



**PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

**January 18, 2019
8:45 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE: SEE SIGN-IN SHEET ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES

LOCATION: PS 199 Cafeteria

CALL TO ORDER (Jenn MacFarlane)

After determining that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order by the President, Jenn MacFarlane, at 8:45 a.m. Eastern.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (Jenn MacFarlane)

- Jenn MacFarlane announced that the position of Assistant Treasurer on the Executive Board is currently open and needs to be filled. The PTA will hold an expedited election at the next PTA meeting on February 14, 2019. During that meeting, the PTA will take nominations for the position and a floor vote will then be held.
- New Security System: Maria Paskowitz described the new ID scanning system to be implemented in the next few months.
 - This new system will include: a parent ID logging system (parent photo ID cards on lanyards scanned upon entry and exit); a visitor logging system (visitor IDs are scanned and visitors are given a printed ID sticker); and a new desk for safety agents (which will be needed to accommodate the new system).
 - New parent IDs are optional; parents will be able to check in the same way they currently do.
 - A general vote was held to approve an expense of \$22,000 from the reserve budget to install this new system.
 - Scott Oscher made a motion to approve using the \$22,000 from the reserve budget for the new security system. This motion was seconded by Jenn MacFarlane and subsequently approved.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS (Sarah Worthington)

- Sarah Worthington made a presentation on Creative Communications.
 - Creative Communications is a program that Ms. Worthington has been developing over the past 3 years. This program has identified specific skills that go into public speaking and the children learn techniques to hone their skills in these areas. The intention of the program is to demystify what it takes to be a good public speaker.
- Ms. Worthington asks students to think about two aspects of public speaking: physical and oral.
 - The physical aspect focuses on how we use our body in public speaking and what it means to use your body to communicate well.
 - The oral aspect focuses on breath and teaches the kids the abdominal breathing technique as well as how to use breath in good communication. Vocal quality is also discussed.
- Why we need this program at PS 199: the kids have huge academic demands on them through the common core curriculum and they are also expected to effectively communicate their work.

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- What does the program look like:
 - Ms. Worthington developed the program over a period of about 8 years. This year she is primarily working with the 4th grade and 5th grade.
 - For the 4th grade, Ms. Worthington has implemented a readers' theatre program through which she focuses on areas like comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, clarity, speaking rate, pace, body posture, language, eye contact, facial and oral expression and good breath support. She is thoughtful about what stories are being chosen to work with students to achieve these goals. The stories are a collection of tales that attempt to create a pathway to deal with social issues and to bring positive change in the world. The stories carry deep messages.
 - For the 5th grade, the program works differently. For the first time ever, Ms. Worthington is working in the classroom with the teachers. When she teaches a lesson, the teachers are involved and therefore they see how these tools can help their students all week even when Ms. Worthington is not there.
 - An example of a project done this week with 5th graders was to stimulate the 5th grade parent teacher conferences where students are expected to lead the discussion.
 - In addition, 5th graders are currently doing audio recordings from excerpts from MLK's speech, "I have a dream."

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER (Imran Husain)

- The PTA is currently exploring the possibility of using another school photographer. We've had the current photographer for 7 years.
- The primary feedback regarding the current photographer concerns efficiency and timeliness. Parents expressed a desire for a digital only option, more creativity and quality, more choices (more pictures of the kids), an online repository with past photos and better communication regarding deadlines.
- The current price packages of the current vendor did not make sense.
- The PTA is exploring two potential vendors:
 - Stomping Ground and Irving Simon
 - They both have an online repository

GAGA Galore and Fitness (Ginger Schuster)

- This event will be held on Saturday, January 26th from 4 pm to 6 pm in the gym.
- There will be two GaGa pits (k-2, 3-5) and group fitness class for parents and for kids waiting for GaGa.
- The suggested donation is \$10 per person.
- Volunteers needed; sign-ups will be on Konstella.

Auction Update (Christine Capilouto and Karen Kennedy)

- Auction tickets are currently on sale; prices will increase on February 2, 2019.
 - Tickets are available for purchase at stations where payment options are cash, check or venmo.
- Donations: wishlists on tables. There is a spreadsheet on PTA's website with all the vendors approached so far in order not to overlap efforts. Donations are due on March 1, 2019.
- Volunteer on Konstella.

Upcoming Events (Jenn MacFarlane)

- Broadway night is on January 27, 2019.
- FlyWheel Parent Fundraiser will be held on March 3, 2019 at 3 pm
- Stars on Stage for 4th and 5th graders is on March 22, 2019.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE (Louise Xerri)

- This past Tuesday, District 3 Superintendent Ilene Altschul came to visit the school; she visited 8 classrooms. The focus of her visit was on reading comprehension and what we are doing to help our kids excel. Ms. Altschul also visited our stem classrooms and she commended our hard work
 - The school has a review coming up this year; we will receive 2 weeks' notice and the school will be rated on 10 indicators.
- New arrival procedures have been rolled out smoothly and Ms. Xerri feels it is much safer for our kids.

Parents as Partners Event (Sofia Hubscher)

- The event will be held on January 24th from 6 to 8 pm.
- Great sessions; sign up on Konstella.

Treasurer's Update (Maria Paskowitz)

- The revenue we have generated through December 31 is \$67,000, mostly through family giving (\$27,000) and the proceeds from the book fair (\$18,000). Our expenses through December 31st are at \$51,000.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott Oscher and was seconded by Ana Frischtak. There being no objections or abstentions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 a.m. Eastern.

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Minutes prepared by:

Ana Frischtak
Recording Secretary