



PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 7:30pm remote meeting via Zoom

1. Welcome from PTA Co-Presidents (Victoria Owens and Melissa Dincher)
2. Principal's Upd8 (Trish Peterson and Caren Gandelman)
 - Many staff members have already been getting vaccinated; photos have been shared amongst school
 - Attendance Policy (no changes)
 - Taken at morning meeting, or with any interaction during the day
 - Updated Google classroom links
 - Safety Protocol Reminders
 - Parents/guardians should wear masks when near the school
 - Masks should be cleaned regularly; new suggestions to have children wear surgical (KN95) masks, cloth masks with a filter insert, or double mask (cloth over disposable)
 - Positive Covid Test/Covid Exposure – open communication is critical
 - Residencies
 - Guggenheim Residency (Grades 3 & 4) has started
 - 3rd grade – Anna Martin
 - 4th grade – Susan Hamburger (w/Julia Munar)
 - Songwriting (Grade 2) will be remote, to begin in February
 - Supplement to Health Education (Grade 5) – planning phase
 - Looking to explore Chess for 1st grade and theater or movement program for K
 - NYC K-5 Health Education Scope & Sequence
 - Most grades address 4 units

- Growth & Development Essential Questions, specific to Grades 4 & 5
 - Looking to have someone outside the classroom teachers for a possible 5th Grade Residency in Spring
- Applying to Middle School – Lauren Coe opening up office hours
- Photos shared
 - 2nd grade remote: non-fiction writing
 - 4th grade jamboard: Ms. Pavic’s Silent Wall Activity
 - 5th grade padlet
 - 2nd grade park visits
- Fall 2020 School Experiences Survey (Link shared)
- Jamboard link shared by Sophie Brady during meeting (link shared in chat)
- Q&A
 - Q: Does quarantine rely on the honor system
 - A: Must follow DOE regulations, cannot change protocols. Have talked through situations with individuals.
 - Q: What if parents know a family who SHOULD be following quarantine rules has not been?
 - A: Specific/individual cases will not be discussed during a PTA meeting, but parents may reach out to discuss offline. Staff will seek guidance from the DOE situation room as needed.
 - *Parents continued to express concern about how to address quarantine protocols outside school. Trish suggested they reach out after the meeting with specific concerns.*

3. Presidents’ Report

- Looking to bolster remote learning days, with a focus on hybrid learners
- Staff is limited, looking to work with Kids orbit and/or Residency enrichments
- Discussion about renaming PS8 for Emily Roebling. Need to reach out to a relative of Roebling for approval

4. Treasurer’s Report

- Currently in good position, but going into next school year will require creative thinking for fundraising
- School is expected to pay back money given for students who left the school entirely; impact to be seen, but likely significant

5. Events

- Read-a-Thon
- Book Fair - \$5k generated; still ongoing w/Fork+Pencil
 - Zoom author readings; 2 local children's authors confirmed and best-selling thriller writer as mini-events

6. Fundraising

- Looking for virtual ideas, Auction will be online
- Possible specific items for which to fundraise, incl wooden outdoor structures (for outdoor lunch) and/or other safety-related measures
- PopUp Store has new items, also selling online – shop.ps8brooklyn.org

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

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

Adjourned at 8:30pm