

PPAS PTA Meeting 2024-12-18

Attendees

Physical: Shawn Dell, Mary Dennis, Eugenia Edwards, Debbie Greenwald, Ruth Hawkins, Gwen Kingsberry, Danielle Kojic, Jodie Loverro, Ana Sofia Trevino Villureal

Virtual: Maribel Austin, Yanet Cruz, Tiffany Ellis Butts, Erin Clancy-Balsamo, Raven Catlin, Jessica Delorenzo, Kimbirdlee Fadner, Mar Fitzgerald, Marisa Osorio, Kristen Palmieri, Tracy Pickar, "Santee", Browne Smith, Danielle Soares, Neal Sofge, Lynn Stirrup, Jennifer Whipple

Call to order

- Congratulations to all students who put on shows!
- **Motion** to waive reading the Minutes from last meeting: **PASSED**

Principal Dyer

- Auditorium
 - Community Meeting on the 10th, steamfitters and construction people will be coming in to address the steam leak and any necessary repairs.
 - Air quality is good
 - Update coming in January after initial work
 - Evacuation occurred during lunch period, which wasn't ideal and will be improved in the future; return to an ID swiping system so they will know when students go in and out.
- Tomorrow the footage from visit with VIPs (Alicia Keys et al) will be available, including her singing with the Middle Schoolers.
- Great performances this semester; Middle School did a great job of pivoting to the Black Box. Cabaret was a lot of fun, vocal department had a great night of sound.
- Six-act play about the Civil War by the elementary school students, great weaving of academics and arts.
- Regents and other assessments are coming up, will be announced next month.

Treasurer Report

- Not many changes, will do a deep-dive in January
- Donations \$17K (will be covered next section)
- Fundraisers going as expected; Cabaret a little low, but merchandise sales ought to make up for it; ticket sales dropping because of middle school changes but musical theater is covering that.
- Senior Dues: please pay on time!
- Checks went out to all partners, though Dance hasn't cashed the checks yet.
- Camera purchase is the other big expense

Fundraising Report

- Important for everyone to donate to Reach for the Stars (Annual Fund)
- Goal is \$48K, we are falling short by about \$18,000 when projecting the current rate of giving.
- Giving Tuesday was amazing, over \$4,000 raised.
- Need to maintain the momentum; there are about 525 students, but only 86 families (~16%) have donated. Without 100% participation, we aren't going to make it.
- Ad Hoc Membership Team needs people too, to come up with ideas on how to close this gap.
- "It is the responsibility of our school and arts partners to provide our students with a rigorous education focused in the performing arts and film" -- but without the Annual Fund, students miss out on era-specific costumes, professional lighting design, spectacular sound mixing, extraordinary set build outs, Broadway-and-beyond credited directors, choreographers and music directors, media exposure, on-set field trips, Broadway experiences, performances at Lincoln Center's David Geffen Hall. master classes with extraordinary alumni and more!

SLT

- Hochul mandate to reduce class sizes will require additional funding (we have until 2027 to meet the mandate; right now we are almost compliant and with a new grant that Ms. Dyer is pursuing can do even better)
- College and Career Readiness: opportunities for students to build resumes could include awards for pre-seniors and parent prep sessions.

Parent Coordinator's Report

- Lots of tours in the past month, students are leading tours and are *very* proud of the school
- Often students choose PPAS because of the experience during callbacks -- this is so important and Ms. Gindi will be trying to get volunteer help in January
- Will try to get ideas for topics to cover in the future (e.g., vaping) to get experts to come into school for presentations

President's Report

- The camera equipment was purchased for the Film Department, 90% delivered (two items on back-order). Was in the Performance Space section of the PTA budget, to make it clear that it belongs to the school and is to be used for school events.
- Fundraising: note that this meeting is a selected bunch of high-participation people -- we aren't giving at 18%, we're more like 90%. So if you have skills or experience that can help, please write to president@ppaspta.org and join the team!
- Gala Committee is being rebuilt because the current leaders are graduating out; Raven Caitlin is chairing, but needs help.
 - First Volunteer: Kristen Palmieri

- There are 21 board members, and 12 are graduating. So that's a lot of vacancies that need filling soon -- more than 50% turnover. Nomination committee will start in February or so, because this is such a big job. This committee needs members too, please volunteer to help find people to carry the torch!
- Ruth Hawkins has a middle-school parent event idea: ice skating!
 - Saturday afternoon overwhelmingly more popular for this.
- Q: Is there a date for the Gala?
 - No, but maybe May?
- Q: Manhattan Youth was great for the Middle School show, how will PTA be working with them?
 - They are an after-school program, separate from the PTA. When they're doing an event (like the upcoming Valentine's Day Dance) we support them as individual parents rather than as a PTA.
 - For the Rosie's events, those are mandatory parts of the curriculum and so the PTA financially supports them (~\$13K this year).

Adjournment