



## PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 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)
  - CEC voted on change to name from Robert Fulton to Emily Roebling; once Chancellor approves, new name will take effect July 2021
  - Joanne Simon – auditorium construction to begin as part of grant
  - Before Feb break:
    - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Black Lives Matter – Amanda Green, librarian
    - Respect for All Week – facilitated by Lauren Coe, guidance
  - D13 Kamara Samuels Teaching Matters – all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students across district are reading *Ghost Boys* and they will have a shared conversations across district
    - Refer to slides for hyperlinks with additional background on the project
  - Upcoming – March 10<sup>th</sup> ½ day remote instruction, followed by Parent Teacher Zoom Conferences; April 9<sup>th</sup> report cards will be distributed via students' NYSCA accounts
  - Vaccinations – many staff members fully vaccinated; once vaccinated, quarantine no longer required after exposure
  - Discussions about standardized testing at the mayor-chancellor level
    - Regardless, lesson plans will not change
  - Change in schedules beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for additional live remote lessons
    - Enrichment opportunities for K-4<sup>th</sup> hybrid & fully remote
      - K – Treasure Trunk

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Chess
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Songwriting
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Guggenheim
- Morning meetings will combine hybrid students across grade (8:30-9am)
- 1 additional live block of instruction on remote days (9:05-9:40am)
- New Wednesday Specialty cycles have begun this past Wed, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>
- *Refer to slides for additional details*
- Communication Tools
  - Weekly Upd8s (Mon – Eileen/Operoo), centralized Zoom links, PS8 website
- Asking for support to sign petition for DOE dept amnesty (schools across city) to hold schools harmless for funds given for children who have since left the school; city wants PS8 to repay \$358k for 83 children that have left the school
  - Also push for 100% fair student funding
  - Please let school know if you are returning in Sept; need accurate info for budget/planning; survey to be sent this Spring
- Looking for more parent volunteers to assist with outdoor recess; contact Eileen
- Caren & Trish Capital Fund Request sent before Feb break to BP Eric Adams (\$359k) to pay for Chromebooks/iPads for children’s in-school use; apply yearly, but have not received \$
- Many questions raised in chat about students returning full time; school doesn’t have the authority, has to follow DOE guidelines
  - PTA will share contacts parents may use to reach out

### 3. Presidents’ Report

- Thank you to Oda & Tara who led the BookFair for working so hard to raise needed funds
- Virtual Auction happening soon, need parents to help reach out for donations, sponsors
  - Hoping to have some virtual event for parents
- Cannot predict what will happen in the Fall

- Outdoor wooden structures should be coming next month; will be built off-site, will need parent help on a Wed – keep an eye out for an email
4. Treasurer's Report
    - Since last meeting, we have taken in **\$50k** (read-a-thon, pop-up store, matching challenge, corporate matching grants, general donations, etc.); net **\$11k** for year; looking to raise additional **\$35k** before end of school year
  5. Events/Fundraising
    - Thank you to Oda & Tara for the hard work leading our BookFair this year
    - Virtual Auction coming soon
  6. Approval of draft minutes from January PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes.
    - Motion to waive reading? Second?
    - Motion to approve? Second?
  7. Q&A – Can we have Wednesday in-person learning (alternating Cohorts A & B)
    - No, we cannot. Petitioned UFT for all-remote day and was granted; cannot change the schedule this school year.

Adjourned at 8:30pm