



PTA General Meeting Minutes for February 12, 2015

Board members present: President, Treasurer, Secretary, VP of Community Involvement, VP of Fundraising, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary of Communications. Quorum was met.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by the president at 8:38am.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

Secretary of Communications offered members hard copies of the minutes. President requested a motion by membership to accept the minutes. Motion was made and seconded. Minutes were approved.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The treasurer provided an overview of Income and Expenses.

Income:

- Bake Sale: Organized by the Parent Outreach Committee on First Friday, \$123.26
- Annual Appeal: \$3,202.66
- Extended Day Committee / Playlab: \$57,097
- Merchandise: \$504.00
- Amazon: \$178.62
- Farmigo: \$111.24
- Christmas Tree Sales: \$180

Total Income: \$61,214.78 (*this amount was reported, but doesn't include Tree Sales because that figure was provided at the start of the meeting*)

Expenses:

- Extended Day: \$3,326.45
 - \$113.01 office expenses
 - \$184.99 enrichment supplies
 - \$1,474.00 insurance
 - \$1,554.45 total payroll (includes taxes and wages)
 - Merch: \$330.50
 - Winter Fair: \$53.86
 - PTA insurance: \$569.00
 - Accountant: \$250 monthly payment. Treasurer reminded membership that the accountant donates \$150/month back to the PTA.
 - Business Admin: \$20 (NYS Div of Corp.)
- Total Expenses: \$8360.10

Chase Ending balance: \$93,146.72

PayPal balance: \$8,937.14

Total Month End balance: \$102,083.86

The Annual Appeal has brought in \$52,535.16 to date! Matching contributions are coming in now as well as sustaining donations. This is phenomenal!

Q: Were tax letters sent out? A: Yes – They were sent by email in January. Please let the treasurer know if you haven't received a letter: ptatreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION.

The treasurer explained that what all this means is that the PTA can finally pay the school back for certain expenses that have been paid by the school with the understanding that if the PTA raised enough money,

it would pay the school back. The treasurer introduced parent Kate Rubin who provided background on PS 133's art program, which is not provided for by the DOE.

Years ago Kate Rubin and parent Kelly McKay created an art cart with donated supplies that they brought into each class on a rotating basis. It was fun but tiring, so 3 years ago they wrote a 5-year grant to secure Studio in a School, our current art program. The program costs \$90,000 total for the 5 years. The school has been splitting the annual cost of the program and covering the cost of the salary for Ms. Johnson, the school aide that helps the resident artist, Mr. Copeland. Principal Foster-Mann, Assistant Principal McGhie, Mr. D, and Mr. Copeland were presented with check for \$25,000.00 from the PTA. This amount covers the \$5,400 Studio in a School portion and \$18,000 for the school aide. The administration was grateful and Principal Foster-Mann noted that this is the first time the school and PTA have ever been in this position.

IV. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

Principal Foster-Mann made several announcements:

- The Chancellor introduced a cell phone policy that will be effective 3/2. Kids can bring them, but may not use them anywhere in the school. A letter will be sent home with more detail in backpacks soon. If a student is found using a phone, teachers will take the phone and it will only be returned to an adult.
- The Science fair will take place in the gym after Winter recess.
- Volunteers at lunch are still needed. The two periods run from 11:30-1pm – come at any point to the office for a badge.
- PS 133 is recruiting families for next year. The school is looking for native speakers, especially native Spanish speakers. In order for the dual language program to continue, native speakers are desperately needed.*

**Contact VP of Community Involvement, Carlos Saavedra, if you can help or have ideas for recruiting: csaave01@gmail.com.*

V. GRANDPARENT APPRECIATION DAY .

Parent, Celeste Loft, is organizing Grandparent Appreciation Day for April 17th. Grandparents will receive a special surprise. It will run from 1pm until dismissal. More info will come soon.

VI. ELECTION OF VP OF EXTENDED DAY.

President described process for nomination and election to the position of VP of Extended Day.

Stacey Blisset and Sharon Ng were nominated as co-VP of Extended Day, and nominations were accepted.

Member motioned for nominations to close and the motion was seconded.

Since there were no contested positions, secretary motioned to cast a vote to elect each candidate for office. Each motion was approved.

VII. COMMITTEE UPDATES.

Parent Outreach Committee

Chiquita Payne explained the Parent Outreach Committee is for parents, a forum for parents to share information and discuss parenting questions. It uses the 7 Habits as a platform.

The Parent Outreach Committee has been holding bake sales during the last few First Fridays. The February bake sale made \$351 – please sign up to volunteer or bake. Baked goods can be dropped off in the PTA office the day before. Contact Chiquita for more information: chiquitacamille8@yahoo.com

Performing Arts Committee

Esra Dayani announced that the Performing Arts Committee is looking to schedule a talent show. They would like to hold one afterschool preview and one weekend preview. Tentative dates include the 2nd Friday in June (12th). Contact Esra for more information: esradayani@gmail.com

Budget Committee

The treasurer announce the Budget Committee is looking for volunteers. This committee shapes PTA spending for next year. For more information contact treasurer, Julie Couser, at ptatreasurer@ps133brooklyn.org or assistant treasurer, Aisha Burwell, at aishajburwell@gmail.com.

