

# PPAS PTA Meeting 2025-03-19

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## Attendees

**Physical:** Laura Boschetti, Raven Catlin, Oscar Carter, Jeff Cavalli, Jessica Delorenzo, Mirta Desir, Debbie Greenwald, Shawn Dell, Mellisa Ellis, Ruth Hawkins, Leslie Hendricks, Marisa Osorio, Ejim Pike

**Virtual:** Marianela Aponte, Tiffany Butts, Mary Dennis, Eugenia Edwards, Laura Einhorn, Kelly Heisler, Janice Huang, Gwendolyn Kingsberry, Alana Rasmussen, Aimée Savage, Browne Smith, Neal Sofge, Lynn Stirrup, Jennifer Whipple

## Call to order

- Story of borrowing Jackie Kennedy Onassis school's auditorium -- including rebuilding it for Black History Month event and then rebuilding after!
- Had to cancel The Slam due to JKO needing their space back, but we'll keep fighting!

## Review of minutes

- Move to skip the reading, as they're posted on the Web; no objections -- **motion passes**

## Treasurer Report

- Annual fund needs help, please consider joining the effort; the projections are low even after projecting recurring monthly donations
- Senior Funds are a pass-through -- everything in goes out to the Senior activity budget (PTA has ability to process funds better than the school does)
- No big surprises on expenses
- Note that "Performance Space" \$10K is the camera for the film school that we voted on in the fall
- Alumni Association wasn't budgeted for this year, the cost you see is a carry-over from them not using last year's funds (so basically a late payment)

## How Arts Budgets Work

- PTA doesn't run the Main Stage musicals. Rosie's Theater Kids is the arts partner for the three theater programs; Alvin Ailey and the ballet partners do dance.
- Film Department is partnered with Evolution Arts, and was originally an elective, not a major.
- The expenses aren't balanced -- some majors have higher costs than others due to different activities and infrastructure.
- Note that middle school students do performing arts in the middle of the day rather than at the end, so they're handled differently.
- Musicals are separate extracurricular activities, which have only minimal school funding, and no help from the PTA.

- PTA budgets with the partners, they don't just get a blank check.
- PTA has to balance the budget to zero -- all money that comes in must be spent. So if extra money is raised, it will be allocated somewhere, likely to the arts partners but maybe other uses can be found.
- Good time to mention that since the Annual Fund is low, Shawn wants to open an online flower store for Teacher Appreciation Day and similar events.
- Also could sell popcorn (though Midtown West is also doing that, so some competition)
- **MOTION:** Will the PTA move forward with an experimental flower sale for Teacher Appreciation Day (May 6)? Several online and physical yes votes, no nays, **motion passes.**

## Gala Committee

- Save the Date announcements went out -- May 8, 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM
- Name change to "Celebration for the Arts"
- Same band as last year, The Best Wedding Band
- Dance floor
- Heavy hors d'oeuvres, including pizza bites
- Beer & wine included, cash bar if you want cocktails
- There will be a live auction, full of professional services, Broadway tickets, baskets of goodies, etc. Please donate goods & services to fuel this if you can.
- \$10,000 raffle! Tickets are \$100 each, will be sold at events and you can sell them too if you want to assist the fundraising. There's a limit of 300 total tickets, so your chance of winning is at least 1/300.
- We need help, there are teams that don't have leaders, but there's also "one and done" tasks you can do with no continuing commitment
- Extra membership levels are available, with bonus merchandise
- Going to be an incredible time, bring your friends & family!

## SLT

- SLT includes four parents; it's a 2-year commitment (PTA President must be one of them)
- There have been two SLT meetings since the last PTA General
- Fill out your school surveys! We got a new math support teacher as a result of previous ones.
- College readiness enhancement effort in progress, especially test prep resources
- Comprehensive Education Plan -- lots of data available, so SLT group is trying to decide how to boil it down and come up with recommended school goals based on it

## Parent Coordinator's Report

- Please do the school survey! Getting the return numbers up is the hardest thing she does, for some reason -- the highest return ever was 38%, and this is the easiest and most effective way to improve the school. There's even a \$50 gift card drawing for participants.

- Suggestion to send updates on what our current percentage is, so Ms. Gindi will do that.
- Note that there's a big thermometer sign downstairs with current Annual Fund progress too.

### **Upcoming Community Events**

- March 20: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Manhattan Youth in the Black Box; tickets are free but limited)
- March 31: Parent's Night Out at The Bees Knees Provisions 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM
- April 3: Reckless, Main Stage production
- May 8: Celebration of the Arts

### **Nominations Committee Formation**

- This group gathers nominations for next year's Executive Board
- 3 positions required: President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary -- if they are not filled, PTA stops functioning until they are.
- All of the required positions are retiring (senior parents) so this election is vital!
- Committee must be made of eligible guardians, and can't be Board candidates
- Nomination form will be in Monday newsletter, please participate!
- Nominations Committee Formed:
  - Alana Rasmussen
  - Leslie Hendricks
  - Marisa Osorio