

PS110 - PTA MEETING

MARCH 7th, 2018

In Attendance

Amy Chalkley, Parent Coordinator

Emilie, PTA Co-Treasurer

Tiffany, PTA President

Shelly, PTA Secretary

Mary, PTA Co-President

13 Parents

Annie, PTA Co-Treasurer

SUMMARY

TIFFANEY

Thank you guys all for being here today. I know that there are a lot of PreK parents here today. So thanks for being here today even though you didn't have to be here. We are going to amend the agenda just a little bit today because Ms Cano isn't able to make it today. Amy will be speaking on behalf of Ms Cano because we have the Quality Review starting tomorrow. Amy needs to get out of here and get to work. So I am going to turn it over to Amy and then we will have Kevin Ryan Young come up and speak after that. Thanks Amy.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT + PARENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT- AMY

Hi everyone, good morning. I echo Tiffany, thank you for coming out. There are just two things that Ms Cano wanted me to talk about. I am going to read her notes because I don't want to miss anything.

The first one is that in January, Ms Cano attended a district wide principals conference with author Zaretta Hammod. She wrote Culturally Responsive Classrooms. Ms Cano was talking to me about it yesterday. She has a whole website. I was looking at it yesterday, it goes into what she talks about. The principal feedback to the district 14 superintendent, started the need and desire to have Ms Hammond return and provide P.D.s district wide for all of the Assistant Principals and teachers. Based upon that, the teachers and the A.P.s are going start their first workshops this May. The intent is that there will be a

summer workshop and one in the fall. By next mid-fall, all our teachers and A.P.s district wide will be trained in culturally responsive classrooms. Again, if you want more information on that, you could go to that website and take a look at it or I could probably answer more questions about that at another time.

The other thing, is that parent/teacher conferences coming up next week. At this time of year, we always give out the parent survey. It is really your chance to fill out (there is a lot of multiple choice) and write your own answers and give feedback to your school. So that you can give your voice to what you want to see, what you already like seeing. We really need 100% participation for this, for everybody to fill out a survey. We don't give them out to take home so we need you to fill them out that night. If your child is older than pre k then you've done this every year. It comes in a green envelope. You can either fill it out or go online and quickly fill it out. I am going to have a laptop station downstairs this year. While you are waiting for your conference you can fill it out and hand it back to me at the end. The teachers will be handing them out in the classrooms.

Tonight, unfortunately, I have to cancel and reschedule the summer camp fair. We have so many great people coming and I think that there will only be like 5 parents coming because once you go home you won't come back out tonight. I am going to reschedule it for April 11th which is our next family night scheduled. I know that it is a little later but we have to get permits for these family nights and I won't be able to get a permit before then. I know that some of these summer camps will have already opened their registration. I will be sending out those messages for registration but please come in April and check them out. There is a skateboard camp and film camp and a couple different music camps. I will remind you at the next PTA meeting.

I think that is it. Thank you.

TIFFANEY

We have a very special speaker today, Kevin Ryan Young. He is the owner and founder of Sun Bridge Coaching. He helps lots of parents and we are looking forward to it.

SPECIAL SPEAKER - KEVIN RYAN YOUNG

TIFFANEY

Thank you so much Kevin. I know that Annie and Emily will have to go, we will do the treasurer's report real fast.

TREASURER'S REPORT - ANNIE

I don't really have anything new, just a few things to reiterate from last month. Which is good because it means that nothing crazy going on.

First thing is that we submitted our 990 on time. It was due February 15th and we submitted it in early February. It is a requirement as a non-profit and since we have been working with the same accountant for a couple of years, that went smoothly. All is good.

We have an audit committee set up. The audit goes from May 1st to April 30th so that you can sort of work with the school year. We are working on getting all of those financials and documents put together. I think that by the end of March those will be submitted to the committee and then again by the end of April we will submit for that month. The audit is completed in May and submitted in June.

We are also working with the event committee just to make sure that they have the support that they need because there is a lot of stuff that involves money and financials and being able to process for the event coming up.

The last thing is, I know that I spoke about the budget committee because we are also in the process of starting our budget for next year. We don't have a budget committee but what we learned in going through our bylaws is that the executive board can prepare the budget for vote by the PTA for vote in June.

We will need someone to present the budget on our behalf. If anybody is interested in the sole responsibility of reviewing the budget and presenting it to the PTA, please let Tiffany or I know. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - TIFFANEY

I will start by introducing our nominating committee, Yuli and Sunny. If you guys just want to come up and talk about it.