Wellness Committee

Denise Stokes announced the Wellness Committee, with Mr. Blatt, meets every other Tuesday. They were awarded a grant from Nutrabullet – the school received 8 Nutribullets. The Committee has been making fresh vegetable and fruit smoothies during cookshop on Fridays with each class – More volunteers are welcome, as well as vegetables/ fruits. Cookshop begins at 1:08pm and volunteers circulate to 3-4 classes within the period. Look for an email from Kevin Ryan-young with more info or contact Denise directly at stokesninos@gmail.com.

Fifth Grade

Deneen, 5th grade parent, announced the 5th grade is raising funds for prom with parent Diane Stephens. They are looking for fundraiser ideas. They are also looking to share knowledge learned about the search for middle school with lower grades.

Fundraising Committee

- **Soccer & Baseball (Cyclones) games**

Tickets to soccer and baseball games are being planned now. Coordinators are needed to help organize both trips. Also, there's an opportunity to have PS 133's kids sing the national anthem at the Cyclones baseball game. To do this, the Fundraising Committee would need to know how many students are interested in participating very soon. Contact VP of Development, Kathryn Mora, for more info: kathrynmora@me.com.

- **Spring Auction**

The Spring Auction is set for April 18 at Irondale in Fort Greene (<http://irondale.org>). Donations for bids, catering, tables+ chairs+linens, florist services are all welcome. Contact VP of Development, Kathryn Mora, for more info: kathrynmora@me.com.

- **Movie Night**

Movie Night is launching Saturday, Feb 28 with "Frozen," sing-a-long version. Suggested donation is \$5 per person and includes popcorn, and open to the community. Time is tbd. The plan is to hold one at the end of every month. Contact Ann Henry for more info: Ann.henry11@gmail.com

- **Boxtops**

Boxtops are back! A backpack mailer with more info will come.

Extended Day Committee: Playlab

Stacey Blissett announced the Winter session has been amazing!

- \$10,000 profit was earned.
- 150 kids enrolled per week.
- Spring session is in the works. A few new classes will be added. The schedule will be available in the 2nd/3rd week of March. The Committee is still figuring out credit card payments.

Contact playlab133@gmail.com with any questions / comments.

Liaisons

President introduced the new liaisons:

- Lower Grade Liaison is Olivia Bergeron
- Upper Grade Liaison is Omena El

Lunch / Recess Committee

Carol Getaz presented a proposal to ensure a smoother, safer recess, and to improve the time kids have to productively to eat and play.

- Trial Program March to June
- 3 people from Kid's Orbit will help for both lunch periods, 11:20-1:10.
- Help Coach Rob at recess and transition kids to/from the cafeteria, which will allow school staff

- and volunteers to focus exclusively on the more-than-100 kids in the cafeteria (in grades K & 1)
- Cost from March to June = \$9,660.

Treasurer discussed the cashflow:

- PTA has currently has the funds to pay for March-June.
- This was not budgeted for and advised that a fundraiser to “pay back” at least 2/3 of this money will ensure that next year we’ll be able to support this this program in September.

Q: What will this cost for next year? A: Treasurer answered - about \$30,000.

Carol explained that she observed Kids Orbit at PS58. They have a different layout and kids are brought to the gym, which we can’t do. Carol was impressed – kids were quiet and well-behaved. KO has been providing this service for 3 years.

Q: How will this work with Playworks? A: Principal Foster-Mann explained that Coach Rob does morning games, junior coaches, class game time during which he teaches kids how to play and conflict resolution tools, then at recess kids have tools to play and solve problems. This is inline with the school’s leadership goals. Principal tried University Settlement previously and it didn’t work – she did not like how kids were treated. With Coach Rob, he knows the kids and is invested. Kids Orbit has been with school for 3 or more years and has a good reputation. She discussed the difficulty of hiring aides – she can’t pick which aide she wants and has found many ineffective. Aides cost \$18,000.

Q: Would we get the same kids who do after school? A: We don’t know.

Q: How much does the PTA pay for Playworks? A: \$21,500 and the school pays another \$10,000. The PTA’s hope is to pay the school back \$10,000 for Playworks by end of this year. This will allow the school to focus its spending on academics. Treasurer explained that next year, the PTA would seek to pay \$60,000 for Playworks + Kids Orbit in total. The DOE will never provide staff for lunch / recess duty. Using pedagogues to staff lunch means there is a special class session that is not being taught to kids. The school is going to continue to grow and more special classes will need to be added to the schedule, so the PTA is excited to explore solutions.

A parent witnessed success with KO during recess prior to coming to PS 133.

Another parent mentioned that smooth transitions affect the entire school structure and throwing bodies at the problem isn’t the right solution. Coach Rob + KO offers a great structure.

A third parent shared that her two kids are in KO and both love it.

President asked for motion to vote, the motion was seconded. Vote was unanimously in favor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS + ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next Membership meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, at 6:00pm – this is an evening meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT. On motion of the President, the meeting was adjourned.

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