



**THE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC
Executive Board PTA Meeting
January 10, 2025, 9:00am on Zoom**

Executive Board Attendees: Lauren Fiore, Sviatlana Fadzeeva, Gaia Marchetti, Asel Mukham, Iris Fitzgerald, Gaia Marchetti, Stephanie Strote, Stefanie Krzyzamiak, Sharri Forrest, Courtnay Grant, Lois Suh, Raphael Miranda, Sarah Najarian, Irene Ou, Robyn Kron, Sweta Merchant, Liz Oved, Kate Overby, Tatyana Malinovskaya, Lauren Weigel

Administration: Louise Xerri, Sara Lise Raff

Zoom Attendee Count: 21

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. **Sweta** and Lauren F approved and seconded, with no objections.

Agenda Items

- Welcome.
- Minutes approval from the prior meeting
- Administration Update
- Teachers Update
- Treasurers Update
- Fundraising Update
- New Business: Mid-year check- in: Questions, suggestions, concerns.
 - -Movie License to expire 2/7

Administration Update: Principal Xerri

- Next year is on her mind, because this is the time when they start planning. We have put in an application for smaller class sizes for next year. Keeping our fingers crossed that we will be funded throughout the school, because we do have the space. Would bring us up from 23 -28 sections/classes. We would add 6 new teachers.
- They are very busy right now with many new initiatives in action.
- Q: is the playground safe with rain and snow? The colored bands don't have the traction that they should, and the Parks Department is working on that. They try to get the children out to get some fresh air, but sometimes they close sections of the playground, or don't let the kids run.

Administration Update: Sara Lise Raff

- Happy New Year! It's nice to be back and the energy is good. A message went out about safety, health, and reminder of what time school begins and ends.
- Engage, engage, engage: make the connection with new parents and get them engaged in our community.

Finance Update/Treasurer's Report: Irene Ou

- Family Giving: Giving Tuesday was wonderful. We doubled our gifts on that day. Woo hoo!
 - But we are still 21% below our budgeted goal of \$130,000, and we are getting into the harder time of year to raise money.
- Corporate Match has increased.
- Broadway Night - we could hit the \$10,000 budgeted estimate if we push tickets to the end.
- With our move from keeping cash in non-interest checking account to the TD Bank Savings account, we earned around \$600 in one month in interest. Good news; making the most of our assets.

Fundraising/Events Update: Lauren, Stephanie S.

- Broadway night Jan 12, 2025. We have sold 240 tickets: \$10,400 in revenue (before fees). 50 tickets are still available, and we will offer them for free to teachers and staff.
 - Robert has gone the extra mile. If you see him, please say thank you.
 - One more email will go out today.
- Sviatlana: So excited with the success of family giving. She has an idea of sending love letters to parents, maybe attach a heart PS 199 sticker. And letters around field trips that are specifically drafted to grade. She is convinced that asking in many different ways is important: digital, paper, word of mouth, you never know what hits a parent.
- 2025 Gala Report, Lauren Fiore: Chairs are **Gini Chow and M Hoffman**. Lois is working on the logo. Theme is Tropical Escape!
 - We are using a new platform for the Gala: GiveSmart. It's easier to use, you can sell different kinds of tickets, make donations, etc.
 - Capacity: we contracted with the venue for 300 people. Last year we had around 350.
 - In 2024: we sold 279 tickets, and 30+ teacher/staff tickets, many of which were underwritten.
 - Considering ticket prices: venue cost has gone up by \$5K, should we increase ticket prices? Increase early bird and/or full price? Agreed upon passing on the fees to the ticket purchaser.
 - Gala Committee: Sheri M is overseeing auction solicitation. Aparnaa is overseeing Event Management.
 - Class Projects: reconsidering the system. They don't all get purchased, and some are not picked-up. Silent auction of K projects?

- Stephanie S: Movie Night **DATE** is free, but refreshments will be charged. Gregg from SnS is donating the pizza for this event.
- She has a few other ideas for the February and spring that she would like to talk with Ms. Xerri about.
- Stephanie K: Square One Art Project? Now that we have an art teacher, could we do this fundraising project?
- Is there a STEM event in the works for the spring? yes.

Q & A / Other Business

- Ms. Xerri: Do we need to control the number of field trips that are approved? This is the first year they are paid for by PTA funds. If we are having trouble raising money for other areas, Field Trips are something that parents are willing to pay for.
- Lauren F: For our remaining events for the year, it would be great to have a person from the EB present to make sure that the event goes smoothly.
- Stars on Stage: March 7 - Sviatlana will support. Past events, 4th and 5th graders choose an act. It's a talent and variety show. Can be anything from drama, singing, music, magic, sports. The kids are very supportive of one another. Great opportunity for kids to step outside of their comfort zone. Judy's event for kids to show their performance in advance is not an audition, it's a chance to make sure that all the sound and other support systems are in place for their performance.
- Asel: joined the meeting late and has questions about the budget that will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:17am.
- Minutes prepared by Lauren Weigel.