

P.S./I.S. 78Q PTA

THE ROBERT F. WAGNER, JR. SCHOOL

48-09 Center Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 11109 (ECC)
46-08 Fifth Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Telephone: (718) 392-5402 - FAX: (718) 392-5434
Louis Pavone, Principal
Deana Rombone, Assistant Principal



PTA Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2018

Chaired by: Genevieve Bernier

Call to order – 6:35PM

April Meeting minutes approved.

Heather & Joy are not able to attend the meeting tonight.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Mr. Pavone:

Lots of dates till the end of the year

Tomorrow we begin our peace flag project

LIC Arts at Plaxall

Children from 2-5 you all got permission slips, please return them. They will walk across the street. Each student will be painting, getting paintbrushes, saw them all together and make a very large peace flag. Really great project. Thank you to PTA for introducing us to them at LICA.

7th grade visited Princeton University

6th grade went to Yale and hopefully they'll go there after HS

Tomorrow's the walkathon but weather permitting.

Today children went to garden and it didn't rain.

Meet us at the field starting at 8:50 if not cancelled.

5th grade debating at SUNY Law school against PS150Q

Kids are debating - Should we have robots or humans teaching?

3rd graders using Skype to learn Mandarin

Experience is probably better than having a Chinese speaking teacher here as they are also speaking about the experience of living there. We want to build on it and hopefully have this program again next year.

May 23 and May 24 - Grade 8 performance state test

May 25 - UN Ambassador coming to visit 7th graders

May 29 and 30 - Science performance tests for 8th grade

June 1 - Talent show & Sailing Trip

June 4 - Science written test

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- June 4 - Spring Auction at SHI**
- June 5 - 4th going fishing**
- June 6 - Last PTA meeting and 8th grade prom**
- June 7 - NO SCHOOL**
- June 8 - Field Day Weather Permitting**
- June 11 - NO SCHOOL**
- June 12 - PK Stepping Up**
- June 12 - 8th grade Algebra Regents**
- June 13 - K graduations**
- June 13 - Kindergarten Stepping Up**
- June 13 - 102, 103 & 701 Field Trips**
- June 14 - Kindergarten Stepping Up**
- June 14 - 702 Field Trip**
- June 14 - Spring Music Concert**
- June 15 - NO SCHOOL**
- June 16 - Spring Fair**
- June 18 - Spanish 8th Grade Test**
- June 19 - 1st School Musical**
- June 21 - 8th Grade Senior Trip**
- June 22 - 8th Grade Graduation**
- June 26 - Last Day of School - Early Dismissal**

**If any dates are missing from above, please check calendar on our website.
Backpack notices are up.**

Thank you to our parent coordinator Teresa Cantante - she's taking on more and more work. She's getting more involved with website and translations. Thank you to teachers here.

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SLT REPORT:

Nothing much to report. Trying to report draft versions of minutes. For now, they're posted online. We have 4 spots opening and it's a 2 year term. Monthly commitment for about 1.5 hours one Friday before PTA meeting. We also spoke a little bit about anti bullying and spoke to guidance counselors about expanding the program.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The goal was to raise \$200,000

For yearbooks, we raised \$3,500 with extra donations.

It was an end of the year boost which was a great surprise

\$25,500 from sponsors so far for Spring Auction

Budget was about \$160,000

We have paid about \$116,000

Recent ones paid were Studio in a School and South Street Seaport

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

What's SEM?

Student Enrichment and we try paying teachers for all the expenses

Gen: These slides are posted online

May 17 - Weather permitting Walkathon

May 18 - Book Culture Fundraiser

May 31 - CASA Met Art Celebration 2:30-4:30

Nameeta offered to do the Book Culture Fundraiser and she's running it and planning to organize all.

CASA Met Art funded by Jimmy Van Bramer - free art program for our middle schoolers.

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June 6 - Last PTA and elections

June 10 - Sunday POPS

For Sunday Pops - this time they will open the backyard and if you can help or volunteer for kids arts and crafts

June 16 - Spring Fair

Bea Murphy is leading this and she's working on getting this permit. In order for this to happen, please email or reach out to her.

June 24 - METS game

Q - Why don't you alternate year positions? Would the current team consider staggering positions for the future?

