

PS110 - PTA MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2018

In Attendance

Shannon Clare, PTA Co-President
Rob Mayer, PTA Co-President
Yasmin Elshafei-Olenich, Treasurer
Stephanie Arsham, Co-Secretary
Shelly Garinther, Co-Secretary

Amy Chalkley, Parent Coordinator
Ms Cano-Amato, Principal
Ms Raciunas, Assistant Principal
40 Parents

INTRO - SHANNON CLARE

Good morning everybody. Thanks so much for coming. Welcome, I am so glad that all of you are here. I am Shannon Clare one of the co-presidents of the PTA. This is Rob Maher. He is one of the other co-presidents of the PTA. We are the new co-presidents, which is why we don't have any agendas with us because we didn't know we had to print it. We will next time but we will send it out. I think it's on Facebook but if it is not, we will get it out there.

I want to introduce you to your executive board. This is Yasmin. She is our treasurer. We are looking for a co-treasurer. If you like Quickbooks, we would love to speak to you. These are our co-secretaries. This is Shelly and Stephanie and I have already introduced Rob. We are really excited to work with all of you this year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to come speak to us. I will pass it on to Ms Cano.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - MS CANO

Good morning everyone. For those of you that don't know me, I am Anna Cano Amato. I am the principal here at PS110. Ms Raciunas is our assistant principal. I have been here for 35 years but I don't look it. I feel it, don't look it. So welcome.

First, I want to thank everyone for cooperation last week in that extreme sweltering heat. It is probably the hottest opening we've ever had. On that note, we have received funding for the upgrade of our wiring. So that will begin in September. We have also petitioned the state government for moneys for the air conditioners. So hopefully by next summer, summer of 2019, we will have upgraded wiring and new air conditioners. I am being very optimistic but I want to start the year off on an optimistic note. Everything takes time but everything is in the works. So again, thank you for your cooperation in that heat of last week.

So just a couple of things. First, attendance and punctuality. We have 180 school days, more or less. According to DOE policy children should not be absent for more than 10 school days. It's between 10 and 18 about 10%. I say 10, the city says 18. So if you're going to schedule vacations and schedule appointments and do things, please try do those things on off-hours or on our vacation time. And I know that's when it gets costly to travel but that would be really helpful. Starting now, with the new Every Student Succeeds Act that was passed by the federal government, we are going to be graded on absenteeism as well. Something new, we haven't been graded on absenteeism before. Particularly chronic absenteeism. And we have a lot of children here who are chronically absent, two days a week, three days a week and then it just accumulates. Last year we had some kids who were absent 50, 60 days in the school year. That is a phenomenal number of days and it's not a small number. We have a handful. So please make sure your children are here everyday on time.

The day begins at 8:10. That's another problem that we have here. We have approximately 60 to 70 children who are late every day. It's a long list. The problem is that when the child arrives late, the classroom teacher has to stop and get your child organized, pick up your child, get him organized and then have him or her flow through the day. They might even be gone. By 8:25 we are moving. Our first period begins at 8:25. So the kids are sometimes already gone and here these little children are arriving and they don't know where their classes are. So please make every effort to be here and to be here on time. Our attendance goal is 95.5%. We did not reach it last year. We were close. I believe we are one of the top three schools in the district for attendance. Ms Raciunas will tell you, I am a little bit fanatical about it. So please, everyday on time.

I want to talk about social and emotional growth because as you know here to PS110, we very strongly believe in educating the whole child. So while we provide for a rigorous curriculum and the academics are taken care of, I want us to understand that social and emotional growth is very important. I want to talk about to words;persistence and resiliency. Your children are going to be met with tasks this year that are difficult. As they enter a new grade, the work gets more difficult. They need to understand that they need to persist. It's ok if they fail. They just have to try. So we have been studying and we will continue to study as a school community, making things visible. Last year we talked about what is called the learning pit. As your children are learning things they kind of fall into a pit. As they learn whatever it is they need to learn, they get out of that pit. But some kids get into the pit and then they are stuck because the first words out of their mouth is "I don't want to do it" "I can't do" "I don't know how to do it". So we have to teach our children to be resilient and to understand that it's ok to have these moments but with the support of their teachers and their parents, they'll come out of it. So this year we are going to continue that work. You're kids will be talking about success criteria; what they need to know to be successful in a particular lesson. We are going to be working on that again.

