



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF PS 199, INC
Executive Board PTA Meeting
September 6th, 2024, 9:00am

Executive Board Attendees: Lauren Fiore, Sviatlana Fadzeeva, Liz Oved, Acel Mukham, Irene Ou, Gaia Marchetti, Raphael Miranda, Stephanie Strote, Noah Strote, Lauren Weigel, Sweta Merchant

Administration: Louise Xerri, Sara Raff, Sharon Chung, Phoebe Hanshew (Union Rep)

Attendee Count: 12 Executive Board members

Welcome and Call to Order: PTA Co-Presidents called the meeting to order at 9:00am, in person, PS 199 Cafeteria.

Minutes - Svetlana announced a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Raphael made a motion to approve and second, with no objections. Minutes approved.

Agenda Items

1. Welcome - Sviatlana/Lauren. Shout outs.
2. Minutes approval from EB 06/05/2024 and PTA 06/12/2024
3. Administrative Update from Ms.Xerri.
4. Finance Update (budget review for 2024-2025).
5. Fundraising Update for 2024-2025
 - a. Fall Fair - October 19. File permit for the street closure and cafeteria.
 - b. Annual Family Giving
 - c. Other Events: Bake Sale, 5K (virtual and in person), Book Fair (moved to September), Wine tasting.
 - d. Other ideas (if needed)
6. First PTA meeting on September 20, 2024. In person in Cafeteria (hybrid version?).
7. Committees management - reporting and volunteer management.
8. Any other business.
9. Next EB meeting on October 11, 2024- Zoom
 - Stephanie - Introduced three Community Agreement statements. Set a positive environment for parents/volunteers/PTA members.
 - Keep conversations focused on our shared mission to support our PS 199 community.
 - We are all volunteers, learning and working together.
 - Be open to new perspectives and approach our work together with curiosity and kindness.
 - Svetlana reads PTA Mission Statement

Principal Xerri's update

- Good news: new audio equipment installed over summer. Bad news: Bathrooms were not touched because of expense.
- Beautiful first day yesterday; thanks to all involved in preparation for this. 592 active students, subject to change, might go down. Plus approx 100 staff members. They will take attendance over the next few days to get a more accurate account.

- Budget: School is presently \$289K in the red. Ms. Xerri has to go through the appeal process with DOE for the teacher positions for ICT and IEP.
- Curriculum Update: new Extracurricular program: LEAP, Theatre program, only for 2nd grade. New ELA curriculum - Wit & Wisdom.
- Adding NDI for K and 1 in addition to 4. She applied for a grant. PTA does fund this.
- Stephanie: getting a lot of complaints about class size esp in 3rd grade. Largest class size in 3rd is 30 (limit is 32), 28 in 5th grade. She put in a request to have smaller class sizes esp in K, but that was not approved. District has to phase in smaller classes to comply with state law limiting class size. We try really hard to keep classes small in K, 1, 2. Putting other things in place to better support teachers with larger classes.
- Phoebe Henshew: state law passed to reduce class size, fully funded, but phased in, and higher need district schools are getting it first. There are also Union efforts to try to fund schools that have the space (as we do) to support smaller classes.
- Q: Is there an opportunity for PTA to fund TAs/paras or other staff to help? A: We have a partnership with NYU that is free, and we work to add them to the classrooms that have the most students. TAs might be a possibility down the line, but it is a lot of work to administer.
- PS 199 received \$100K from Mark Levine to update STEM lab.
- \$4.67M announced from Gale Brewer's office for PS 199 playground? What is the plan for this money?
- Q: Playground use for kid drop off because that time is crucial meeting and bonding time between parents, important for fundraising and ongoing school volunteerism. A: Ms. Xerri not interested for staffing and liability reasons. Requests of PTA parents to manage get togethers with parents after drop off.
- Ms. Raff: Thank you for the efforts to make teachers and staff feel valued. Picnics coming up next week. Please try to attend those that are not your grade if possible. Picnics are important social glue. Book fair coming up, picture day coming up.

Finance Update:

- In K coffee, we took in \$650 in merch sales.
- PTA has a budget: \$465K income, PTA expenses: \$146K to school, covers supplies, field trips, books, paper, 5th grade celebrations.
- Q to Phoebe: Is Teacher Start-Up fund enough at \$200 per teacher? A: She thinks so and will confirm. Teachers have Amazon request lists to share with parents. She will reinforce to teachers that we want parents to give to the PTA, as a whole, rather than individual teacher requests.

Fundraising

- We sent out giving letter (and envelopes) to students to take home on the first day. Much earlier than last year. Interesting: biggest giving month last year was January.
- Getting organized for Scholastic book fair, Sept 23-27. Help with set-up appreciated, 9/16-18.
- Fall Festival quickly approaching: Oct 19, 2024. Please start getting people interested in volunteering.
- Will we offer an Annual Pass this year? No, it's been determined that this is too much administration and not enough time to do this year.

Other business

- Upcoming Picnics: please come to picnics and talk to people you don't know. Good community building opportunity. Also we need parental help to set up tables. Come a little earlier with a friend.

- Permits for Cafeteria use for picnics.
- Please give parent volunteers time and graciousness in responding to messages and What's App.
- District 3 Council Meetings: Superintendent comes, reps from different admins in districts. One of the co-presidents has to be there, but all members of school are invited. Q: Are meetings hybrid? A: Depends, some are in-person with activities.
- Lauren: will share by-laws and PTA link to educate us on PTA rules/requirements.
- Exec Board: please donate as soon as possible so we can tell larger community that they all supported, whatever level a family can commit. Be a good example. Ms. Xerri cautioned against saying this to community.
- Q for Ms. Xerri: photos of kids at events. Photos are cleared for DOE purposes only. Need separate consent for non-DOE purposes [ie: all PTA]. Pics of kids without faces are ok, and if we have parental consent, it's ok. School very protective of the children in terms of imagery. A parent has a media lab and offers a workshop about social media, high schoolers present. Maybe present as Parents-as-Partners at SLT meeting? Does anyone want to program video screen in Cafeteria so that photos of kids could be shown in the school?
- Ms. Xerri suggestion: paper calendar for upcoming months to parents?
- Ms. Xerri: thank you to the PTA for the supportive environment. Ms. Xerri and her teachers feel very supported.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16am.