



General PTA Minutes
Thursday, February 28, 2019

1. Principal's Report

- Alexis Garay returning in early April, she is healing well.
- Anne Lee returning in May, she is doing fine. Families have reached out to send cards, please inquire if you would like Anne's address.
- Grade 6 Humanities teacher Sandy Chertok is on board - specific details shared with Grade 6 families.
- Next Friday is Crazy 80's Day
- Grade 1 Studio in a School starting
- AP Danielle Scott named project manager for MS 915

2. Ann Dooley: w/ A Better Way (ABW) Presented on BQE Repair Project

Concerns of ABW:

- Lack of transparency at beginning.
- No real discussion of broader effects of construction project.
- Other options begin developed by public (unclear what DOT is doing)
 - One option= BHA/Mark Ruder plan (temp roadway on parking lot and berms)
 - New plan being presented tonight at assumption. Mark Baker plan. 6:30pm
 - Tunnel plan.
- ABW goal is to get DOT to take "innovative plan" (which involves 6 more lanes of traffic atop the Promenade) off table and consider alternatives.
- DOT/mayor has final decision-authority. Right now no federal process. Maybe later.
- Scoping process starts in April.

Q: Big concern about traffic in our neighborhood. What will put more traffic in our neighborhood? That's dangerous.

A: ABW working a regional planning group regarding ways to lessen traffic on BQE, so as to reduce scope of temporary alternative needed. Maybe congestion pricing wd reduce traffic? Or wd it increase traffic on local streets. Report on options coming soon.

Q: What can we do?

A: Slow them down —hoping to broaden support to other neighborhoods that have concerns about impact of diff plans on local traffic to ensure better alternatives get real consideration

Q: How to get more support?

A: Already have 70k signing petition. Keeping story alive in press. Ann working w another mom to reach out to all schools bc often schools located on cheaper land near highway. We need better vision for how we deal w these highways repairs/roads generally. They are doing outreach to landmarks groups and environmental groups.

Q: Timing. We know that we need plan implemented by 2026. When do we need to start to avoid trucks in our neighborhood?

- Many groups concerned (ABW, North Heights, BHA) -- all mtg w DOT and coordinating. Also w local officials. Scott Stringer also has his own plan.
- Town hall mtg coming up in March at Plymouth.
- Get more info and sign up for updates at www.abetterway.nyc.

3. Kids Cre8/Emily:

- Sawyer helps manage volunteer time; we want to contract with them to help streamline volunteer time needed at registration time and create smoother process for users.
- Disclosure that PS8 parents work at Sawyer, but we analyzed other options to ensure cost-competitive, and PS8 parents didn't approach us to push it on us. Came to them "organically."
- Cost \$125 per month for 10 months. credit card fees dealt with by them.

Q: Sometimes clubs aren't as engaging as we hope.

A: Emily agrees and wants to devote her time to helping improve clubs vs. registration admin.

Q: Does this mean it will become first come, first served?

A: We eliminated lotteries this year, hope not, but software gives options to create waitlists

Q: Can we give families a couple of days in advance to look and discuss clubs w kids

A: Yes, maybe not a ton of time, but at least 1-2 days is plan.

Q: Cd teachers send monthly updates what's going on in clubs?

A: We can follow up; good idea

- Motion and second to Approve Sawyer. Approved.

4. Events:

- SoulCycle (Mar 7)
- MS8 Disco Dance (March 15th)
- PS8 Family Dance and PJ Movie Night (Mar 22)
- Auction (Apr 12): need donations!
- Celebr8 Science (Apr 17)

5. Treasurer's Report

- Endowment-took \$20k for Brooklyn Music School, as per budget; now set to do what market does; market doing well so shd go up, at least for now!
- Auction earned \$9k from sponsorships and sales.
- Soulcycle earned \$6k
- About \$4k increase in corporate matching since last meeting
- 65% of general donation goal for year. Working on second match.

6. Minutes

- Motion and second to approve waive reading January draft PTA general meeting minutes and to approve minutes. Minutes from January meeting approved.