



SARAH J. GARNET SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting May 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Welcome

- 9:05 am

Principal's Report - Bob Bender

- Pajama Day - thanks to our Student Council for planning these Spirit Days
- Gratitude for Math Night on May 9th, will repeat it in the Fall
 - Recording will be shared
- State tests:
 - This was the first year 5th graders took the state exams online
 - Next year grades 3-5 will take the state exams online
- Preparations have begun for next school year
 - Teachers and staff are heavily engaged in planning for next year
- Programs that would not happen for children if not for parent volunteers:
 - Library, Spelling Bee, Fall Festival, Math club, PS 11 Post newspaper, Young Artists, Chess, K&G Valentines, 100th day of school celebration, Musicals, Lost and Found, Kindergarten greeters, PS 11 Garden, Chickens, Book Fair, Auction, Gala, Yearbook, Participatory Budget Work, Moving On Ceremony
- Received the final plan for the new playground, shared with the Student Council who was influential in the design of the playground and they love it
- PS11 Potluck event – a tradition for 15 years
 - Friday, June 21 – there will be a DJ, dancing; everyone brings a dish, brings their own drinks; please bring what you can
 - Children must be supervised: everyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult
 - If children need to use the restroom, they must be accompanied by an adult
 - This is a community event, so please bring friends and neighbors

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- Financial concerns
 - Decline in enrollment means less DOE funding
 - We will have fewer classes next year
 - The funding raised by the PTA ensures we can provide for students in ways that aren't within the means of the school budget

Parent Coordinator's Report – Joan Brothers

- PreK offers will be made at the end of the month
- Kindergarten registration is nearly done
- G&T applications for Grades 1-4 are due today. If your child is already enrolled in G&T, they do not have to reapply
- If you know of any families who have been offered a Kindergarten seat who haven't registered, they have until June 12 to register or else they will be moved to the waiting list

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

- Need volunteers for the potluck: [2024 End of Year Potluck — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
- CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan) - every school must complete one. Each school must complete the goals for the school that are dictated by the DOE for academics and social/emotional growth
- Upcoming SLT elections:
 - We have 2 parents reaching the end of their term on the SLT so we will need to elect 2 more parents/guardians in the school community in June
 - Terms are 2 years
 - SLT meets on the first Tuesday of every month in person at 3 pm
 - Consists of teachers, administrative staff, and parents
 - SLT discusses curriculum and safety. The recent Math workshop was one of the outcomes, as the SLT received feedback about the lack of understanding of the new math curriculum
 - To run for an SLT spot - please send the PTA and SLT an email. If you want to run for a position but cannot attend the next PTA meeting, please include a paragraph about why you want to run and it will be shared in the next meeting
 - ps11slt@gmail.com
- Young Artists program hosted a wonderful showcase this past weekend at Pace Prints Gallery; this is another program created by parent volunteers and the SLT

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

- Motion to approve the April meeting minutes – the minutes were approved
 - The minutes are always available on the PS11 website
 - Meeting minutes from the April General Meeting: [PS11 PTA Meeting Minutes \(ps11chelsea.org\)](https://ps11chelsea.org)
- Safety
 - We have heard about an increase in incidents around the school. Please call 911. The more people who call, the better case we create for more police support for our school
 - For trash complaints please call 311; there is also an app
 - If you see something, please say something. It is most important to first call 911 or 311; we are happy to hear your feedback once you have reported incidents and complaints to 911 or 311
- The PTA covers the cost of the all School Supplies, Chess, Math, Phonics, and Science curriculum, and all of our shows. We may have to limit programming, e.g., Theater, Music, Art, school trips, Circle in the Square, Ballroom Dance, and puberty lessons. Extra staff overseeing recess is also paid for by the PTA. None of these programs and resources are part of our school budget - all of it comes from the PTA budget. However, the recent lower rate of donations means we may need to give up some programs for the next school year
- PTA Executive Board Nominating Committee:
 - The Nominating Committee has been meeting with people for the past 2 months who are interested in running for the Executive Board next year and has put together the following slate. We will also take nominations from the floor
 - Each nominee must run as a “co-“ position
 - Elections will be held in June - today is the presentation of the slate
- Slate:
 - President: Joanna Weiss, Pia Padukone
 - VP Community Membership: Kristina Hammond, Kiran Patel
 - Treasurer: Elle Sze, Josh Hollander
 - Assistant Treasurer: Ben Holzman, Peggy Kauh
 - VP Fundraising: Jax Cohen, Becker Chase
 - VP Events: Amanda Moskowitz, Fran Brown
 - VP Programs: Shelley O'Sullivan, Tara Murphy
 - Recording Secretary: Mike Pastko, Diodenis Gonzalez
 - Communications: Marina Thomatos, Kirsten Magen
- The PTA will elect Members at Large in the Fall (roles reserved for new families) and will also appoint a new SLT liaison

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- Opened the invitation to accept nominations from the floor - no new nominations made
- We will vote to approve the slate in June

Budget / Finance Report – Joshua Hollander & Kunal Prakash (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

- Majority of this past month's revenue is from Gala ticket sales and the Book Fair
- A good amount of last month's fundraising came from Bender Bar pre-sales
- Expense recognition is mostly due to the 5th grade show and the school website
- We are at 65% of target for our fundraising goals, but this is an overstatement because of upcoming expenses that have yet to be factored in. Our runway is getting very short with the school year coming to an end soon
- We are in danger of our programs being cut next year if we don't raise enough money. This funding keeps our school special and equitable for all kids who attend. Please donate: [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)