Parent teacher conferences this year, September 13th we were scheduled for tomorrow and the city forgot that it was the primaries. So it's been cancelled. So next Monday evening beginning at 4:30 to 6:00 and then again from 6:30 to 8:00. I was just told this morning that there was a mistake on the letter that went out. So 4:30 to 6:00 and 6:30 to 8:00. Please come and meet your child's teachers. They will discuss curriculum and expectations in the classroom, etc. So it's Monday September 17th.

On November 15th, report cards will be given out for the first marking period. You must come in person to pick up your child's report card. And again, you will be with your teacher and your child. Your child will be conducting the conference.

March 14th, report cards again.

And May 15th is our last PT conference of the year. Typically we do something in celebration of the year on that day.

Please complete your lunch form online. Many children eat their own lunches but I need us all to fill out that lunch form. We need to have 100% compliance. It is what determines Title

1 funding. I don't believe that we will get Title 1 funding but you never know. Amy, did that information go out?

AMY - It's been going out online but I still have to backpack it.

MS CANO - And all children eat for free. So even if you did at one point qualify for reduced lunch or full lunch, everyone now eats for free. Lunch is free. Breakfast is free. Breakfast is at 7:40 if your child wants to come into the lunchroom. If your child comes at 8:10, they can take a grab-and-go breakfast from the lunchroom and eat it and then go upstairs to class.

Dona, do you want to talk about art?

MS RACIUNAS - Good morning. For those of you who've been here and for the new parents, we have a lot of different art residencies in the building. So in addition to a part-time visual arts teacher, who is here Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and a new music teacher who is here full-time, every grade from K through 5th grade receives an art residency. Some of them are lucky enough to receive several. So in spring the Kindergarten does a latin dance residency. The first grade is like the lucky year because in the fall they do Mark Morris movement, they do drumming in the spring and throughout the entire year they are involved in a visual arts immersion. Second grade and third grade are involved in a musical theatre residency. The last couple of years all the second and third graders performed together. We had about 200 kids up on stage. We are not doing that this year. The third grade will do musical theatre in the fall and the second grade will do the musical theatre with the same instructor but in the spring. The fourth grade does ballroom dance, twenty lessons of ballroom dance, in the winter. The fifth grade does shakespearean residency in the spring.

Thanks to the PTA and to all the parents fundraising, the arts are very much alive. So thank you all.

MS CANO - Ms Raciunas is right. Without the fundraising of the PTA there would be absolutely no art residencies in this school. There is absolutely no room in the budget that we receive for the arts. It's very very tight. So everything that we do art related is because of all your efforts, so thank you very much.

We are a Leader In Me school. We follow The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven Covey. We are a Lighthouse School which means that we have attended

international status in our leadership goals. Your kids will be talking more about this, I imagine, in their leadership notebooks as we go along. But if you want to google it, it's the Leader In Me.

I don't want to step on anyone's toes. Amy, are you going to talk about after school?

AMY - Yes

MS CANO -Is Tiffaney going to talk about the grant at all?

SHANNON- Yeah we are going to talk about that.

MS CANO - Your going to talk about it, ok. So I think I am going to stop talking. Both Ms Raciunas and I are always around so if you need anything or want to chat, please come and find us. Ok, thank you.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - ROB MAYER

Hey everyone, I'm Rob. I am one of your co-presidents. I'm primarily going to focus, being as it's the beginning of the year, on involvement and how important it is for you guys to be involved and ways that you can be involved.

At the back table over there, on your way out, you will see there are lots of committees. There are a lot of committees, there are a lot of events. Committees basically will allow you to help be involved in different aspects of the school. For example, there is the library committee. If you sign up for the library committee, you can be in the library when the kids come in, help them check out books. It's a really rewarding experience. It's a way to kind of interact with the kids in school and just see how their day goes. It's really great. The other one that you have is your greening committee which is your outdoor garden. They help teach the pre-k garden classes. They take care of the gardens out front. We do have a big grant that came through and we are going to be having a large garden put in on the side yard. They are going to talk about that in the budget. The art committee is basically, they support all of the events that we do at the school. They make sure that all the marketing is being done. Basically, we draw from the parents' talent in order to make things happen. So we ask that you volunteer, like if you are a graphic designer and there is an event coming up, we want you to volunteer if you're available to help design the flyer for it. The art committee also decorates the hallways. They hang the kids artwork in the

school. This year we are trying to get the art committee, in conjunction with the school, to develop more art interaction with the students. Parents that are photographers, maybe we can set up a seminar on photography and do it like an after-school thing when we have family night.

