

Date: 12.19.24

Present:

- School Staff: Dawn P, Halee H, Janet C, Marie I
- PTA Co-Presidents: Mary & Mariam
- PTA Co-Treasurers: Rachel M
- PTA Co-Communications: Josh & Anna
- PTA Co-Fundraising: Hana & Megan & Ali
- PTA Co- Secretary: Dana C and Rachel K
- PTA Co-Class Parent: Blair H

PTA Meeting Agenda:

- Copresidents report
- Principal's Report
- After School Update
- Treasurer's Report
- Fundraising Report

Overview:

The December PTA meeting covered several key updates. The book fair is scheduled for January 13, with 70 out of 80 volunteer slots filled. Giving Tuesday raised \$121,000 from 213 donors, surpassing the \$75,000 goal. The PTA funded various programs, including chess for third graders and special education supplies. SLT added two January tours for prospective families and submitted a class size reduction proposal. Construction updates included delays in jungle gym repairs and ongoing ADA accessibility work. Concerns about dust mitigation and asbestos remediation were raised, with assurances of regular updates and safety measures in place.

Action Items

- Create a QR code that links to the construction FAQs.
- Provide more detailed updates on the construction work, including timelines for specific activities like asbestos remediation and dust mitigation.

Copresidents report

- The book fair is scheduled for January 13th, which has not been held at PS 29 since 2019. A partnership with PS.15, is happening to increase equity and increase book ownership to members in our community.
- The next PTA meeting is scheduled for January 17th and coincides with school tours and other events marked on the calendar.
- SuperScience will be held on 3/15
- PTA-funded initiatives were highlighted such as: chess for third grade, supplies, books, water filters, and special education supplies.

Fundraising Update and PTA Funding

- Giving Tuesday was an enormous success with \$121,000 raised- surpassing the goal of \$75,000. Matching donations were pivotal in this success.

Admin Update:

1. SLT Update and Class Size Proposal, including well-attended tours for prospective families and additional tours scheduled for January.

- Family mornings have been successful, with students sharing writing and doing crafts, and more sessions planned for the second half of the year.
- The class size reduction proposal was submitted to UFT, asking for reduced class sizes in K-5, with a plan to start with lower grades if approved.
- The proposal includes hiring nine new teachers and two specialty teachers, and the need for ongoing funding to sustain the plan.

Collaboration Programs

- Various collaboration programs, including ballroom dance, third-grade chess, and upcoming programs like yoga and music for kindergarten and pre-K students were highlighted
- Emphasis on the importance of continuity in collaboration programs and the positive feedback from students and teachers was highlighted.

Construction Project Details and Community Concerns

- The jungle gym construction project is experiencing delays due to weather and the need for waterproofing and stabilizing the retaining wall.
- School Administration reiterates that all DOE protocols for dust mitigation and safety measures will be enforced.
- The PS 29 website now includes construction updates and there is a plan to create a QR code for easy access to updates.
- Community members raised concerns about the impact of construction on the playground and the potential for recourse.
- A liaison will attend the next PTA meeting to answer questions and provide details about the upcoming meeting on January 17th.
- The school admin highlighted that they felt at this point there was still adequate space for students to enjoy recess.

Kids Club and After School Program Updates

- It is likely all kids on the waitlist for Kids Club will be accommodated and reminds parents to check their schedules in the portal.
- The drop policy for courses and the start date for winter semester courses are posted on the portal
- All efforts are being made to place all kids in their preferred courses.

Air Quality Concerns and Sensor Proposal

- Parents expressed concerns about air quality and dust from a nearby facility, suggesting the installation of air monitors near the school. Highlighting the experiences of friends living near the facility and the impact of dust on their daily lives.
- One member suggested a potential for student participation in gathering data and the importance of quantitative data for environmental justice cases.
- Inquires about the cost of the sensors was discussed
- The need for more media attention and community engagement to address the air quality issues was expressed
- Speaker 2 expresses interest in the sensor proposal and suggests reaching out to the PTA for further discussion and funding.
- One suggestion was including the Super Science Committee and creating an exhibit or activity to educate the community about air quality with hopes that a school-led study would attract more media attention and highlight the importance of the issue.

