



THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC
General Board PTA Meeting
January 23, 2026, 9:00am on Zoom

Executive Board Attendees: Lauren Fiore, Liz Oved, Shari Forrest, Alison Shapiro, Gaia Marchetti, Iris Fitzgerald, Sally Shin, Stephanie Strote, Stefanie Krzymiak, Courtney Grant, Sarah Najarian, Sweta Merchant, Masha Hoffman, Genie Chow, Matthew Williams, Peter Borock

Administration: Sharon Chung, Sara Lise Raff, Marie Sun, Brendan Beseda, Bethany Trench,

Zoom Attendee Count: 14 In Person Attendee Count: 19

Welcome and Call to Order: PTA Co-President Liz Oved called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Minutes: Liz announced a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Alison approved and Courtney seconded, with no objections.

Agenda Items:

- Welcome and Introduction
- Minutes Approval
- Administration Update
- Special Guest Presentations
- Fundraising/Committee Updates
- Treasurer's Report
- Q&A

Welcome/Shout Outs

- Shout outs to the Community Cares Committee for organizing a food drive this week for Ronald McDonald house.
- Parents as Partners - behaviors as communication on Dec 16
- Thank you to Sarah, Sally and Ali for the book collection that was delivered to the JCC yesterday
- School store for their popup shops in December during the holiday parties
- Next General PTA meeting- February 27, 9 am ZOOM.

Admin Updates: Marie Sun A.P

- Upcoming events
 - Broadway Night - keeping an eye on the weather, may need to cancel
 - Movie night Jan 30
 - Wine Night Feb 26
 - General PTA Meeting Feb 27
 - March 4 report cards
 - March 5th early dismissal
- Discussed possibility of remote learning Jan 26 due to snow, please check for updates from your teacher, reach out with any questions

- Safety update - students go outside at recess unless there is ice/snow/rain temps below zero, so please dress appropriately and label clothing.
- If your child is sick, please stay home for 24 hours after symptoms are gone, if illness is contagious and diagnosed by a doctor, please let school know so they can track as needed.
- Shared photos from the K-2 winter concerts, 4th grade mid year NDI performance and the 2nd grade architecture celebration this week. Thank you parents for supporting these amazing programs

Brendan Beseda - A.P

- NYS ELA and Math exams will be this spring. These are computer based testing. ELA for grades 3-5 will be April 15-16, Math for grades 3-5 will take place April 29-30 and 5th grade science will be May 14

Sharon Chung - Principal

- Welcome to Nurse Evelka Hernandez!
- Ms. Nicki Solitaire is covering 3rd grade

Bethany Trench - Teacher/UFT rep

- Looking forward to the gala, teachers are busy planning playdates
- Disc the vote for supporting the Respect Check for paraprofessionals as tabled, hopefully it will be looked at again soon
- Next big push is for "Fix Tier 6" - change in age to pension plans

Sara Lise Raff - Parent Coordinator

- Broadway update - monitoring weather, if it because unsafe - event will be canceled
- Thank you to the Parents as Partners session held recently
- Lost and Found - photos now available
- Today is the last day for K-4 to enroll in KidsRise

Special Guest Presentations:

Dr. Reginald Higgins - Superintendent D3

- Introduced himself to parents and explained his background in NYC schools
- Discussed how he plans to support students
- His top 3 goals are to keep schools safe, academically challenge students and to help integrate schools. Question was asked what he meant by that - explained how every student has different learning needs and wants to help everyone be successful.
- The question was asked about challenges he faced in D5 and how he helped - explained how he worked with neighborhood groups to partner with school (Harlem Grown, music classes, NYCB, Asphalt Green, Bank Street).

5th Grade Sustainability Squad

- 4 very talented students from the Sustainability Squad explain the harm junk mail causes and ways to prevent it
- A list will be distributed with the links and mailing addresses that you can unregister from the junk mail lists

Eli Roane: ICN Chess Program

- Introduced himself and ICN

- The program is open to all students during the school day. They do offer afterschool opportunities
- Explained that chess is important because it teaches sportsmanship, analytical thinking and how to learn, very important for students
- Question was asked if ICN can help extend its role to help build a PS199 Chess team - the chess team is an after school program, would need to reach out to that vendor for more information

Fundraising Committee: Stephanie Strote

- April 19, Yankees vs Royals, ticket will include \$15 food voucher and backpack

Treasurer's Report: Sally Shin

- Family giving YTD is \$107,000 - strong participation from K and 2nd Grade
- Corporate Match is \$3600
- Broadway Night \$3300
- December expenses totalled \$11600 (field trips, school operating costs and gala venue fee)

Q&A/Other Business

- Lauren and Liz met with Ms. Chung - need help with grant writing for upgrading bathrooms, technology upgrades. April Diaz (2nd grade parent) has experience writing grants and would like to help.
- Parent has requested a new lighting switch board for auditorium, costs TBD
- Wine Night Tickets (Feb 26) will go on sale soon!
- Next PTA General Meeting Feb 27 - Hybrid
- Meeting adjourned at 10:07am
- Minutes prepared by Courtney Grant Jan 25, 2026

Enrichment programs sponsored by PTA

- Presentation by Jeannie Oliver-Cretara, NY Philharmonic Partnership:
 - The partnership between PS 199 and the Philharmonic,, which has been ongoing for around 20 years, involves teaching artists visiting the school for 17 class visits, two concert visits, and final presentations. The program, which works with third - fifth graders, aims to expose children to orchestral music, community music making, and support classroom goals and learning.

Administration Update: Principal Xerri

- Thanks to parents for their support!
- Reminder to schedule parent/teacher conferences.
- Teachers have professional development today .
- Safety update - paint in yard - very slippery, have reached out to have fixed.
- The School custodian has left, we have a temp one, waiting for a permanent one.
- Small class initiative application has been sent in.
- Our new art teacher, Ms. Lauren Wetzel, should be sending out a welcome letter to families soon, She started last week.

Administration Update: Sara Lise Raff

- Thank you PTA for support.
- Report cards are out today.
- Check lost and found.

SLT Update: Alison Polevoys

- Class size Committee has submitted the application; will find out the status in February. Parents as Partners - trying to get parents in class more in the new year. Sustainability committee - reducing waste.

Fundraising Update

- Julie Lamb - 5K thank you everyone for turning out. 215 people signed up. over \$10k raised. First time doing it in fall. Classroom contest winner is Ms. Titus and Ms. Camhi's class - won a special gym day for their class and families with Mr. Miller. Ms. Rosenbaum's class came in 2nd place, and Ms. Hall and Ms Gurwin's class came 3rd. Spring run will be May 18, 2025. Fleet Feet on 72nd was a big supporter this year - looking forward to working with them again.
- Rob - Broadway night Jan 12, 2025. Broadway and classical singers, classical musicians and dancers. Assigned seating so get your tickets now!
- Stephanie - Chess Winter Festival this Saturday, sign up on Konstella to volunteer. New events to be announced in the New Year
- Movie Night - Feb 2025
- Gala save the date Apr 4, Ascent Lounge - Lauren Fiore will again take the role of Gala Chair. Thanks Lauren!

Finance Update/Treasurer's Report: Liz Oved

- To date, we have raised \$129,000 in donations and are on budget with expenses.
- Emphasized the importance of family giving, which covers enrichment programs, classroom supplies, field trips, and other school expenses.
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Q & A / Other Business

- Meeting adjourned at 10:02 am
- Minutes prepared by Courtney Grant.