So it's really important to be involved. Just to echo Shannon, we do need another co-treasurer. So if any of you are accountants or know Quickbooks, get in touch with us, that would be great.

Just going to get my list of events. Ok, so there are a bunch of events coming up. On September 18th is "Dad take your kid to school day". Basically, we'll set up a backdrop in the school yard and there will be a photographer and a little set. So you can take a photo with your kid dropping him off at school. Photos will be available for download. Amy generally organizes it and we will support her this year and help grow it a little bit and move it along so there is less of a crowd in the courtyard.

After that is Parents Night Out on September 21st at Greenpoint Beer and Ale from 7 to 11. They are going to donate 15% of sales back to the PTA so come drink.

After that there is Picture Day on October 5th. We are actually looking for a co-chair for Picture Day. Gretchen has been doing it for the last couple of years. We wanted to get someone in there to follow her so that when she is done doing it everybody knows how to get it done right. It's a great event. It's fun to volunteer and help organize the kids to get them into the shoots. We use Stomping Ground and they're amazing. The kids all have fun while they are doing it and the pictures look awesome. Retakes for that will be November 15th.

The Fall Carnival is one of the biggest events of the year for fundraising. I was a co-chair of it last year. We raised a lot of money. A lot of the work is already done but we really need some chairs for the fall carnival in order to make it happen. So if you guys can volunteer, you have the support of the entire head of the PTA. We were all involved in it

last year. We will help you get through it. It's not that bad but we would really like someone to get on it soon so that the planning can happen and not be last minute.

Q - When will that be?

ROB - It will be October 13th. Ok, October 13th.

That's all I got. Just so you guys know, there is a table in the back over there. It has all the committees that we host. Sign up for one. You're not committing to "I have to be there every month. I have to be there every week". They are essentially mailing lists so that you can stay in the loop with the committee and you can volunteer when you do have time. That's it.

SHANNON - Actually, Amy needs to go so we will skip to the Parent Coordinators Report and then we'll get back to the Treasurer's report and the Secretary's Report.

PARENT COORDINATOR'S REPORT - AMY CHAKLEY

Hi Everyone. I am Amy Chakley. If I haven't met you I'm the parent coordinator and if I haven't met you, you've probably received many emails from me.

I just want to reiterate the lunch forms that Ms Cano spoke about. One of these lunch forms will come home in your backpack. You have to put your child's OSIS number. If you are a PreK parent you probably don't have your child's OSIS number. I will add the OSIS number on the top of it. If you want to do it online before you receive it, you can email me and I can give you your OSIS number. If you have had your child in school before and you don't know your child's OSIS number, it is always on your child's report card. It is the code for your child. Again, you can get in touch with me regarding that. This is so important and if you don't fill it out I will find you and I will ask you to. So hopefully it doesn't have to go that far. You can do it online and I put it on our Facebook page.

Right now our website is being updated. I know that not everybody is on Facebook but that is where I am posting everything right now. We do have a portal that is going to be up and running and that we will be using probably starting next week and that is how we will be getting emails to you. We're trying to find another system that will work so we may change over starting in January. But for now we are going to continue with our portal system and

that is how we will get emails to you. Sometimes some of the teachers will chose to email that way but that is how I can email the entire school or email by grade.

Our first Family Night is October 3rd. It is the same as our next PTA meeting. We are having a special guest. Her name is Dr Selesie. She is a naturopathe. We've actually had her as a guest at a PTA meeting before and people had responded very well to her. She is going to do a seminar about how we can help our children to focus on doing homework at home or in school. Bring your children, We do a potluck dinner. Everyone will bring different dishes. We will have an art activity for the children as well.

Today is our first day that most after schools. We have, within the building and outside the building, over 15 different after schools. I connect people to the after schools but the after school programs are separate entities from us. But of course, your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. We make sure they have a protocol. Ms Cano and I have met with all the after school programs and gone over the protocol of how they pick up your children from the classroom or getting the older children to come down and they have specific pickup spots. All your teachers will know where your children are going too. What I do ask of you is if your child has an after school program and your child is sick or if you are coming early that day to pick up your child please email me, email your teacher and let them know, and email the after school program because a lot of time I will get after school programs waiting to leave with like 10 children because one child didn't show up and it turns out that they parent came that day to pick up their child and didn't inform the after school. Any questions regarding that?