YULI

The nominating committee is to nominate the best people for the executive board PTA for next year. After this meeting and in the next few weeks will be the nominating period. You can nominate yourself or someone else. Just fill out the sheet and there will be a nominating box by the office where you can drop of your sheet there. We are looking for a president, a treasurer, and a secretary. They also can be "co" positions. The only rule is that you have to agree to do it together. So if you want to co-chair you have to agree and be on the vote together. The nominating period is starting this Friday until the end of the month, so March 29th, right before spring break. We will accept nominations at the April 11th PTA meeting as well. The elections will be held at the May meeting on May 2nd. There is a description of each position on the back of the nominating sheet.

TIFFANEY

That letter will be going out on the portal and will be backpacked this week. Just be on the lookout for that. It's a really exciting opportunity to get new folks in and try something different. It's the beauty of having a two year term. It gives people a break and people come up with new ideas and things can change. So be on the lookout for that.

Annie has already talked about the budget committee. We have several events coming up. I just went ahead and knocked most of the PTA related events out and put them here. I am just going to go through them very fast.

- The gala fundraiser is coming up on March 24th at 7pm in Long Island City. I have several people from that committee here today and they will speak to that.
- The book fair is coming up from April 16th to the 20th and of course for all of these events we need volunteers.
- Then we have the PS110 day at the Yankee Stadium. It's New York vs Cleveland on May 6th and the game starts at 1:05pm.
- On June 1st we have our Fun Run. So look for more information in regards to that.
- I am going to turn it over to Acacia she is going to talk to us about participatory budgeting and then we will turn it over to committee updates.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Hi guys. I am here to talk about volunteering as a poll worker for participatory budgeting. If you are not familiar with that, it's a demarcating process where the council district is given one million dollars. Community members propose projects. We have one at the school twice in 2015 and 2016. One year was for smart boards and last year was for electrical. People vote on those projects and then the money is awarded usually a year to two years later. I got involved with this last year. We were nominated. I worked as a pole worker because I wanted us to win and that inspired me to be a budget delegate. As a budget delegate I am on the board to choose the projects. It's really important that we show up for our schools and our communities. We are not on the ballot this year but there are other schools that are there this year, for water fountains, bathrooms, for laptops. I think that as a school as one we owe the community some help. It is going to be mostly library, the YMCA, farmers markets. There is a training for the poll working in Brooklyn on March 27th and if you can't make that Benjamin Solitaire from the council district will help you out. It is very casual. Most poll worker days you work for three hours. It's really easy and it's a really great way to give back to your community. Like I said, it's important that we help other projects out since we've all won. I've talked to PS31, PS34, PS318 to get parents to help out with that. I have the information here if you guys want to grab something. You get to choose your shift. Benjamin Solitaire will be in touch with you to give you a range of days and times that you can work. The vote is from April 7th to April 15th and there are two full week-ends. There will be some voting probably at the Y. We haven't settled on the locations yet.

Does anybody have any questions?

TIFFANEY

Are you guys still looking for locations?

ACACIA

Yes, we are. If you have any ideas for locations where lots of people will be coming through. It can be a store, or a public space but not in people's homes and it can't be in a location that is on the ballot.

These projects are for schools, for parks, for public safety. I will say that this year there is something on the ballot that will definitely affect our school. It's for the area run for public safety so it will affect all of us. So please make sure that you show up to vote and tell everybody you know to come and vote as well.

TIFFANEY

Participatory budgeting, we had a great experience with participatory budgeting last year and we partnered with PS31 and we were soliciting people in the park. We worked together as a team and I think that it was a really good feeling. Sadly, PS23, they were trying to get on the ballot for air conditioning because with the mayor's initiative "Cooling the Schools" public spaces won't be air conditioned. Their cafeteria needs to be air conditioned. They didn't make it on the ballot but we were going to partner with them and help them because we ran a successful campaign last year. I'm heartbroken that they didn't get on the ballot.

ACACIA

I just want to say that this is a really good way to push your agenda. I have been able to vet two projects. One that I suggested and one that someone here suggested. We worked with a group of people that we vetted for equity and visibility. There is fairness to it but if you have something that you want to get behind to change the community, being a delegate is a really good way to do that.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

GALA COMMITTEE - FLEUR

I am Fleur and I'm the co-chair of the gala that is happening in 16 days and we have not sold enough tickets. So if you have not bought your tickets please go online and buy your tickets. Please encourage other parents. It's going to be super fun. It's at David Ashram's artist studio. It's a pretty amazing space which is really really cool. We have lots of fun purple themed things happening at the party. It is adults only but there is some childcare available. If you go to the school website and click the fundraiser, you'll be taken to the 501 Auction page which is currently live. We have about 90 items on there. About 50% of those items are gift certificates and the other 50% of those are physical things. You can bid online now; you mom, grandparents, from Australia or anywhere. This gala is the biggest fundraiser of the year. As always it seems like right down to the wire, we don't have nearly enough volunteers and we have no where near sold enough tickets. We just have hope and faith that that will just come together at the end. If anyone would like to sign up, even if you are coming, and you want to do just an hour or two at the bar or at the coat check or help us with the auction that would be super helpful. Reema is here. Do you want to come up and talk about the food. I know that Bronwyn will talk about Charity Buzz as

well. We feel that we are in pretty good shape but at this point if people could just help spread the word. We've got a lot of teachers coming which is really cool. This is Reema, she's going to talk about the food.

