



SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting September 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:02 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Welcome to the new families
- Introduction to the two Vice Principals, Dawn Rosevear (K-2nd grade) & Cassandra Gregov (3rd- 5th grade)
- We are a KG&G school (Kind, Gentle & Grateful); Sarah J Garnett was a big practitioner of gratitude
- This year we have adopted 2 new curricula for phonics and math, UFLI
- We have implemented new lunch and recess protocols to make it more structured
 - Involves class colors for lunch and recess and correspond to color coded benches and bins for belongings
 - Structured recess play with different zones and staff members for each zone
- Gratitude for the PTA funding from families, which helps us fund all the programs we've already started:
 - 5th grade: Rosie's Theater Kids, puberty curriculum, have started planning the DC trip
 - In-school chess program has begun for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade - 10 wk cycles of chess instruction
 - 3rd grade farm market and upcoming farm field trip
- Construction update: PS 11 is turning 100 years old this year, construction is almost complete
 - Scaffolding is still in place on 20th street
 - Interior work is being done. The boys and girls locker rooms have been upgraded
 - Held design meeting for the new playground; hope to have it by September 2024

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Parent Coordinator's Report – Stephen McGill

- Parent IDs: can come in anytime after drop off or a few minutes before pickup
- NYC Schools Account - DOE letter was sent out with your child's activation code to set up the account
 - OSIS numbers and creation codes are not sent at the same time for security reasons. Contact Stephen or your teacher for your child's OSIS number
 - MySchools activation code is being mailed to parents from the middle school enrollment office. Email Stephen for the MySchools activation letter if you did not receive it
- Ms. Leonhardt will hold a middle school meeting October 4th for 5th grade families; please try to attend this meeting
 - All available middle school information is on the DOE website. DOE information sessions for parents are also listed there

SLT Report - Courtney Kapes Lewis (ps11SLT@gmail.com)

- If there's some sort of programming you would like for the school and for the kids, you can submit a proposal to the SLT for consideration
- Link for submitting ideas: [SLTEPA-2015d.pdf \(sqspcdn.com\)](https://www.sqspcdn.com/SLTEPA-2015d.pdf)

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

- Welcome, all of you are part of the PTA. The PTA contributes many hours of volunteer work, financial funding, and whatever else we can do to support the school
- Safety Committee - Dave Cox & Bryan Sloane
 - Work to amplify concerns around the conditions around the vicinity of the school
 - Maintain close ties with the 10th precinct and elected officials
 - If you see anything concerning, first call 911. Less concerning issues like excessive trash - call 311. A photo is helpful.
 - There is usually a monthly 10th precinct meeting that takes place on the last Wednesday of the month. The more parents who attend, the more we can advocate for the school

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- Dave Cox - 646 408-1011; davemcox@gmail.com
- Our ability to get results is data-driven, so please be sure to use 911 and 311 because it provides hard data for the city
- Members at Large Elections will be held at the end of the meeting

Budget / Finance Report - Maria Melendez & Ellie Sze (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- Review September report and annual budget
- Majority of funding comes from Annual Fund, which is a key driver of being able to maintain programming
- We have 2 big fundraising events - Gala and Comedy Show. We have many other fundraising and PTA sponsored programs
- Funding budget: includes field day, school dances, enrichment programs, chess, yearbook, community events, field trips (DC, camping, farm) - we fund the majority of those expenses. We also cover things like lice checks and school supplies.
 - We are lucky we built up a reserve over the last couple of years. This allowed us to maintain our programs this year, but we are dipping into our reserves. Therefore, we need to keep up our fundraising this year
 - We cannot accept Venmo (this is a city regulation - we are not allowed to do this)
 - To learn more about the PS 11 Annual Fund: [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](http://givingfuel.com)
 - If anyone would like to join our fundraising effort, our first meeting is next week - please reach out to Mori and Jax to volunteer

Fundraising Report - Jax Cohen & Mori Ninomiya (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)

- Charity Buzz is an online auction website where people outside of PS11 can bid on amazing experiences being auctioned. Recent experiences included lunch with Jim Chanos and a souffle-making experience at Blackbarn. An announcement will be included in next week's PTA Digest - if you have an interesting experience that can be included in the auction, please send to: mckenny.rachel@gmail.com and bryansloane@gmail.com