Q - Can you clarify how the after school program pick-up works? Is it in the classroom or is it outside?

AMY - It depends. Pre-K is always in the classroom and most Kindergarten is in the classroom and all the programs whether they are in house or outside, they come into the building to pick up your child. So your child will have a designated spot and those counsellors will either be picking them up and if they are in an older grade they will know to come down. Of course the first few weeks, usually the teachers as they come down will drop the kids off on the first floor. But they will have designated places to pick up. When I say that we have 15 after schools not all of them do it on every single day. Some of our after schools only do it two days a week or three days a week and then again some of them only have five kids. So they are really small. It can be hectic. We are trying to make it as smooth as possible. We know that there is such a need in the community for after

school so we are trying to offer a much needed thing but also to make it run smoothly. Any questions?

Q - Should we tell you what after schools our kids are going to?

AMY - That is helpful if you do. You can email it to me and CC your teachers. Otherwise, what I end up doing is creating a schedule for all the classes, for all the teachers. I already have all the teachers email so I can do that.

Q - Is there a vegetarian option everyday?

AMY - If there isn't a vegetarian main then there is always the sandwich which is always vegetarian and then you get the sides with it, which are always vegetarian. It could be like a salad or like a vegetable with the sandwich.

Q - On the forms is that something that you would indicate?

AMY - No. We have the alternative menu which has more vegetarian options but it's not vegetarian everyday, no.

Q -My husband got something about parent teacher conference tomorrow. It's so early that I thought that it wasn't possible?

AMY - Ms Cano was talking about that. In the beginning of the year the DOE put it on the 13th but because of the primary elections it was changed to Monday. It was updated on the calendar that went home and I updated the Facebook and I sent a few notes out. It's actually not a conference where you meet with your child. You are actually going in, there are going to be two different sessions and I post it on Facebook again. You are going to your kid's classroom and it's more of a curriculum night. You are going to find out what your child is learning. It's not a separate conference.

Q - If we bring our child to the conference, if that's welcome, what will they be doing?

AMY - They will be with you.

Q - We can chose the time?

AMY - There are two sessions, yes. Either or because it will be repetitive.

Any other questions? Thank you so much.

TREASURER'S REPORT - YASMIN ELSHAFEI-OLENICK + SHANNON CLARE

SHANNON - So now I'm going to bring up Yasmin. We are going to speak to the budget. There was a budget voted on and presented in June. What you are going to see is basically that budget. We've had a few additions, almost all, I would say all of them are positive, which is nice. So we are going to present it today and then we will take a vote on it in October so you all have time to mull it over and if you have any questions you can reach out to us. As I said, we are new, we are just figuring this out.

One thing I can speak to off the bat that was not there in June is an \$83,000 grant we received to green the Monitor yard. It is going to be absolutely beautiful. It was through the effort of parents, administration, Fran our sustainability coach who worked together to get it Marnie Majorelle. Is Marnie here? She did the Kingsland Wildflower Garden. She is a parent here and she is designing our side yard. So it's going to be amazing. We're going to have an outdoor classroom. Ms Fortunado, the science teacher, is super excited about this and she's going to utilize this to the umpteenth degree. We are going to grow vines up the fences. We are going to have planters. We are going to have planters that the kids can plant in. We will have planters that have trees and shrubs and flowers as well. It's going to be very interactive and it's going to be ready in October so it's a quick turnaround and so we are going to use it this year.

YASMIN - This is essentially the budget that was presented in June. So it's something that we'll give you a chance to look over before we vote on it next month at the next PTA meeting. So this is just a general overview of the budget today. Our opening bank balance at the beginning of our fiscal year, which was July 1, is \$155,164. As you can see there are a number of donations through direct giving that are important to our budget so for example we receive \$10,000 recently from a company called Atlantic Philanthropy. This money, as you'll see, goes towards funding some of the art programs that are available in the school. In addition to that we received \$2000 from Steve 11 Councilman Steve Levin's office.

SHANNON - So if I can speak to that real quick. We have a new music teacher and he has worked with a Carnegie program at Carnegie Hall. He asked if he could have funding to do this program with the third through fifth graders. So we are going to spend that \$2,000 to get the third through fifth graders into the Carnegie program and it will culminate with an event at Carnegie Hall.

