley and Rosie's Theater
- Tours are a lot of fun, everyone stops and participates and shows off the PPAS family.

- Picture Day on the 29th, <https://vando.imagequix.com/g1001071169> or email info@portraitsusainc.com; individual and group pictures will be taken, seniors can also do re-do or make-up sittings. Money-back or re-do guarantee if you don't like the photo, so you should pre-order.

Dance Delegates

- Kristen Palmieri reporting
- Meet and Greet after Ailey observation, watched two seniors do college audition solo dances and listened to Mr. Asca talk about program. Then mingle event with parents of all levels, very nice night.
- Alvin Ailey students get tickets to attend a company show during the holiday season

Drama Delegates

- No delegates were able to attend, so Shawn Dell reporting
- Mad Forest was great, almost \$2K raised even though Black Box is a smaller venue. Thanks especially for the lunch donations!
- Waterwell has weekly newsletter, christina@waterwell.org

Vocal Delegate

- Helen Stewart reporting
- Winter Concert Friday Dec. 15 7:30 at Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 152 West 71st Street
- Handel's Messiah at Lincoln Center, Monday Dec. 18 7:30 at Geffen Hall

Old Business

- How can the PTA better support our Ballet students?
 - After academic day, children are in different buildings and so it's hard to get together to discuss future plans; Kristen knows what the Ailey parents want, but needs to hear from others.
 - Maybe Mildred, Shawn and Kristen can get together and try to hash this out. Send ideas to dancedelegate@ppaspta.org.
- How can we promote more engagement with our parents who have industry connections or knowledge?
 - Shawn has been telling all of the industry people we know of that they can have two complementary tickets to any PPAS show.
 - Please send any industry/agency contacts in to build up our database
 - Mike suggests we survey the school population to find out who has connections, and maybe do workshop events depending on the results, send ideas to vpmembership@ppaspta.org
- How can the PTA support the Film Department financially?
 - Intro to Film Department

- Entirely new program (was elective under Musical Theater)
- Open to all Juniors & Seniors, transfer from existing programs
- Hands-on experience with all aspects of film, to help students know what part of the process they will be best at
- DCTV nonprofit downtown, with a full film production studio that makes documentaries for HBO – editing bays, cameras, etc. Students make a thesis film that screens at a professional theater in NYC.
- Program would like to bridge gaps, like music videos for vocal students, or recording dancers. Could capture PPAS productions for posterity, in a way that iPhones can't, or make a professional-grade documentary about the school itself.
- PPAS 48-Hour Film Competition is open to all students; on Friday you get prompt and have one weekend to make something for screening on Monday.
- Students have already headed to top film universities (e.g., USC) due to incredible program
- Film is underfunded per capita, and the program is running a deficit; the DCTV fee is substantial, despite what a great deal it is.
- Statile would like the PTA to make covering the DCTV cost a target for this year, ~\$8,000, and in the future integrate PTA and Evolution Arts to deal with funding.
- Future years could add equipment, teaching artists, programming space, student film investment, funds for festival submissions, software, and a Film Lab.
- Do we have the money for this?
 - Annual Fund seems like it's going to hit about \$5,000 high
 - Pie sale was twice as effective as last year, \$440 extra
 - Mike points out that the direct Membership Drive should be able to hit this new target if we work at it
 - Charles will contribute \$1,000 and try to get his company to match it; Mike will also put in \$1,000 so that the PTA won't need to make up the shortfall with deficit spending.
 - Note that majors don't usually do their own fundraising, because the PTA does not want the school to become a federation instead of a single entity.
- Vote:
 - A) The PTA will fund the Film Program for \$6,000 this year.
 - 20 participants, 13 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstain – the vote passes.
- Discussion
 - Film is only getting \$8,000 from the PTA, but the other majors get \$15K?
 - This budget was approved when Film didn't exist, so this year it's taking a special vote to get it anything at all.
 - Note that the PTA spends a lot of money on non-performance things, like academic support or the donated chairs & TVs Shawn just sourced.

- Donna Dukes wonders if equipment can be purchased and donated, to try and augment the funding

Important Dates

2023-11-17: Early Dismissal

2023-11-23-2023-11-24: Thanksgiving Break

2023-12-15 - 18: Vocal Winter Concert, <https://donorbox.org/events/507901>

2023-12-12: Nominations for SLT and Cultural Delegate close

2023-12-14: PTA Meeting at PPAS 6:00 pm (time change!)

2023-12-14 - 16: Middle School Musical, "Be More Chill" <https://donorbox.org/events/505932>

2023-12-25 - 2024-01-01: Winter Recess

Fundraising Ideas

- Holiday lunch & cabaret in the Black Box
- "Year in Review" video of PPAS students and events
- Year-end postcard
- Update PPAS and PPAS PTA websites
- Prepare meals or snacks for performance events
- Share your ideas with your delegates, fundraising VP, president and other PTA members
- Coordinate a Grade-level event with your delegate