

## PS 452 General PTA Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2018

### I. **Call to Order/President's Report (Sarah Courtemanche & Stacey Winter)**

- The meeting was called to order by Sarah Courtemanche at 8:55am. Sarah says - Chef Annie is so kind and we would like to present her with flowers and we understand she will be retiring. She is with the Wellness in the schools program. I just wanted to introduce her and I want to say thank you. She will be speaking after Scott.
- Our auction is this Saturday and we hope everyone can come.
- Stacey Winters- We are taking the nominations today. I made a one page hand out and it is description of what every position is. We just wanted you to know what everything is. I am making the motion to approve the minutes. Dan Cohen seconds. Minutes are approved 8:57am.

### II. **Principal's Report (Scott Parker)**

- Principal Parker -Hi everyone it's good to see you. A few things we did get the tech grant from Gale Brewer's office and it takes a long time but the good news now is some of the items arrived. We got 3 mobile smart boards one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and we also have one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for Mr. O'Reilly and Mr. Taylor. We also have one in the library. We also got another grant for the cafeteria. They have done the initial walk through and once they tell us we will know more. It will get started at the end of the school year.
- The ELA test was last week. I do want to clarify it is untimed but it does have to happen during the school day and then if you aren't done at the end of the school day then you are done. It is 2 days and you take it that day. The untimed is new. If you do miss a day then you can make up. If you do not complete something at the end of the day that's it. Math is 2 days coming up next week and then we will be finished with the large portion of the test. The labs are scheduled over multiple days and the teacher will communicate with you. The middle school admissions did great. 85% got their 1st or 2nd choice. That's a big success. 87% got 1st, 2nd or 3rd choices. 11% did not get their choices and there is an appeals process for them. Overall it's good figures overall. Overall that's some of the best figures in the district. Some of you might know they are planning on changing the middle school process. They are definitely gonna do away with the blind admissions. I don't have the dates with me but I do want to stress you can also send in your feedback if you write to the email address. They do want to hear from people. There is a simulation they did last year and the big take away is not much changed. The schools got more diverse but there weren't changes. They want you to

know they are working on a FAQ that should be coming out soon. As soon as they give it to us we will send it out to all of you.

- Pre-K application is just finishing up and soon the enrollment center letters will get generated and Sharon is in the process of doing pre-registration for Kindergarten. It does look like we will have enough for 4 sections of Kindergarten. We didn't have the numbers last year but this year we do. So this year we will probably also have spaces for in district out of zone families.
- Please check on the news and on the DOE website, the new calendar is out for the next school year so please use that accordingly. Also please check the breaks. I know people like vacation but attendance is important. We only have 180 school days so please plan accordingly so children don't miss school.
- We have a Spring coffee in the media lab at 805am this Thursday and then the May conference is coming up. It's more of an end of year conference. There will be workshops with your current grade and then the second part of the evening will be a sneak peak. So if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader you will meet the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team and talk about all the things a 4<sup>th</sup> grader needs to know so there won't be that summer slide. So that's a great evening. Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- AJ and Stacey spend so much time creating a really beautiful website. Please look at the calendar. It's a really great place to get information. We are putting a calendar of events for the rest of the year. We are going to try to put a list together on a one page doc with info to wrap up the year. Please check. Thank you all again and we look forward to having a great night at the auction so thank you.
- Question: I remember last year at our tour they were talking about foreign language discussion. Parker -It's not something we have said no to. We do have an obligation as a NYC public school to deliver the things that are mandated. Currently a lot of kids have to get it from the classroom teacher. That's legal and allowed but ideally it would be in a PE area with a PE teacher. Foreign language is not required for elementary school students. Because if we do that that's another period of PE. We are still trying to figure out what is needed with the law. There is not a way to teach part of social studies. We didn't find a candidate but we decided to hire a librarian instead. We haven't had the conversation but it's something we would like to integrate but we are not there yet. Finding a candidate to teach Spanish and work developmentally with our kids is challenging. We need to find a qualified candidate. We haven't figured it out yet but we are still working on it.

III. **Guest Speakers - Sarah C:** We have 2 guest speakers but Mariela came in and we just wanted to say thank you for all your hard work (gives flowers) Sarah C.

We decided to have Nurse Cheryl come in and speak. She has done a really nice job implementing programs for the health of our child.

