



**PTA General Meeting  
September 30, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

**Welcome**

- 8:45 am

**Principal's Report - Bob Bender**

- We focus on being a K, G & G school and to practice gratitude at home with kids.
- Stephen McGill is the parent coordinator and should be the first stop for parent questions. Bob Bender focuses on issues for grades K-1, Dawn Rosevear on grades 2-3, and Cassandra Gregov on grades 4-5. Anything classroom-specific, please go directly to the teacher.
- New families may be joining the school; we will let the school community know how to help once we know what their needs are.
- Teachers are currently receiving professional development from Teachers' College for reading and writing. They are also learning about the impact of culturally responsive teaching on children's developing brains. They are also exploring unintentional roadblocks which keep kids from reaching grade level goals.
- September is LatinX heritage month.
- 5th graders started Rosie's Kids this week.
- 2nd graders began chess; 1st and 3rd graders will also be learning chess in school.
- Farmers' market ongoing and 3rd graders will visit the farm to learn about planting, harvesting and healthy eating.
- 5th grade trip to DC will take place December 8 & 9 - will need volunteers.
- 5th grade musical selected.
- Drop-off updates.

**Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill**

- Lost and Found - label children's belongings with names and room numbers so that volunteers can take items to the correct classrooms.
- Open an NYC Schools account. This is different from MySchools, which is used only to apply to elementary, middle and high schools. NYC Schools account is for all other communications;



will need student's OSIS ID to open an account - contact your teacher or Stephen McGill to set up the account.

- Any address changes must be updated with the DOE - please work with Maria Mackliff (School Secretary) to notify and update the DOE. Address changes on the "blue card" (emergency cards for PS11) are different from formal address changes with the DOE.
- Middle School welcome letters are being mailed home to the addresses on file with the DOE. Applications open October 26; application deadline is December 2.

#### **SLT Report - Alex Cordero (ps11SLT@gmail.com)**

- Held the first SLT meeting of the school year. At the meeting, the SLT welcomed two new parents and two new teachers, did introductions, reviewed bylaws and selected a chairperson and a secretary.

#### **President's Report - Lisa Cox & Joanna Cohn Weiss (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)**

- Safety update letter was sent to families last week - reminder to continue to call 911 to report any concerning/suspicious activity. PS 11 got our second school safety officer back.
- Election for Member at Large - two positions open.
  - David Berkowitz (present)
  - Marina Thomatos (present)
  - Chad Sandifer (not present; statement read by Joanna)
- David Berkowitz and Marina Thomatos elected to Member at Large positions.

#### **Budget / Finance Report - Maria Melendez & Kunal Prakash (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)**

- Reviewed fundraising budget.
- Reminder to all to check for corporate matches.

#### **Programs Report - Kristina Hammond & Kirsten Magen (ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)**

- Call for volunteers.
- Contact Michael Walsh if interested in volunteering to help with the garden. Kids are welcome at garden days.
- Chess - partnership with ICN. Parent co-chair (Dawn) shared that the main goal is participation and learning to be part of a team. Mondays after school is where children learn to play; Tuesday is the day the chess team meets. Tournaments take place on weekends. Nationals



taking place in Washington, DC in December. Contact [PS11chess@gmail.com](mailto:PS11chess@gmail.com) if interested in chess.

- Book Fair - October 17th, in person. Need volunteers. Will have a booth at Fall Festival. Vouchers provided for those who need them.
- Library - needs volunteers. Minimum commitment is 2 hours every week for half or full year.

#### **Fundraising Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Mori Ninomiya (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)**

- Annual fund overview - insight into the programs the fund is able to cover. Many ways to give that can work for each family, e.g., Read-A-Thon, buying merchandise, corporate matching (Gold Star ID often needed) and double match days (e.g., Giving Tuesday).

#### **Events Report - Lucy Flint & Amanda Moskowitz (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)**

- Fall Festival - first event of the year. Need volunteers to set up and help out on the day of the festival. Donations needed as well - there is an Amazon wish list available for families to donate supplies for the festival. Kids have free entry to the festival and will receive wristbands at school.
- Comedy for a Cause planned for January.
- Gala planned for May.

#### **Membership Report - Jen Dickson & Sarah Kim (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)**

- Need 160 volunteers for the Fall Festival.

#### **Communications Report - Pia Padukone & Julie Carpenter (ptaps11@gmail.com)**

- Digest sent out on Tuesdays.

#### **Community Q&A**

- PS 11 website in the process in being revamped.
- Tips: Calendar on PS 11 website can export events into Gmail or Outlook.
- Hosted new family social last night.
- Lunch menu available online.
- PTA General Meetings - board will consider alternating between in-person and remote meetings.

**Adjournment 9:53 am**