YASMIN - So you can see the budget I won't necessarily go through each line item and describe each thing but. Company matching \$3,000. Charity Buzz, this is another very important thing that will touch on them in a few minutes. This is an organization that gives you the opportunity to bid on lots and the money comes directly to the PTA for funding of the arts again. Through Charity Buzz we made \$10,066 recently. This is the GCEF grant that Shannon was just talking about. This is to green to side yard. The Fall Fest we're budgeting \$9,000 for this. Again you will see that our budget this year as opposed to last year is pretty similar on most counts.

SHANNON - So this is revenue. We are not spending \$9,000 on this. We are projecting \$9,000 in revenue. Rob and Bea just knocked it out of the park last year. We want to be conservative with revenue projections and then over-budget for expenditures because we would rather have a surplus than be in the red. So that's the thinking behind that.

YASMIN - Same thing for the holiday craft fair \$7,000. For the FunRaiser roughly \$55,000 as opposed to last year's \$44,469. Night of the Arts \$1,500. For the FunRun roughly \$12,000. Parents night out \$200. Film Festival \$1,500. Again, I won't go to the details of each one of these. If you guys have questions about them feel free to ask.

SHANNON - I will say the FunRun. I'm not sure we had these numbers when we met in June. Is Erika here? Oh no. Erica did an amazing job. We made \$13,000, almost \$14,000 on the FunRun last year. That's incredible and it's such a fun easy event. We are really looking forward to that again. It's another opportunity for parents to get involved and be around the kids.

YASMIN - The proceeds from a ticket sales for baseball game, the Yankees game. School picture is roughly \$2,000. The book again \$15,000.

SHANNON - We upped that quite a bit this year because we will be having a book fair at the Multicultural Holiday Fair so you can buy books for the holidays there.

YASMIN - Box tops that's something that will touch on again as one of our fundraising initiatives. Likewise, Amazon Smile, this is something that we'll provide a link to our Amazon Smile account. If you make purchases through Amazon I think it's 0.5% of your of the sale will go directly towards the PTA. So you don't have to be purchasing school supplies. You can be anything through an Amazon account and the money will come back to the PTA. Martial Arts program, roughly the same. Parents fun run. Shannon do you want to say something.

SHANNON - Is Sarah Duford here? She is not here. Sarah Duford organized the Prospect Park Fun Run and brought in \$700 for us. That was another unexpected revenue so hats off to all the parents who participated in that.

YASMIN - We budgeted \$8,000 for wellness in the schools. We budgeted \$10,000 for merchandise and that's up quite a bit from last year because there's going to be...

SHANNON - We are going to have a school store for our merchandise this year. We are going to unveil it at the Fall Carnival. We are looking for merch volunteers. We're going to add a lot of merchandise this year. We are going to design. We need people who are good at design. Sourcing, we'll need to source at well. So anyone who's good with merch please sign up for the merch committee because there is a lot of opportunities to make a real impact there.

YASMIN - So essentially the overall revenues that were projecting are \$280,377. Then we'll move onto our expenses.

SHANNON - Yeah because that sounds like a lot but then we see all that we pay for, it's not that much.

YASMIN - So tax preparation \$1,000 that remains the same. Insurance, I'll skip through some of these. Office supplies. So we have teacher staff appreciation.

SHANNON - That's a breakfast. Then classroom enrichment materials, you'll notice that was increased a large amount. We did that because this year teachers will not be allowed to write off the materials they buy for their classrooms on their tax returns. We know that they are all spending a lot of money out of pocket so we've increased the amount of money that we are going to give the teachers. Each teacher, each head teacher will get \$200 for supplies, a paraprofessional will get \$125, the aides will get \$75 and we are going to give \$150 to the sustainability coach.

Q - Are classrooms going to be able to have their amazon wish lists again this year?

SHANNON - We are looking to get a new portal and we want each of the classrooms to be represented on the portals so that if the teachers have that wishlist, they can do that. In the past the PTA has given the teachers money mid-year for supplies. This year we are going to do it at the beginning of the year so hopefully they won't need that list.

YASMIN - Going back down to the GCEF grant, essentially the revenues and expenses of set each other. For school equipment we budgeted \$7,000.