- **Guest Speaker 1. Nurse Cheryl-** I'm Cheryl the nurse of the school. A little about me I have been a nurse for over 30 years. Cardiac intensive care and the ICU. I have been a school nurse for over a year and I'm happy to be here. Some of the things I take care of kids with illnesses. Anyone who has a fever of 100 they have to stay home the next day. If you vomit on Tuesday you can't come to school on Wednesday. That's so things don't spread through the school. If you get a call from me I'm just following trends. I also take care of kids with chronic illnesses. On that note, we have had some great programs. We started an asthma program and it's called Open Airwaves. It teaches kids how to notice triggers and how to take medication. So next year I will start the program and it will be 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. With kids with allergies I train staff members in the school to give epi pens and they travel with the kids during the day and they go on school trips. If your child takes medication and you are not able to go on the trip you can ask me to give the medication. For school trips I have trained the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to take their pumps and Benadryl. We also started our HOPA program and that's for obesity and it's for kids in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. It's not a diet. It's learning healthy choices. We just want them to grow into themselves. It's just to focus kids on what to eat. They set their own goals and that's going well as well.
- Moving forward for the Spring is allergy season in the newsletter I wrote suggestions. Itchy eyes, sunglasses is simple and easy on the way to school to prevent that. Asthma and allergies are important to have the form filled out. It's important and it's a trigger and we want everyone to be healthy. My door is always open I'm right across from the office so please visit me.
- Sarah C: Our 2<sup>nd</sup> guest is Annie Williams. Annie - Is there anyone here who does not know what Wellness in the Schools is? We have been here since the very beginning. I love this school. I am here for 2 reasons. This is my shout out to the school and P Parker. He is focused and he is direct. That's really easy to work with. AJ and Sharon have just been phenomenal. I have seen 7 years of PTA it just makes our job so much more rewarding. Evie couldn't be here today and she is going to be back here teaching the final lab. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Now I gotta sell. School lunch is pretty good. If your child is not eating school lunch it would be so nice if we could get the count up and perhaps you could start on Friday pizza day.

#### IV. **Dan Cohen and Caitlin – Treasurers Report**

- Dan Cohen- Auction is chugging along. Buy your tickets and hopefully we will see you on Saturday. It's the budget meeting May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. There will be refreshments. Please join us this is how we spend our money for the following year. Please join us. We will be presenting in the June meeting for

your review and approval. This is a half a million dollar budget so please join us. We need your input.

V. **Fundraising. Haley Mustac**

- I hope you all have your auction ticket. Golden tickets are still for sale. Ideally we would sell them all by Friday. To name a few of them we have Frozen tickets, we have My Fair Lady with a backstage tour, we have Samantha Bee behind the scenes tour. The Biltmore, Jingle Ball, there are a lot of items. You can also chose your child's art project. We still need a few more volunteers for set up. It's a little more different this year. Not all the tables so our set up is a little different at Midtown Loft and Terrace so we do still need some help for the 1-4pm shift. We need 2 more volunteers from the nighttime. If you already know you can volunteer please email me. Nobody signed up to work at Hunter for the auction yet and they are sending people to help us. May 4<sup>th</sup> Friday night. Look for your email for what to wear. The Havana Night Hot Tips. We are gonna open the bidding on Friday. We are gonna send out the electronic catalog. If you aren't coming to the auction you can still bid. You can sign up on the website. One more thing at the last PTA meeting I said we were low on items but thank you to everyone we now have over 360 auction items. Thank you to everyone who turned their things in. We have a lot of great items to bid on.
- **Laura Goldenberg** I am excited to tell you we have a new partnership. Steve and Shelley are the owners of a fab Wine Shop called Amsterdam Wines and Steve has been working hard to create a partnership with the school All you need to know is when you go to the shop just say you are a parent of 452 and a certain percentage will go to 452. We are excited about the new partnership. They are donating wine to the auction as well. They are donating rose.
- The Book Fair – 2 weeks after the auction is the book fair. We will have sign ups that will be coming early next week. Keep an eye out

- V. **Diversity and Inclusion Initiative- Sharmilee Ramudit**—AJ my chairperson is over here. AJ speaks -The first announcement I would like to talk about is the PS 452 Variety show does fall under our category. Next Wednesday at 630 will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual variety show. It will be a new production. It's a great opportunity and family friendly event. Staff will perform and well as some parents and relatives as well. Sharmilee's niece will perform, Ms. Rogesan will perform a popular Frozen song. There will be some improv. The staff donate their time and get real brave and donate their time. Next Wed May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm.

