

## PPAS PTA Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date: January 15, 2025**

### **Attendees**

**In-Person:** Shawn Dell, Omar Freilla, Ruth Hawkins, Sharon Jiang, Nina Vo, Lynn Stirrup, Leslie Hendricks, Danielle Kojic, Teri Gindi, Gwendolyn Kingsberry, Raven Catlin, Jeff Cavalli

**Virtual:** Andrea Scott, Browne Smith, Charisse Jamroz, Charles Roussey, Dan, Danielle, Deb Caimares, Debbie Greenwald, Donna Dukes, Ejim Dike, Joanne Graney, Jodie Loverro, Kelly Heisler, Laura Einhorn, Maria D'Elia, Marisa Osorio, Mary Dennis, Melissa Silagyi, Michelle, Oscar, Paul Flannery, Sara Wordsworth, Sharon Medina, Sherese Spencer, Sue Brown, Tiffany, Tracy Pickar, Wendy, Yanet Cruz

### **Call to order**

- “What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” - Vern Mclellan
- Minutes: review waived, no objections.
- **Motion** to waive reading the Minutes from last meeting: **PASSED**
- Note that there is no February PTA meeting!

### **Principal Dyer**

- Auditorium is moving along, thank you for flexibility and cooperation; school is old! DoE wanted to figure it out during the summer, but she pushed back and they've been working from 4PM to midnight to fix things. Issue was found and is being addressed, but will take a while. About 100 ft<sup>2</sup> of space loss, unfortunately.
- Midtown West concert tomorrow night, space is ready to work with them. Main Stage event will be in March, and Black History plan is in progress.
- February 3 will be Alumni event, where they will share what they did post-PPAS and maybe do some teaching too. This will be a school-wide event, everyone assembles in the cafeteria including the middle school.
- Next week is Regents and the start of college process for 11th grade.
- Math Growth assessment coming — to see how well the school is doing.
- End of Marking Period 2 as well.
- Thank you to the families that did the callbacks!
- Ms. Sharon Jiang is now appointed AP, so no longer interim but permanent.
- Q: Will Regents be phased out in 2028? A: This is still under consideration, no official decisions yet.
- Q: Will the MAP results be shared with parents? A: There is no digital infrastructure for this, but they are shared with the children. Or you can ask your child's teacher. (Please see AP Jiang for more info on the situation.)

## **Assistant Principal Report**

- Curriculum review — making sure it aligns with standards and student needs; provides teachers with constructive feedback and determines next steps.
- Students: focusing on college & career readiness, building portfolios, helping with Common App.
- Assessments: trying to provide calm, organized environment.
- Passion, Purpose and Pride!

## **Treasurer Report**

- No change in trends or projections except for Annual Fund, which is currently at \$20K and is projected to fall short of our goals (see below).
- Bank account is good (and also untouchable due to bylaws about cash reserves).
- Dance has been paid but not yet cashed the check (oddly).

## **Reach for the Stars Annual Fund**

- Goal is \$46,000 by June, projection is only \$38,000
- Fundraising committee is forming to re-think the Fund process, and will report back at the March meeting.
- A generous family put up \$2,000 as a matching donation, which was met in a couple of days in December. \$8,000 more was raised since then, but that's not enough.
- Remember, 100% of this money goes directly to the arts majors — not the partners. Our educators are obliged to give our children a rigorous education, but our funds pay for the production values on top of that. Please contribute!
- Note that a substantial amount comes from senior parents, who are leaving...
- Q: Is the state of fundraising posted in the school so the students can see? A: No. Q: Maybe we should, so that students can motivate donations. A: Yes, we should consider that, there was a student a couple of years ago who had no clue how much we do, and thought the fund level was “a few thousand” (the real total is more like \$175K).

## **Dance Delegate Report**

- January Explosion is a celebration of the juniors who are performing next Thursday and Friday — but only 3 seats left for Thursday's show.

## **Film Department**

- Equipment is in! (This was about \$10K donation by PTA to expand the department past just using their phones.)
- Kids are already starting to work on documentary that will be posted to the website.
- There will be a 48-hour film festival in March (postponed due to auditorium repairs)
- Films of both In The Heights and Judas Iscariot are complete; they will be made available after administration is done reviewing for legal compliance. Please make sure the school has your up-to-date consent forms so the films don't get shut down!

- Film Department Social on January 28 at 7PM at The Sandbar Rooftop, come if you're interested, especially those who could switch majors in 11th Grade.

## **SLT**

- January meeting next week.
- Parent Surveys will be released soon, very important that everyone fill those out so that the school gets proper resources and attention from HQ. Completion rate has been so low that data is questionable.

## **Gala Committee**

- Committee is formed!
- Looking at new venues & options, likely a weekday evening and will continue the auction tradition. Will be in May.
- Please volunteer! Need people for preparation and on the day of the event.

## **Parent Coordinator**

- Very grateful to parents, this weekend's callbacks went so well.
- Q: If my child does not have a Regents Exam next week, do they have to attend school?  
A: Please email Teri Gindi for a definitive answer.

## **President's Wrap-Up**

- Ice Skating on January 18, 2-3 PM at Brookfield Place
- Aforementioned Film Social on January 28, 7-10 PM
- Yearbooks: Senior Dues (and 8th covers a copy for them, but if you want an extra or you can order a copy directly from Jostens'.

## **Adjournment**