SHANNON - Initially in June we had budgeted \$3,000 for that. \$1,800 of that has already been spent because the air conditioner in the office just died and the only way to get a new one is to go through one vendor that has to sell it to us take out the old one and put in a new one. I think that we all agree that we want our office workers to be happy and cool and honestly it gets so hot in there that I feel that it's such a small space that it's a safety issue I feel. We did agree to pay for that. We had also planned on paying for a new phone system for the school and because of the air conditioner that would leave us short. So when we got that unexpected \$10,000, we are going to put this to a vote, but we would like to put the \$4,000 that will pay for the phones, into that budget to cover the costs of the phone. Which will then between the phones and the air conditioners, they'd have just about \$1,200 in case anything else breaks all year. We feel that we are being conservative with the \$4,000 additional but we feel like it's necessary to add that money there.

YASMIN - I'll skip through some of these. They are just basic information. The fifth grade graduation costs. Again most of the things remain the same. The revenues and the expenses offset each other for the wellness in the school. Marketing \$1,000 so posters flyers etc. Merchandise roughly \$7,000 which again is up from last year.

SHANNON - It's actually the same proposed budget from last year. We are planning on spending or getting \$10,000 in without having to tip in anymore for that.

YASMIN - We have parents night out \$300. The film festival \$1,200.

SHANNON - Well we had several film showings last year and it was super successful. Thanks to Natalie Charles we now have a film committee. So if you are interested in film we plan on expanding that program this year. It's really nice. You can take your whole family. We do it here. We charge one family price so it doesn't break the bank. It's a great way, especially for the younger kids who haven't been to the theatre yet, it's a very easy environment. No one will be upset if they are going in and out.

YASMIN - Coffee tea and tears \$250. Fall Fest \$500. Again, most of these numbers are similar from last year to this year. Holiday craft fair. FunRaiser. The FunRun \$500 and it's down this year from last year because last year you guys purchased lanyard.

SHANNON - Yes, last year we bought lanyards for the school. The classrooms will use them for class trips. We'll use them for events and during the tours the visitors will have them as well. We are going to distribute them to teachers and give some to Officer Keith. We had a big expense last year but it is something that we will use year after year after year.

YASMIN - Family night \$400. Book fair \$13,000.

SHANNON - We upped that quite a bit because we are going to have two book fairs this year and because we kept running out of books last year. So we kept having to buy more. If we had more money in the budget to buy books we would have sold more books. So we feel that this is a very safe number.

YASMIN - The baseball game \$2,400 for the tickets. Then this is the new music teacher that Shannon touched on. So it's \$2,000 in the budget that we will be taking from the money that Councilman Steven Levin provided. We will be using that to fund a music extension for grades 3,4, and 5. Young Audiences of New York \$26,500.

SHANNON- Young Audiences of New York, you can see, it encompasses a lot of the arts programs that your kids are doing. Again, unfortunately, the school has no money in the budget for arts programing. They pay for the music teacher but we pay for the art teacher and all of these classes that your kids take and without your support they will not have that. So anything you can do, even if you don't have money. We spend approximately \$29 to \$30 a month per child to do the arts at the school. So if you're looking for a number to donate, \$30 a month would be a wonderful wonderful way to support the school. If you can't do a monthly donation, your time is obviously more valuable than \$30 per month and we are happy to have that as well.

YASMIN - So Dancing Classrooms \$6,600. Theatre For A New Audience \$5,500. The art teacher, the salary increased to \$50,000 because she received her master's degree. Mark Morris Dance \$5,200. Audubon Society \$5,100 and then the contingency. There was an existing \$5,000 in place in the budget and we are adding \$6,000 to that from the \$10,000 donation received from the Atlantic Philanthropies. And again this will help fund the needs of the various committees. Essentially it's a discretionary fund. Would you like to speak to that.

SHANNON - Basically this is our emergency fund. If there is an opportunity that comes forward that's a great chance to help our students, we have the money for it. If something very expensive breaks in the school, we have this money to take care of that. We feel that it's important to have a safety net because honestly you don't know what can happen in the year, the air conditioner and the phones being a good example. And because, frankly, the school's budget is tighter than it's ever been this year. So we want to truly be a parent teacher association and support the school and the teachers in any way we can and because of their budget shortfalls we want to make sure we have more money sitting to help them should they need that help. Does anyone have any questions?

YASMIN - Before I finish with that. It doesn't show up here. Actually it does. The ending balance in our account as of the 10th is \$118,985 and again that leaves us with a surplus in the budget of \$11,723.

SHANNON - Yes.

Q - Carnegie hall, why is it only from 3 to 5?

SHANNON - It's specifically for 3, 4 and 5. My understanding is that K through 2 get music. Is Ms Cano still here. Three, four, five are they getting music?