- **Sharmilee** —I am one of the committees that would want to spend the money on the Diversity and Inclusion initiative. In this room I am calling them my parent ambassadors now. Stacey, Dan and Jessica were there. Channing’s mom was there as well. Zakiya and Barry were there. Please consider them parent ambassadors. We had our first opening conversation and we wanted to hear from you and what diversity means to you. There are a lot of different perspectives. We have single parents, and parents who are committed to diversity in the environment. It’s a win win for everyone. For the next conversation AJ has mentioned to include teachers and staff in the conversation. We are talking about having a movie or a book night. Different ways we can share experiences with each other that some families don’t feel that comfortable having that conversation. We are in talks with Lincoln Center Films and they would be happy to let us host a movie there that would bring up some conversation. There are some exciting events we can plan. A lot of the books that are available for adults *Whoever You Are*. Todd Carr’s books are good. Cooking is a great way to incorporate culture.
- **Stacey Winter** - I attended a conversation and it was really wonderful. It was in the mindfulness room. It was a great way to start a conversation. I really wanted to encourage you to come out. It’s really a great way for all of us to get together.
- I am up here on behalf of Liz Campbell – that position is our liaison to the district. That position is responsible for attending CEC meetings. Right now the major topic is the middle school admissions process. I know those with young kids it seems like this won’t happen. But it happens so fast. So that’s why we are talking about this to everyone as well. Liz right now is not here because there is a middle school committee meeting at 199 but her and I attended a meeting last Thursday But there are just a couple of things I wanted to point out. Blind rankings will start next year. The question everyone is grappling with is do we just implement blind rankings or do we layer it? The proposal/idea is to ensure there are offers to students if they score level 1 or level 2 on the state test. They unanimously support to get out the word they still want parent involvement and parent engagement. The superintendent wants to sign on the plan. On June 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a middle school meeting and that’s where they will unveil the new plan. There are going to create a FAQ sheet as well.

## VI. Election nominations

- **Stacey Winter** Moving on—in terms of nominations April meeting is always where we open the nomination process. When I say open the nomination process we take nominations by email throughout until the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is still time to decide, to think to ask questions. Sarah and I are available to ask questions. Don't be afraid to partner with someone. It's a fun fantastic experience. You may meet your PTA soulmate. All the positions that Cybele is going to open up you can run with a co except for treasurer because you can have 3. All the other positions you can have 2. The only other thing is you can nominate yourself and that's it. Question- if you cannot come on the elections can you still vote? Answer: I don't think you can. Bc nominations happen at that meeting. If you want to run but you cant make the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. You don't need any experience. All you have to do is be a member of the PTA that's at this school. Teachers are members but can't run.
- **Cybele Weisser:** I am just opening this and taking nominations for the position of President next year. Nominating Sharmilee. Do you accept the nomination? Yes. Can I find a partner? Yes but you need to take away your nomination and then put it back. I'm going to move to Secretary for next year. Going once going twice? OK. I will keep going. Nominations for position of Treasurer. I would like to nominate Dan Cohen and Caitlin. VP of Comm. I would like to nominate Monica Weiss. VP for Fundraising nominations for fundraising. (no response) VP Community Affairs. (no response) SLT The election happens at the same time. The elections are staggered. It's a 2 year term for the SLT. There are 2 parent positions open and you don't run with a co. The SLT runs once a month. You can nominate someone and they can choose to decline. Cybele Weisser: Is it correct people can continue to nominate via email? Yes. You can nominate yourself, you can nominate someone else. The election is May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will also have committee head for next year as well. We encourage you to come forward to make sure you are involved. You could also be a Parent at Large as well. We are going to stop there.
- Please sign up for the other schools auctions. We all volunteer for their auctions and it's really nice. We work at theirs. Hunter is already sending 8 people to our auction on Saturday so it doesn't look good.
- Sarah C: There is the art show to see all our kid's artwork. If you have time please go see it. Room 216 is the preview of the artwork.

**VII. We are gonna close the meeting at 10:01am. Thank you for attending.**