REEMA

I am helping to get donations for the bar and food. Right now, our bar is looking pretty good but we could still use some more beer and liquor. Oh no, ok, so we are probably good for the bar. We could still use some more food. Last year a lot of people brought food with them and didn't let us know and so we had a lot of leftover food. I'd like to avoid that. So if you would like to make something or bring something, if you could just let us know, that would be great. We have some donations like Pies and Thighs is donating chicken and biscuits, Fornino is donating sandwiches and that sort of stuff. We have a couple of main dishes and so we could use maybe 3 to 5 additional main food items. Keep in mind that most people are standing and eating. It's not a sit down thing. And then dessert, we are a little low on desserts. Also if you know of a restaurant that would be interested in donating please let me know.

FLEUR

We are suppose to have a meeting tonight at Goldie's on Nassau at 7pm but if it's snowing a bunch that probably will be cancelled. There will be a meeting on Friday morning just to kind of iron out the last minute details. I also want to connect with the Green Wellness committee. On the night of, we are going to do an ask for a special program. We have the online auction that is live now and that will end at the party. We will do this other special little thing, we are going to get our MC, one of the dads who is an actor and an auctioneer. We are going to do an ask for a special thing. It's a program that Lisa or Tiffaney might be able to talk about. It's about our kids' food and it's really important. Tiffaney gave me a little run down last night on the phone. Basically, I didn't realize this myself, but 42% of the school still qualifies for free lunch. It used to be more when we had Title 1. So, it's about food equality. So we are going to ask for a special program that brings a chef into the school for a year, maybe more, and work with the kids talking about food and cooking food. Lisa would you mind?

LISA

Wellness in the School, is an organization that works with school foods who designed the alternative menu. They designed this pilot program. They are a non-profit that brings a chef into the school. They do other custom programs that we were looking at, depending on what our needs prove to be. The flagship program does entail bringing in a chef to

work with staff and do additional training and educational programs about different types of foods, some of the items that may be overlooked on the school menu. In general, building a whole community around nutrition and wellness and maybe bringing up the numbers of kids who do actually eat the school lunch and having more lunch consumed while they are here.

TIFFANEY

At the beginning of the school year, this year we were told that we would possibly lose some of our lunch staff members. So hopefully by doing this and increasing our numbers and educating our staff. When we went to the Alternative menu there really wasn't a huge training for the lunch staff. They were like, ok now you will be serving more plant-based foods and protein that isn't meat based. There was never really a training wrapped around that. From my understanding, the chef will come in and they will work with the staff and they do tastings with the parents and the kids and they educate and build this program around educating the parents and the kids. It is always the same usual suspects of parents that show up for these things but at least we are hitting the kids. And Fleur you were really shocked when I told you that there are kids at this school that depend on the meals that they get in this school for their daily calories. It's a decent amount of kids and so we need to educate them because we all know the impact that diet has on our longevity.

FLEUR

I think that this could be a really good opportunity at the gala when we've got 250 or 300 people there. We are going to do a very quick ten minute thing and pull on the heart strings a bit. We are hoping to raise \$6,000 to \$10,000 on this. And then this could push that program into the world.

TIFFANEY

I just wanted to say, that we are hoping that this program will be funded by outside sources and not taking away from the PTA's resources but the PTA is 100% behind it and the school is also 100% behind it. This is a kick-off, this is what we are doing and this is what we are doing for our kids. Some people have said "oh this is a chef" but it is needed. Food equality is a huge thing in our schools. It's a huge issue.

LISA

Fran has been here as our sustainability coach working on waste and working on allocating how we dispose of our waste and the one thing that was staggering for me to see is the amount of waste that we do produce. And that's home lunch and school lunch.

So generally educating our school population of what they eat and consuming more of it and receiving more of the nutrients that the parents work hard to send in their lunch box and that the staff works hard to plate for them is an all around win. It goes hand in hand with our philosophy as an eco-school.

TIFFANEY

Any other committee updates?

The minutes have been going around. Let's vote on the minutes.

It's an open forum, does anybody have anything that they'd like to say right now? We are going to wrap that up then. Thanks again to Kevin for coming today. Thanks everyone.