MS CANO -Yes

SHANNON - They are getting music. This program is specifically designed for 3,4 and 5. That's why he wants to bring it in. It's a little more advanced than what the little ones can do but our intention, when we start this program we intend on continuing it . This isn't a one of. So when your child gets to 3rd grade it should still be in place.

Q - Has music started already?

SHANNON - Yes, they've already gone. Some of them went up on the first day or the second day. Yes and they go up to music room. Ms Cano, if you want to speak to the program?

MS CANO - So our new music teacher and basically for grades K through two he will be working with Music for the Brain, that's our keyboarding program. And then for third through fifth he will be working with the Carnegie program. Yes?

Q - Will the chorus still be on for this year?

MS CANO - Yes, we are working on it.

Q - Speaking of instruments, will recorders will be learned?

MS CANO - They will learn the recorder as of third grade.

SHANNON - Yes, with the Carnegie Hall Program they will learn to play the recorder and then perform at Carnegie Hall.

Q -Pre K has a gardening class? Is there a way to get the other grades out there?

SHANNON - The reason that we started the Pre K program is because Ms Fortunado comes to their classroom. They don't go up to the science class. Ms Fortunado works with

them in the garden. It is woven into their science curriculum. We added the Pre K in because they weren't getting it. That's why that was added. The K through five are already getting. They are getting it taught by the science teacher versus the Pre K that are getting it taught by us.

Q - So they will go into the garden as well?

SHANNON - Yup, yes.

Q - How much of the yard will be a garden?

SHANNON - It's going to be integrated throughout the garden. So the children will still have room to play and run around in there. It will still be used for second grade recess that happens out there. It will still be used for that. It will be opened to the public after school for the kids to play in and my guess is that more kids will go over there once the garden is. Marnie designed it with free play in mind.

Q - This is not a garden question. Is the debate team only for fifth graders or is it open to fourth graders as well?

SHANNON - And so for those of you who don't know, the debate team was new last year. The fifth graders did it. It's an amazing program. Ms Cano brought in an award winning middle school to coach the kids. So kids coaching kids. They swept their first competition. They one everything. So it's a really good program.

Q - This is a budget question. At the end of the year there were some grants that came in for the Audubon Society. I can walk you to through the numbers at another time.

SHANNON - Ok cool, thank you. Anyone else?

Q - Can we bring show and tell back, like for first graders?

SHANNON - I think that this is something that you need to adrese with the teachers and the administration. We don't have any say in that. I know that there is parents days where parents can come in and share their skills with the class.

Q - For the events, is it possible to have a full years event calendar?

SHANNON - So for the events? We haven't had a chance to meet with Ms Cano. WE intend, hopefully this week to get a full year's events calendar and then we will share it with everyone. Because it's better for everyone if we can schedule ahead.

Q - Is there a dedicated program that the classes follow for the full that involves the gardening?

SHANNON - With the grant, we have a full year's schedule planned. There will be trainings given to the students, the parents, and the teachers as part of this. And as I said, Ms Fortunado's science curriculum will be woven into the garden.

YASMIN - Just to close on the budget. We filed our taxes in August so our overall revenue was \$156,898. Do you want me to move on to initiatives? In terms of fundraising initiative, Shannon mentioned this, the PTA spends approximately \$30 a month for each child at PS110 for funding in the arts. If you guys are able to give through direct giving, through New York Charities, you can do either a monthly donation or a one-time donation. New York Charities is a great portal, essentially, where you can just make online payments.

SHANNON - And there is a link to that directly on the website.

Q - And that goes directly to PS110?

YASMIN - It goes to the PTA. You select PS110 PTA.

Q - What is it called again?

YASMIN - www.newyorkcharities.org

SHANNON - It's New York Charities.org and there is a link on the website. So you can just click it and it will take you there and you can fill it out online. It is extremely helpful for us.

YASMIN - And likewise we mentioned AmazonSmile. We'll also put a link on our website or?

SHANNON - It is on the website.

YASMIN - So there is also a link on the website for AmazonSmile where a percentage of your Amazon purchases goes to the PTA.

SHANNON - And you can make your AmazonSmile your homepage on Amazon so that anything you purchase through that page will give.

YASMIN - And then Boxtops. Is there a link to that on the website.

SHANNON - No, you actually have to bring the Boxtops in.

YASMIN - Lastly, Charitybuzz. Is Bronwyn here?