Gen - We normally have uncontested elections except for the last 2 years

Q - For recess, they don't have props, what happened?

Teresa - There was an issue and that's why they weren't taking the balls out and now they are taking all out. Jump ropes weren't used properly, so for safety issues they were becoming an issue. A week or two that they didn't get to use balls but now they are.

Gen - We can talk to Kids Orbit.

Q - Can we get more equipment?

Gen - we paid for it last year and we can get more

Teresa - If they are misbehaving then that child is put out or not allowed to play for a small amount of time. There was an incident when it was chaos and they were all sat down. Again all KO. One incident.

Bea - all the gym equipment is always shared with all the children and if behaving they can all use

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Gen - LICA collaboration - in addition with studio in a school which we fund, if you haven't been to the gallery please check it out - they have a great space. Let's show them support as they do a lot for us.

Julz - Is there a reason why K and 1st isn't going?

Gen - It's because they have an art teacher, 2-5th don't have art the whole year. If it works out, we can expand it.

Q - At some point there was a discussion for SASF to do lower grades

Gen - they can't because it's a free program and parents would have to sign up for 5 days a week.

Bree - most after school programs make parents commit over 3 or 4 days a week, Serious Fun allows you to do only 1-2 days.

Serious Fun early registration is open now and you save money if you do this now.

During our last meeting we honored Hailey Richman - now she's gone to win a NY State and the National Honoree for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. If anybody can drop off puzzles, please do so.

This flier is hanging in the school somewhere to show what art programs are done in school.

Teresa is working hard to get all notices that get backpacked.

Q - can school email?

Gen - school doesn't have everybody's email, it's voluntary. Everything gets backpacked and parent Michelle Pinto also sends class parent emails. We are trying to email as much as we can.

Teresa - Many emails bounce back and some filter out our emails. When I use my DOE address I know I get many back.

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Gen - Please buy your tickets for Spring Auction. We already have about \$25K in donations. Some sponsors are Pro Health Dental, Related, TFCornerstone, Plaxall, Food Cellar and more.

We have a website this year so we are doing it differently. Please help find us donations. Once we are ready to bid we can use our phones. Our first time doing it this way, couple people from 501 auctions will be at the auction. If you send to a business, they can enter donations themselves in about a minute. Please pass it along to anybody you can.

Julz - What is the 150 tickets sold to break even? That's about \$12,000.

Sabina - I heard Manducatis has offered to do it for \$10 person for meal and a drink.

Gen - We haven't heard anything about that or they haven't come up to us for that at all. Sorry, I must have left the 150 slide from last year - that is what we needed to sell to break even at Maiella but this year we got a much better deal.

Here's the sponsorship packet and it's online. Please check it out!

www.501auctions.com/78auction

Marjorie - Any nominations from the floor?

No hands

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Mindy, Maria and Marjorie

Every position is open, every year, if you want to run as a co then you have to be nominated as a co.

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

For the month of April – Honoring the value of Honesty
Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm

Recording Secretary – Lilly Rojas

Approved by:

PS/IS78Q PTA Co-President

Date

Apri 18, 2018

Chaired by: Genevieve Bernier

Call to order – 6.35PM

March Meeting minutes approved.

Heather & Joy are not able to attend the meeting tonight.

PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS

Mr. Pavone:

- Thursday, April 19th - classes 101, 102 and 103 will be going on a trip to the Queens Zoo. It will be indoors.

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- Next 2 Saturdays (21 and 28) and next couple Wednesdays and Thursdays are the remaining days for the standardized test prep for 3-8 graders.
- Tuesday, April 24 - 8th grade will be going on the sailing trip on
- May 1 & May 2 Math Standardized Assessment Tests
- 8th grade this year as we spoke about last year, will be taking the Algebra Regents exam and not taking the standardized test.
- May 9 is Parent Engagement Celebration from 4:30 to 7:30.

It's more of a celebration day, not a parent teacher conference. Some elementary and middle schools do it on different dates. We combine them.

