



**THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC**  
**Executive Board PTA Meeting**  
**February 7, 2025, 9:00am on Zoom**

**Executive Board Attendees:** Lauren Fiore, Sviatlana Fadzeeva, Asel Mukham, Iris Fitzgerald, Gaia Marchetti, Stephanie Strote, Emily Forrest, Courtney Grant, Lois Suh, Raphael Miranda, Sarah Najarian,, Sweta Merchant, Liz Oved, Kate Overby, Noah Strote, Lauren Weigel

**Administration:** Louise Xerri, Sara Lise Raff, Phoebe Hanshew

Zoom Attendee Count: 18

**Welcome and Call to Order:** PTA Co-President Sviatlana Fadzeeva called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

**Minutes:** Sviatlana announced a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Approved and seconded, with no objections.

**Agenda Items**

- 1.Welcome.
- 2. Shout outs - Stephanie and Tatyana for organizing Movie Night; all volunteers.
- 3.Minutes approval from the prior meeting.
- 4.Administration Update.
- 5.Teachers Update.
- 6.Treasurers Update.
- 7. Fundraising Update.
- 8.New Business - prep for February 14 - teachers breakfast and coffee and chat
- Q/A

**Shout-Outs**

Movie Night - It was great! Thank you Stephanie and Tatyana! It was nice to have a free event where we can offer something without asking for something in return.

**Administration Update: Sara Lise Raff**

- Not a lot to report. Movie Night had such a nice feel to it. The energy was lovely. Thank you. Engage, engage, engage: make the connection with new parents and get them engaged in our community. Even with all the information we send, some people don't see it, so please share the activities happening in school with others in the community.

**Administration Update: Principal Xerri**

- Safety: important to make sure our students who self-dismiss know how to walk home safety. We had an incident this week, and we were very lucky that the child was not hurt. It's so important to teach our kids how to cross safely, not to be looking at devices. We have to teach them to be "city smart." Teachers in grades 4 and 5 are going to deliver a lesson to our students in class.

- We had a visit from our Superintendent and a few people from the Central office last week. We visited many classes, and there were a lot of community activities happening. They were very, very impressed with our community.
- Enrichment programs: I had to terminate the contract with Leaps, working with 2nd grade. They were not able to demonstrate that they could have a consistent teacher with us. We were able to secure a relationship with NDI to replace them in the Theatrical Arts Program. We might want to think about having a dance program for all grades.
- It's near the end of the 2nd term, and teachers are busy with report cards.
- Stephanie Strote: it's a very stressful time for so many of the families in our community with the recent political changes in our government. We are very much able to support families who need it in our community. Ms. Xerri: it's very scary for the kids. They have been talking about it with their teachers, with each other. We have had some students leave us.
- Phoebe Hanshew: shout out to Sara Raff for being proactive in making sure parents have information about what their rights are. This affects attendance, performance. We know what to do in the school building, but the fear is in what happens outside of the school. If you are to see something happening in the school vicinity, please give us a call and let us know.
- Ms. Xerri: We have a lot of conversations about how to get the information into families' hands. It's a good idea to share a document with the school community so we all can know our rights and the rights of others.

#### **Finance Update/Treasurer's Report: Liz Oved**

- Gala tickets sales started in January. We have \$14,000 in ticket sales so far. Exciting!
- Family Giving: We received \$9,000 in January and are at 80% of our goal at \$110,000. We are almost there!
- Corporate Match: almost \$40,000, which is awesome!
- Svatlana: Can we add a report on the percentage we have reached in every Sunday night newsletter? Not dollar amount but we should stress the % of participation at this point. The % for the whole school is around 21%.
- Budget process discussion begins in March and should be finalized in May. Elections will be in June, at which time the general attendance will need to approve the budget.
- Gaia: How much have we made with merch? About \$9,000, which is great.

#### **Fundraising/Events Update: Lauren, Stephanie S.**

- Stephanie has not started planning the Spring Festival yet which will be in June, and she is working on the Yankees event on May 5th.
- 2025 Gala Report, Lauren Fiore: Chairs are Genie Chow and Masha Hoffman. Gala Committee: Sheri M is overseeing auction solicitation. Aparnaa is overseeing Event Management.
- Our Theme is Tropical Escape!
  - Earlybird tickets end on February 14th.
  - We have Coffee and Chat on the 14th so we can remind people at that time.
  - Word of mouth! Encourage people to donate and get items. We are still looking for big ticket items for the Live Auction. Vacation houses, unique experiences, a table at Rao's, SNL tickets, Broadway shows, John Oliver, The Daily Show. We have a Galapagos cruise.
  - Iris: can the link on the website be connected to the BUY TICKETS button, or highlighted in some way? Yes, Kate and Sarah will work on that.

### **Q & A / Other Business**

- We have a new coffee percolator!
- Gaia: February is Black History Month, is there something in place to celebrate this? Ms. Xerri, yes, there are celebrations happening in the school. Art teacher is weaving black artists into her teaching this month, but it would be nice to see that more formally.
- Gaia: Is it possible to invite the new art teacher to the next PTA meeting to introduce herself? Yes, Ms. Xerri will talk with her.
- Ms. Xerri: We historically have had a Diversity Committee. There is not an active voice in that area right now, and I would like to see that. We should be adding diversity updates at our PTA meetings, to make sure we are being culturally responsive. Ms. Raff: Parents have been interested, but did not have the time to commit. If there is a way to add a Diversity event in the calendar, last year's was spectacular. Lauren F: Let's find a date. It's a question of someone to step up to lead it. Maybe it could be hosted by the General PTA.
- Ms. Raff: The SLT will have a Parents Series, which we will be advertising soon. Parents-as-Partners is putting together a monthly series of speakers, hopefully hybrid. Not finalized yet, but hope to have the first one in March, about homework help. Stay Tuned.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:52am.
- Minutes prepared by Lauren Weigel.