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- If you are unsure whether an auction idea should be part of Charity Buzz or another auction, feel free to send us an email and we can help you figure it out
- Earlier in the week you should have gotten an email for the Annual Fund and a sheet that was backpacked home with your child. From the moment your child takes their first step into PS 11 until the last step after graduation, the PTA touches your child
- School supplies, classroom supplies and enrichment programs are all covered by the PTA
- The goal of the Annual Fund is to create an inclusive community. Our school represents a wide range of diversity that we want to celebrate. We want to make sure everyone in our community has the same access, and the only way to do that is to supplement DOE funding
- Our goal is approximately \$1200 per student. We know not everyone can make a \$1200 donation, so please make a donation that's meaningful to you. It's tax deductible. In addition to monetary donations, volunteers mean so much
- We are having a meeting on Monday to discuss committees. Thank you to those who have already stepped up. There are many ways to get involved, and there is something for every skill set. Please don't hesitate to email with questions
- Mori is present at drop off every day and can accept checks for Annual Fund
- For Giving Tuesday we usually do a campaign with Facebook - if you donate through Facebook, they'll match a percentage
- If you want to give in a smaller way or have less time, we have assets and press kits you can send to your community
- ps11annualfund@gmail.com

Programs Report - Tess Knoebel-Peterfreund & Shelley O'Sullivan (ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)

- We have 15-16 programs funded by PTA. There are programs you can volunteer for with varying time commitments
- Library requires once/wk, 2.5 hr commitment. If interested, there is an information session for new librarians on Monday, October 2: ps11library@gmail.com
- If unable to make a weekly commitment, the book fair will be Oct 30-Nov 3. We need 2-3 new Chairs of the Book Fair or Lead Volunteers. Please contact:

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- Diana Barsotti - Basotti.diana@gmail.com
- Regina Bienstock rbienstock@gmail.com
- Garden day - Oct 14, from 10 am - 2 pm. We will be fixing the planters in front of the school and cleaning up the yard
- For those with very little time to volunteer - can help to organize our Lost & Found for 30 mins after school drop-off.
 - Tip: if you put your student's name and class number on their items, our volunteers will bring them back to your classroom - you won't lose anything if you label them that way
 - Instagram: [@ps11_lostandfound](https://www.instagram.com/ps11_lostandfound)
 - Email: lostandfoundps11@gmail.com
- Yearbook: We are in need of a graphic designer for the yearbook
- [Volunteering for PS11 PTA \(typeform.com\)](https://www.typeform.com)
- Spelling Bee needs a Chair and Co-Chair for this year. There is a how-to guide, so you would be walking into a well-oiled machine
- Chess team - Tuesdays after school. Our program is ICN - Impact Coaching Network. Kids do not have to compete in tournaments, they are all optional. There are also volunteer opportunities at chess tournaments to sell concessions. Chesskid accounts are also free.
 - ps11chess@gmail.com
 - Tournament at PS11 next Saturday, October 7: [Manhattan Chess Day | Chess In The Schools](#)
 - [PS 11 Chess Club & Team — Impact Coaching Network](#)
 - Coach Angel - alopezicn@gmail.com
- Afterschool Instagram: [@ps11programs](https://www.instagram.com/ps11programs) (afterschool)

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

- Volunteer opportunities: [Volunteering for PS11 PTA \(typeform.com\)](https://www.typeform.com)
- Oct 4 events kickoff meeting - there is something for everyone
- Google form to sign up for that meeting: [PS11 Events Team Kickoff! \(google.com\)](#)

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- Fall festival - Oct 21
 - Run by Lindsay Barnes and Jason Olim - have a great set of captains for each part of fall festival
- Comedy Night: This year's event will be November 14. Tickets go on sale on Tuesday, October 3

Membership Report - Kristina Hammond & Kirsten Magen (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

- Volunteer Opportunities: there are opportunities at every type of time commitment available to give back to PS11. Drop us a note if you want to talk through different opportunities. There is a simple form to fill out. We will work with whatever type of contribution you can make - nights/weekends, during school hours, etc.

Communications Report - Pia Padukone, Maria Thomatos & Berman Fenelus (ptaps11@gmail.com)

- Sign up for the PS 11 PTA Digest
- To receive messages from the PTA, please email PTAPS11@gmail.com
- Instagram: @ptaps11
- If you have unsubscribed from our mailing list in the past, it can be tricky to get back in, so please don't unsubscribe

Member at Large Election

- Candidates
 - Kiran Patel
 - Max Gross
 - Becker Chase
 - Jaidev Shergill
- Online poll: please vote for 2 candidates only
- Results for newest Members at Large:
 - Becker Chase
 - Kiran Patel

Adjournment 10:25 am