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

- The bulk of the budget is from individual donations and corporate matching. The Gala's silent auction is all profit
- PS11 only charges for two events during the year. We don't charge for our shows or for field trips aside from a nominal fee for t-shirts. We don't charge for event attendance. We only charge for Comedy Night and Gala, our two biggest fundraisers of the year. We want to make sure admission is as equitable, broad, and wide as possible
- Please attend the Gala and bid on auction items; some items are as low as \$5:
 - [All Items - Chelsea Nights | GalaBid](#)
- Fundraising events vs annual fund donations: We focus on annual fund donations the entire year - from the first PTA meeting until the last day you walk out the door. We have a yearbook donation page, we send home backpack flyers, and send out the weekly digest and emails every week. We talk about annual fund donations so frequently that we've received feedback from families that they're being asked all the time to donate to the annual fund. We try to balance that out with events that bring the community together and give more opportunities to provide donations through auctions, prizes, raffles, etc. Interest in giving is varied, but we work to keep the expenses as low as possible
- Please email ps11annualfund@gmail.com or becker@ps11pta.org if you want to be part of the fundraising, sponsorship, or grants committees next year or have any ideas for the annual fund
- The best way to give to the school is through the annual fund. 100% of everything you give to the annual fund goes toward PTA programming – there are no associated costs
- Please donate: [Annual Fund \(givingfuel.com\)](https://givingfuel.com)
- Bender Bars: we have 3 flavors on pre-sale right now
 - If you haven't ordered them yet, they are selling quite fast, so we strongly suggest putting in your orders
 - We have the original Bender Bar (milk chocolate), dark chocolate sea salt, and moon bar (milk chocolate with rice crisps)

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- The 3rd flavor (moon bar) was created by the winner of that auction item at the Gala last year. It will be a reward once again this year and a golden ticket prize as well.
- [Bender Bars 2024 - Preorder | PS11 Sarah J Garnet School \(square.site\)](#)
- We will sell them live next week, until they are all sold out
- Thanks to a generous donor, every child in the school will receive a Bender Bar courtesy of this family. This is the 3rd year in a row they've donated to every child in the school
- We are still quite short of our budget goals. We are also facing pricing increases for everything involved with our programs
- We have been using our budget surplus from our covid years (when we spent less on programs) to pay down the budget deficits we've had for the past few years, but that surplus is nearly gone
- We know it's not easy to attend PTA meetings – many thanks to the Communications committee for summarizing meetings; but we know that messages/word of mouth is even more effective, so please spread the word
- For more details on the Annual Fund: [PTA Presentation April-2024 \(canva.com\)](#)

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

- The Gala is next week!
- [HOME | PS11 Spring Gala! \(ps11gala.com\)](#)
- This is all about helping our school. Please come, enjoy the auction, bid on items, donate to the paddle raise, and be part of a wonderful night for the school
- If you want to upgrade your tickets to VIP tickets, please let the auction committee know
- [All Items - Chelsea Nights | GalaBid](#)
- We recommend that you validate your payments for the auction now so that it's easier to bid

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

- Young Artists
 - Thank you to the team and for putting on the showcase; this program is completely run by parents on a shoestring budget
 - If you volunteer, your child gets a guaranteed spot in the program. It is a very popular program with a long waitlist
 - You don't need to be an artist or teacher to help with the Young Artists program

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- Garden Day
 - May 18 at 9:30 am
 - Completely parent-run
- Field Day
 - Friday, June 14
 - This event is for 1st through 5th graders
 - We need 10-12 volunteers
 - Parents are also welcome to drop by to cheer on the kids, field day is held outside on 21st street, between 8th and 9th Avenue
- Math Club
 - Almost done - thank you to the parent volunteers for helping with the program during the kids' lunch time
 - The program was 5 weeks long, very successful, and the kids loved it
 - You don't have to be a mathematician to help with Math Club; you just need to encourage kids to explore math in the real world using games and puzzles
- Library
 - The year is coming to an end - we are losing 3 of our librarians due to their 5th graders moving on from the school
 - If you are interested in volunteering next year, you can come in from now until the end of the year to see what it's like before you commit. Please send an email to ps11library@gmail.com
- Yearbook
 - The team has been working countless hours over the last 2 months. Thank you to all the parents who contributed photos – the more you contribute, the more likely you'll see your child in the yearbook
 - Every student receives a free yearbook, which is also paid for by you, the PTA
 - You don't have to be creative to be on the yearbook team; you just need to be willing to put in the time to help
- Chess team
 - Came home with prizes from Nationals, including huge trophies that came to the school; congratulations to the team

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- PTA pays for the ability for the chess team to meet after school - even though parents pay for the class, the PTA still pays for things that help to support the program

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

- We are looking for volunteers for several upcoming events
 - Field Day: [2024 FIELD DAY at PS11 — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
 - Potluck: [2024 End of Year Potluck — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
 - Gala: [2024 PS11 Gala — Signup Sheet | SignUp.com](#)
 - Moving On - still need volunteers
- Please reach out if you can help

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

- The Communications team will send out a “Round Up” summary after this meeting

Members at Large – Becker Chase and Kiran Patel

- Participatory Budget: We are a winner of the Participatory Budget process this year. The city will be installing new centralized AC in our auditorium! The other winners were the Chelsea Recreation Center and a chair lift at PS121. PS11 received the most votes out of everyone. Thank you all for your votes and helping to spread the word!
- The Audit committee is actively engaged and working on the audit: please email audit@ps11pta.org if you have interest in helping

Community Q&A

- Track Meet: District event, open to 3rd, 4th, 5th graders. A flier went home with information and the kids signed up for it. There are two track meets; the third track meet is only for kids who qualified for the final meet
- Happy Staff/Teacher/Admin Week and Happy Mothers' Day
- Thank you to all the volunteers

Adjournment 10:24 am