- May 14 - classes 301 and 303 going on a field trip
- May 15 - 7th grade going to Princeton University
- May 15 - class 302 field trip
- Very exciting news - Chinese language for 3rd grade classes will be starting twice a week from now till the end of the year. Pilot program that will use technology and connect teacher in Beijing and it's live and interactive. As soon as we have names of teachers, we will let parents know. We are hoping technology and time works. Interesting part about it is that the teachers are working on times and they'll be separated by classrooms. All the details are being worked out.
- Other special news is congratulating the Richman family tonight for Hailey. She's a 5th grader at PS78 and is receiving a Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Haley will get award and medallion presented to her. She has done an amazing job collecting jigsaw puzzles for nursing homes and other senior living facilities. Her organization is called "Puzzles to Remember". Round of applause for Hailey please.

SLT REPORT:

Our middle school after school program SASF has a cooking class and they won 2nd place in a competition. They competed against 11 other schools. Round of applause.

All 4 parents at SLT are up for re-election. We will have elections on June 6. Two representatives for elementary and 2 for middle school are needed to fill those positions.

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If anybody is interested, please let Gen or any other representative know. The SLT team meets once a month and meeting lasts about an hour.

Please visit our school website. At the bottom there's a little newspaper icon. Click on it and see what's new in our school. Also, our middle school newspaper is posted there. Michelle Pinto has also been sending emails to all of you. Please check all out online, there's fun facts and things about our school.

STATE EDUCATION COMMISSIONER YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Hailey - your teacher came here tonight to congratulate you. The Prudential National Association honors middle school students and thousands considered for this award. Here in NY, she's been singled out for her service in her community, she's created ongoing support for those suffering from Alzheimers and she will go to DC for 4 days for awards, \$1,000, and considered for national awards and silver community medallion.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

We have raised the fundraising and we now have a total of \$65,442. General fund and recess combined is the above number.

Genevieve - we are working on a new recess program which will be much savings. We are working with LIC Artists group. We will try to hold an art show in June. Another great way to supplement our program and if you have any ideas please bring them to us or the teachers. We just paid the sailing program which is a great program for 5th and up. We still need to pay for some instruments.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SECURE DONATIONS. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SPRING AUCTION

Monday, June 4th at SHI

Last year we secured \$20,000 from sponsors
We made a profit of \$45,000

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This year we got \$10,000 from our wellness sponsor - Pro Health Dental Sponsors take pressure off of parents even though we still need you to donate or ask for donations.

An example of businesses that donated last year - The Yoga Room, Modern Spaces, Rockrose, Astoria Bank, etc.

We are doing it a little differently this year. It will be done online, the website is posted on our website. We can bid on our phones, you'll get an alert when somebody outbids you. Also doing an early bird special of \$80 if bought before May 15, after that it will be \$85. What we need the most is for you to secure donations for us. We have a form where businesses can fill out online or email directly to you. They can also upload pictures and their logos online. We hope it works - it's our first time doing it online instead of booklets we've always done.

www.501auctions.com/78auction

Thanks once again to the parents (Jessica Estrada, Julz Donald and Beatriz Cifuentes) that helped us with the sponsorship package. Totally appreciate all your help!

We also need 2-3 volunteers to be part of the Election Committee. Please email us with any questions or to volunteer.

Mary Stein - we will have a musical of the first time in the school and the kids are helping write it and choreograph it. Some will play instruments. Kids in 6th and older please ask. We are trying to keep costs very low. In building set, we need parents or volunteers. Money needed for this. We need solar eclipse glasses, if you have experience with props, please reach out to us. We need about \$500-\$800 for the sets.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Mr. Pavone - thanking Mary for coming in on Fridays and volunteering all her time. Thanks for all you do for this first school musical! Please email her if you can volunteer, have questions or can donate anything.

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Mary's email - maryduncanstein@yahoo.com

Bree - this would be something we would love doing every year. We always need more money. These are things we want to fund. We want organizations to come and help us.

Gen - All 5th graders are doing debate class this year. They will be debating PS150Q. A program that we hope will grow just like Mandarin classes. More information on that as well.

Anne Marie - Mandarin and Debate are pilot programs that we hope to grow and will probably have to fund.

Genevieve - Book Culture store at Court Square - 15% of proceeds of sales coming back to our school. Please visit the store.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

For the month of March – Honoring the value of Respect
Meeting Adjourned at 7:10pm

Recording Secretary – Lilly Rojas

Approved by:

PS/IS78Q PTA Co-President

Date