

PS.11 PTA

SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting April 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:04 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- State exam today
 - First year of Computer Based Testing (CBT)
- Kindergarten registration begins next week for both GenEd and G&T
 - Families must register for Kindergarten even if they attend PreK at PS11 – enrollment is not an automatic rollover
 - Families who do not register could lose their seat for Kindergarten
- Sent out save-the-dates for family events for the rest of the year
 - Potluck will be held on Friday, June 21
 - Math Night – May 9; please join to learn about new math curriculum

Parent Coordinator's Report

- New parent coordinator - Joan Brothers – will be starting on Monday

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

- Discussed grading at length - our academic policy is on the school website; it is sent out at the beginning of the school year. Please reach out if you have any questions.

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- We are hoping to extend the 5th grade puberty curriculum to 4th grade for next year and hope to have that approved in the June meeting with the budget vote
- SLT will be working on the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) in remaining meetings
- SLT will be holding elections – please let us know if you are interested in running
 - SLT meets once/month on Tuesdays from 3-5 pm, though meetings rarely go until 5 pm
 - The SLT is comprised of a team of elected staff and family members
 - The SLT writes the school goals and is involved in other work aside from writing the CEP
 - It is a great way for families to get involved with the school
 - There are 2 seats open this coming year
 - Each position is a 2-year term

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

- Vote held to approve the March meeting minutes – minutes were approved
 - The minutes are always available on the PS11 website
 - Meeting minutes from the March General Meeting: [PS11 PTA Meeting Minutes \(ps11chelsea.org\)](http://ps11chelsea.org)
- Notice given for the June PTA Executive Board elections at the June PTA General meeting
 - Nominating Committee consists of Lucy Flint, Lisa Cox, and Teresa Edelston
 - Positions are open to anyone with a child in the school who wants to run
 - If you are not on the slate but are interested in running, you can still run for a spot during the June meeting
 - Each position is a 1-year term. The Board does like to see 2-year terms for continuity, but unlike the SLT, these positions are 1-year terms
 - Special call-out for an Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer
 - Assistant Treasurer supports the Treasurer with the goal of learning how to take over the following year as Treasurer. We are looking for someone to move into the Treasurer position. It is not mandatory, but important for continuity

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- Stomping Ground photos
 - We as the PTA receive a certain amount of money back if we pass a certain threshold in purchases. We have not hit that threshold this year, so we asked for an extension
 - Please order your photos before May 9 – we are 53 orders away from reaching that threshold
- Safety update: Brian Sloane
 - 21st St and 8th Avenue - Captain Brathwaite said they would begin patrolling again at drop-off hours
 - Number of incidents seem to be down YOY
 - Please email with any other concerns: BryanSloane@gmail.com
 - New safety agent, Officer Fernandez, started a few weeks ago. Officer Mo was redeployed

Budget / Finance Report – Josh Hollander & Ellie Sze (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- Fundraising in the past month drew from many sources to make March a more unique month (Read-a-Thon, Yearbook ads, Gala ticket sales)
- Positive on the revenue side but did not recognize much in the way of expenses
 - Expenses for Phonics development, Ballroom dancing, Circle in the Square, and Addams Family. Addams Family expenses will be recognized further, so more expenses are forthcoming
- We are at 60% of our annual fund target, so we have a long way to go to reach our goals for next year
- We have only spent 1/3 of what we are targeted to spend, so please continue to donate to the school
- [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](http://givingfuel.com)
- We are in danger of our programs being cut if we don't raise enough money. This funding keeps our school special and equitable for all kids who attend.

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

- Thank you for supporting the Read-a-Thon
- It is Bender Bar season - we are going to be doing 3 flavors this year
 - Introducing a new flavor: Crispy Milk Chocolate Moon Bar
 - Pre-sales next week

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- Cases of Bender Bars will be bundled with t-shirts
- Doing a PS11 raffle - will be a large format raffle where you can buy books of tickets
 - There will be cash prizes in tiers; those will start selling in May
- Mabels Labels:
 - Mabels Labels: Support a fundraiser
 - Perfect for school and camp

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

- PTA Presentation April-2024 (canva.com)
- Moving on Ceremony - end of year graduation ceremony
 - Mr. Bender and administration do an amazing job putting this together
 - PTA team supports with decor, food, making sure that details are clean and smooth to create festive and nostalgic atmosphere for leaving PS11
 - Looking for 2 people to help - 10 hours of help each if split between two people
 - Ideally looking for families of younger children to volunteer, as we are hoping they can take on the event for a few years
 - Please contact ps11ptaevents@gmail.com
- Spring Gala - May 15th
 - Rubin Museum of Art
 - www.ps11gala.com
 - 3.5 hours for general admission; 4 hours for VIP tickets
 - Pre-auction musician Paul Rosevear. We will have a DJ play dance music afterwards.
 - The PS11 staff joins us for the gala, so it's fun to be able to see and catch up with them. If you cannot attend the gala, please consider buying a staff ticket and place bids in the online auction
- Sponsorships for Gala & Final Call for Auction Items
 - Sponsorships are still available for Gala

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- Sponsors receive 2 VIP tickets at the base sponsorship level (same cost as VIP tickets)
- Please go to the website, check out our sponsorships and get in touch with our team
- Please also go to employers and neighborhood businesses who might be interested in promoting their brand
- We have collateral/one-pager – please feel free to email me at beckerchase@gmail.com
- [SPONSORS | PS11 Spring Gala! \(ps11gala.com\)](http://ps11gala.com)

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

- There are many items in the Lost & Found
 - Lost & Found pickup event will be on Friday, April 19 at drop-off from 8:15 to 8:45 am outside the school
- 'Mabels Labels: Support a fundraiser
 - Select "PS11 Sarah J Garnet"
- Math Club is in full swing
 - Setting up the volunteer roster for next year
- Book Fair is next week
 - Monday through Friday, the kids will come and book shop during their usual library days
 - On those days please make sure to send kids in with cash, in a Ziplock bag, with their names labeled. You can also send money via e-wallet. Instructions were sent as well. Family Liaisons will also send information
 - For families who can't afford books, the PTA provides a voucher to each
 - Parent shopping will take place on Thursday and Friday morning at drop off until 9:15 am
 - Only 3 classes will not come in at their scheduled times - PreK, Belfiore (Monday), Simmons (Friday)
 - Will also be selling merchandise at the book fair

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

- Need volunteers for Moving On - reach out to Amanda/Membership team
- Read-a-Thon - gratitude for making that happen; done with grassroots love, time and effort from the team

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

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- The Communications team will send out a “Round Up” summary after this meeting, please spread the word to those who did not attend the meeting

Members at Large – Becker Chase and Kiran Patel

- Participatory Budget
- New York City Council Participatory Budgeting 2024 (pbnyc.org)
- We are nearing the end of voting week
- We made it onto the ballot this year for a new HVAC system in the auditorium
- You are eligible to vote if you are:
 - o Age 11 or older
 - o Live in the district
 - o Work in the district
 - o Attend school in the district
 - o Or have a connection to the district in some way
- This is more than half of our annual budget. We won't be able to fund this project unless we win enough votes. Please reach out to parents in our community. There have been a lot of fliers handed out, and fliers will be backpacked today – please feel free to make copies and post them around the neighborhood

Adjournment 9:58 am