BRONWYN - Hi, I'm Bronwyn. I started a fundraising initiative for the school last year through an organization called CharityBuzz. It's an online auction platform. The people who are bidding on these items are not PS110 community people. CharityBuzz has a large network of very high net worth individuals who go online all the time to buy things that you can't otherwise buy. So CharityBuzz specializes in auctioning of unique one-off experiences largely. Last year, we started this initiative in association with the FunRaiser. We started this in February. We had 13 auctions and we raised over \$10,000 just with those 13 auctions. We had things like meet+greet with celebrities, lunch with celebrities, B C A celebrities just whoever you might know. Just all parent connections. We had things like a tour of the Facebook offices in New York City, that sold for \$1,600. We have a lot of artists, parent artists in the community. People auctioned off through your contacts, through your work. It's ridiculous how much money we could raise with this initiative. Other schools, there aren't many other schools in the city that are using this, but there are other schools. One of them is raising over \$400,000 every year that goes directly to the PTA.

Just through word of mouth, through the parent community about this opportunity that we have. Things that sell for a lot of money are internships, like rich parents buy their college kids internships at where ever . So if work at an ad agency, publication company or whatever, you can auction off a two week, unpaid, internship and it can sell for \$5,000, \$6,000 or \$10,000. Tickets to SNL or other tickets that are hard to get, I've done this for another organisation sold for \$14,000.

Q - So it's just experiences?

BRONWYN - It's mostly experiences. If it's really unique items like a signed guitar by a famous musician or some memorabilia like that, they will sell it. But they have found just through their organization that the experiences that you can't find or you can't buy usually sell better. I'm happy to brainstorm with anybody who has ideas on this. It's going to be an ongoing fundraising initiative for the whole year with a targeted effort around the FunRaiser to try and get more money into that in the spring.

So please, reach out to me. My name is Bronwyn, reach out to me and also just please spread the word and brainstorm. It may not come to you in the first instant but as you think about it, think about who you know, think about what you might be able to offer and I can help you craft the ask to your contact. Do you have any questions about it. Ok, thank you.

SHANNON - Secretary's report, Shelly

SECRETARY'S REPORT - SHELLY GARINTHER

There is not much to say. We take minutes at every meeting so if you can't be at the meeting, we post the minutes hopefully one week after the meeting occurs. That's all that there is to say.

SHANNON - Ok, so now we are going to open up the floor but first I want to call on Acacia Thompson who is doing a really cool program here in the neighborhood.

ACACIA THOMPSON - I'll just be brief everybody. I am Acacia, I'm a parent here and I'm also the outreach archivist for Brooklyn Public Library here in the Greenpoint. We are working on a project to document the environmental history of the neighborhood and we are doing this through oral histories and by holding scanning events where we invite the community to come and bring items like photographs or documents, momentos, or ephemera. Anything like that that helps sort of tell the story of the environment in Greenpoint and how your family stewards it. We are talking to people who have been in the neighborhood a long time. People who have experiences the industrial waste in the neighborhood. And we are talking to families in the neighborhood who are part of the initiative of making Greenpoint greener.

This weekend we are having an event with the Eco-Schools at Middle School 126 on Saturday from noon to 2pm. And at this workshop we are going to be having a soil cycle workshop, a garden scavenger hunt, and Greenpoint Treecorp will be doing a tree ID walk, and we will scan so if you have anything that you would like to contribute to be part of the Brooklyn Public Library collection please come or just come and hang out and do a workshop with us. This project is going on for the rest of the year. We'll have a couple more of events coming up. We'll be at Kingland Wildflowers. We'll also have a walk with Jeff Cobb our local historian on the environmental history of the neighborhood in October. and I will be posting about that as well. This project will live online and it will also be part of the new Greenpoint Environmental Education Centre, which I know, we are all excited to have open because we have open been without a library a long time. SO if you have any questions I have flyers in the back and please come and help show how your family is making Greenpoint greener.

SHANNON - Does anybody else have any questions or comments? Yes?

Q - Amazon Smile, i'm sure you can just do a search?

SHANNON - Yes, if you go to Amazon, there is somewhere in the top that will say AmazonSmile and you can click into it and you can do a search and it will bring you to our page.

Q - And you can do it through the PS110 website?

SHANNON - Yes, and one thing I forgot, Rob has been updating our website and we do have papers to sign up for committees here but if you don't have time you can also sign up for committees on our website. Thank you all for coming.