



PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 19, 2020, 7:30pm remote meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome from PTA Co-Presidents (Victoria Owens and Melissa Dincher)
2. Principal's Report (Trish Peterson)
 - Online Program Pilots
 - Lexia – adaptive reading program, starting with K-2nd grades
 - DreamBox – math program aligned with Bridges program
 - Remote to Hybrid learning transition, when permitted
 - Attendance Policy
 - Taken at morning meeting, or with any interaction during the day
 - Grading Policy
 - 3 report cards – Dec, Apr, Jun; grades will be 4, 3, or N (Dec, K receives narratives)/ a 1 or 2 score will be reflected as “N”
 - In all other areas, students receive E, G, S, or N; will only be graded on specialty classes for cycles attended
 - Final marking period (Jun), parents/guardians will be able to make decision whether passing grade should be reflected as 4. 3, or MT for core content; E, G, S, or MT for all other areas per NYCDOE grading policy
 - Residencies
 - Guggenheim Residency (Grades 3 & 4) will begin soon, fully-remote – expects to begin on Nov 30th.
 - Songwriting (Grade 2) will be remote – expects to begin early 2021
 - Transition to Temporary Remote Learning
 - Hybrid Learners: Beginning Nov. 23rd, hybrid teachers will be sharing an instructional schedule M/Tu/Th/F which includes 30 min schedule.

Hybrid cohorts will be combined for instructional days as was happening on Wednesdays.

- 100% Remote Students: continue with existing schedules; remote PE will be added
- Q&A
 - Q: How will Wednesdays change? How will Remote Instruction/schedules change?
 - A: Wednesdays will remain the same; changes will come for remote learning days. Remote teachers will be working with hybrid teachers on tips for online lessons and scheduling. Specialty classes will happen several days a week.
 - Q: Will Kindergarten cohorts be combined?
 - A: Some classes will have A & B combined, some will be with A or B pods, some will be small group lessons. Changes may be made.
 - Q: How soon will we know the revised schedule? Urgent due to childcare needs.
 - A: You will have it before it switches, and teachers/school will be flexible. However, teachers are still working on developing the schedules. We were all taken by surprise.
 - Q: Gathering materials for children?
 - A: We are still figuring out what is being allowed about being back in the building.
 - Q: When do the specialty schedules (cycles) change again?
 - A: We recently switched, cycle 2 began Nov. 9th; our goal is to return to that once we reopen. No end-date yet, but we will reevaluate and make adjustments as necessary.

3. Presidents' Report

- Thank you to Trish & Caren during this tumultuous time. And to all our teachers, Sandy Long & Sophie Brady for workshops.
- Disappointment at school closures, particularly considering schools have a very low rate of transmission.
- Open to any & all suggestions about how to advocate reopening
- Discussion about renaming PS8 for Emily Roebling
 - In-meeting poll for support to propose change. 93% support of name change

4. Treasurer's Report

- Currently – 283k in assets
- YTD – **-74k**
- Matching challenge starting now
- Expenses – 75k budgeted for COVID enhancements; spent 42k to date

5. Events

- Virtual bookfair w/Fork+Pencil planned for Nov. 30th – Dec. 11th; ecommerce site will work like Amazon for the kids; 30% profits
 - Plan to add diverse titles and local authors; kids & adults sections
 - Zoom author readings; 2 local children's authors confirmed and best-selling thriller writer as mini-events

6. Fundraising

- Matching-challenge underway; 10 families committed (\$20k committed so far)
 - Hoping to raise \$50k
 - Don't forget about corporate match
- Amazon Associates & Amazon Smile programs
- Minted for Holiday Cards – holiday

7. Approval of draft minutes from September PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes.

- Motion to waive reading? Second?
- Motion to approve? Second?

Adjourned at 8:13pm