



SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting March 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:02 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Please complete the Learning Environment survey that went home to all families - it's important to have participation from everyone
- 5th graders just started ballroom dance through Dancing Classrooms. Previous 5th grade classes missed out on this experience for a few years because of the pandemic. The program started yesterday and will teach dance and social skills
- There will be some family days next week; some on Friday, some on Thursday; emails forthcoming

Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- The current response rate for the Learning Environment Survey is very low. Everyone should have received a paper survey and a link to complete the survey online (via Family Liaisons). If anyone hasn't received the survey, please contact Stephen. If your family has multiple children at the school, you do need to complete a separate survey for each child. Please complete the paper surveys and return them to school or go online to complete it at [NYC School Survey](#)
- In September, PS 11 will be reinstating the safety protocol of having parent-issued IDs - sign ups have been sent out for Pre K, K, and 1st grade families to come in and have them made. The ID's from several years ago are still ok to use. PS 11 started to create new ID's last year where parents had to show their vaccination status to get into the building. The school no longer has to check vaccination status, so the old ID's can be re-used
- School photo retakes from Stomping Ground were taken recently. Photos will be available by March 23; final deadline to order photos is April 7. After that date, you can still order the photos, but the PTA won't receive any percentages from the order

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

- SLT met this week, on Tuesday
- Family engagement and support
 - Family Literacy Program - a workshop cycle for 15-20 Spanish speaking caregivers - 90 mins over 3 non-consecutive days. Discussed issues around timing and who would oversee the program on site. The Chair of the SLT will summarize it in a one-pager and determine interest. This will be held after school.
 - There is a proposal to make a connection with the Whitney Museum - this will get underway as the weather warms up, as it involves walking there
 - June End of Year Potluck - there are 4 committees, including safety/permits, food/beverage, volunteers, promotion. SLT discussed all items and will be working with the heads of the PTA to discuss finances, volunteers, and circulating sign-up sheets. We will need volunteers, and the SLT will also be participating.
- Physical and mental health/safety
 - Online safety for children - Mr. Fier will be leading this and will create a flyer to share with parents; SLT will also connect with the PTA about this
 - Still need onsite social work and counseling support for new families - please circulate the following blurb to anyone who might be interested and is bilingual.
 - *PS11 is hiring a part time (2 days a week) Bi-Lingual (Spanish) Social worker or guidance counselor. This position will be supporting the social emotional needs of Spanish-speaking students.*
- Comprehensive education plan - Math and Phonics teams are working on the curriculum, and all looks very positive
- New business:
 - Class sizes have gotten larger

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- 3 Full Time ENL teachers, more paraprofessionals coming in - all are finally getting processed
- Some of the new families have moved to other parts of the state/NYC; others are still here
- Chess instruction is happening in Spanish and English, the children are having a very positive experience

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

- Safety Update
 - There was a safety meeting on Wednesday this week - this was the normal safety community meeting; once a year, the community is invited to join
 - The local precinct joined - they have put two new YCO officers in the neighborhood, who will continue to be present at drop-off and pickup
 - People have noticed a lot of police presence recently, which has helped with the feeling of safety
 - Safety committee meeting with new Assemblyman Tony Simone - discussed issues with a cross-party group of community members, DA, precinct, and Tony on our team
 - Can reach out to 911, the local precinct, school, and the PTA Presidents
 - Feel free to reach out to the PTA Presidents, the Executive Board, or Bob directly if there are any concerns
- Nominating Committee
 - Anyone who is interested in meeting to learn more about Executive Board, please reach out to the Nominating Committee: ps11nominatingcom@gmail.com
 - Prepares the Executive Board for next year, all positions are open, but all positions must be run in pairs
 - Helps you understand what the positions are and what they entail

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- In the May PTA meeting the Nominating Committee will present their proposed slate of people, and in June we will hold the election
- If you serve on the Nominating Committee, you cannot serve on the Executive Board
- The committee works a few hours over next couple of months talking to people about what they might be interested in doing for the Executive Board, and then presents the slate of candidates in May, with the vote occurring in June

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

- Report Reviewed

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

- Started a fundraiser for labels to help reduce some of the lost and found items
- Yearbook is under way - the team is looking for photographers to help photograph upcoming events - 5th grade show, other events. if interested, connect directly with Zita
- Garden has a number of work days coming up: April 1, 22, May 6, 22, June 3
 - Saturdays 9-1, come for any or all of that time slot
- Farm to Table group has started setting up cookshop sessions at end of March to cook in classrooms
- Green Team

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

- at 48% of goal for total fundraising - would like to be further along at this point in the year. Please share the word that the annual fund is behind schedule
 - [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)
- Starting to plan Bender Bars
- Krispy Kreme fundraiser - online voucher to buy donuts at any location
 - [Order Krispy Kreme Digital Dozens Supporting Friends and Family of PS11! \(groupraise.com\)](https://groupraise.com)

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- The PTA receives \$7.50 for every dozen purchased
- The low annual fund will impact the programs we're able to provide for next year
- Labels fundraiser - a percentage goes toward the Annual fund as well (20% of purchase to PTA)
 - [Fundraising Support | Mabel's Labels | Raise Funds With Kids Labels \(mabelslabels.com\)](#)

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

- Moving On Ceremony for students at the end of the year
 - Anyone who is interested in participating - this is a good opportunity for someone who wants to take on something more confined, just a few hours over the course of a month
 - Very meaningful
- New family orientation on March 27 with bagels
- Gala planning is going well
 - All profits from the gala will go back to the annual fund
 - Another way to help the school - volunteering to work on the gala and/or buying a ticket to attend
 - Early bird tickets are all sold out, but regular tickets are available for purchase
 - The gala team needs help with:
 - sponsors - if work at a company who's willing to sponsor, can provide deck
 - auction items - donations (e.g., vacation home, art, special skills, etc.)
 - Auction ideas or brainstorming: jaxacohen@gmail.com
 - www.ps11gala.com
 - ps11ptaevents@gmail.com

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

- Many communications will be coming out for volunteers for various events and programs this Spring
- There are many opportunities to help the school. Any sponsorship that comes in will go straight to the annual fund.

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

- There is a new format for the PTA Digest, with a “volunteer spotlight” every week to help the community understand the needs for the coming weeks
- Volunteering is a nice way to get into the school and see what's happening
- Lost and Found is holding the labels drive. Any questions can be directed to: lostandfoundps11@gmail.com
- Book fair will be the week of March 27th
 - Kids will be shopping during their regular library hours
 - Please send kids with cash or use the ewallet. Communications will be sent next week about the ewallet
 - Parents will be able to shop at the book fair on March 30-31
 - Need library volunteers and book fair volunteers
 - There are vouchers available for anyone who is unable to send in money to ensure your child will still receive a book
 - Parents can also shop online for the book fair

Adjournment 9:44 am