



PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 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)
 - Address concern over acts of hate against Asian Americans & Asians, we are here to support
 - Thank you to all who continue to support our school and students
 - PS8 is not the policy maker; there are things dictated by DOE and CDC that PS8 admin cannot control
 - Vaccinations – many teachers already vaccinated; those who are all-remote were approved for accommodations by DOE through the end of the school year
 - Congratulations to all teachers nominated on Big Apple Awards – Melissa Merriam is one of two D13 finalists
 - Celebrating children's work
 - K – How To Writing
 - 1st – Science Unit about Animals and Plants
 - 2nd –
 - 3rd – Fractions; Writing Informational Texts
 - 4th – Revolutionary War; Math Place Values 1,000,000 unit grid
 - Instructional In-Person Days & Wednesdays
 - Staffing Considerations; teachers with DOE accommodations are approved through the end of school year, PS8 does not have additional staff that could come in
 - CDC guidelines/DOE mandates are still at 6 feet; spacing is maximized, we don't have additional space in classrooms

- Empty classrooms (Cohort A – 20 / Cohort B – 18 classes); 75% of PS8 students are hybrid learners
- Wednesdays are fully remote; if alternating between Cohorts, would only add 6 in-person days and would not be with classroom teachers
 - Teachers need planning time. DOE schedule – teachers no longer have daily planning period. They are having lunch with students.
 - Children get more live instruction with classroom teachers keeping all-remote Wednesdays.
- June changes – Wednesdays will be used to make up for June professional/clerical days, one each for Cohort A & B
- DOE/PS8 emails – clarification
 - DOE sends standard letters when there is a positive case within the school community; direct letters sent to individuals as warranted.
 - If new positive case is identified during school closure, it will appear in RTSCH automated letter for 24-hrs, but did not affect school closure as it occurred outside school.
- Mindset for Learning Books of the Month (Apr-May-Jun) will be available in Sora
- Spring Family Admin Meetings coming up (can use personal Zoom to login)
 - 4/6: 9am K, 12pm – 1st
 - 4/7: 9am – 2nd, 12pm – 3rd
 - 4/8: 9am – 4th, 12pm – 5th
- NYS Testing – Grades 3-8 (will be on days when hybrid students are already in-person; ; full remote may opt-in)
 - ELA: April 19-29
 - Math: May 3-14
 - Science: June 7-9 (hybrid Grade 4 students, written only)
- 5th Grade Transition Reading Assessment Middle School Quality Initiative
 - Degrees of Reading Power – data to be shared with PS8 & middle schools, expected to give better assessment than standardized testing
- Report Cards for Marking Period 2 – April 9th via NYSCA accounts
- Funding for 2021-2022 Rally Tomorrow at Grand Army Plaza

- Sign petition for 100% debt amnesty; debt has been reduced, but still significant
- Fair Student Funding – PS8 gets 90.13% of funding, we need 100%
- Planning for 2021-2022 School Year – survey will be coming soon
- Shared same slides/links from February with contact info

3. Presidents' Report

- Treasurer's Report
 - On track to be in the black
 - Income – Read-a-Thon – \$10.5k
 - Expenditures – Wooden Structures (need volunteers to assemble Mar 29-30th)
 - Events/Fundraising
 - Auction – virtual on May 8th; emails have been sent
 - In need of support – donations, sponsors, volunteers

4. Approval of draft minutes from February PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

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

5. Q&A – Chat disabled, Google Doc provided for “parking lot” and all questions will be replied and responded to – both advance submitted questions and those added during the call.

6. Next PTA Meeting April 22nd @7:30 via Zoom

Adjourned at 8:15pm