



MEETING MINUTES

September 29, 2025 | 6:30pm | Meeting called to order by Sabrina Chin

In Attendance

Attendees: 197 people including below

PTA Executive Board: M. Hauser, E. Ujkaj, S. Chin, J. Blath

SLT: R. Gunness

School Leadership: D. Rombone, J. DiRoma, A. Papapavlos. B. Sharma

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by S. Chin.

INTRODUCTION OF PTA BOARD

M. Hauser, E. Ujkaj, S. Chin, J. Blath

PTA President Election

Nominations from the floor opened for PTA President: Charmaine Mendoza and Chase Steinberg nominated themselves. Jeff Blath declined the nomination. There was some discussion about the possibility of running as Co-Presidents was clarified; bylaws allow co-presidents if they run together. Charmaine and Chase agreed to run as Co-Presidents. No other candidates were nominated; thus, the floor was closed. The co-presidents were elected unopposed and welcomed.

PTA 2025 - 2026 Proposed Budget and Vote

The PTA budget for the 2025 - 2026 school year was proposed by E. Ujkaj and approved after a question-and-answer section.

PTA 2025 - 2026 Proposed Events and Vote

The PTA events for the 2025 - 2026 school year was proposed by E. Ujkaj and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Revenue and Expenses to date were presented by E. Ujkaj. See slide for more details.

Kindergarten Meet and Greet

Presented by J. Blath. Save the date for October 9 5-7 at Culture Lab. A chance for kindergarten families and kids to get to know each other and the ps/is78 community. Tiger J Taukwando, Panna Soccer, and Artstrong will be holding activities for the kids. Food will be provided. See slide for more details.

Class Parents

J. Blath emphasized the need for a few more Class Parents.

PTA Committees

J. Blath presented the introduction of new Committees. (social media, merchandise, garden care, event planning) as an opportunity to help in any way you are able.



School Leadership Team (SLT)

SLT Report was presented by Rebecca Gunness. The SLT had talked about an update to the scaffolding which is expected to be removed by mid-October. They also discussed the continuation of Runzulie and Studio in the School. They reviewed 2024-25 state test data which showed strong performance. The CEP goals focused on reading/math proficiency, physical and emotional safety of all students, college readiness, parental involvement, and reducing absenteeism. The SLT reviewed the cell phone policy was implemented with signed agreements from students 3-8 grade. The full policy is available on the website. Computer-based testing will continue to be ongoing. SHSAT will be online this year, if you want to opt out you can by October 7.

Principals Report

Ms. Rombone gave the principal's report. She began by saying thank you, this is the largest attendance for a PTA meeting she has seen in a long time. It's all about community, the success of Meet the Teacher night was an example of that. If you want to come any other time to see the school and classrooms, you can make an appointment any time. She gave a shout out to the PTA and the SLT for working over the summer to help all the children. She thanked assistant principals Ms. DiRoma and Ms. Papapavlos and all the teachers and children. She also spoke about the changes in staff and welcomed new teachers by name. Ms. Rombone wanted to take time to address many parents questions about the hiring of the staff. She explained the whole process of the DOE background checks including fingerprinting and comprehensive record check with the FBI. Then there are further checks within the school when a position is available. Children's safety is their number one concern. In her 27 years at this school she has seen very little turnover and she commends her staff for doing all they do for the children of ps78. Ms. Rombone reviewed the high test scores across the board and actually higher than the city in ELA, Math, and Science. PS78 has an open door policy and even though they get a lot of emails they will reply and if you need to call the school you can. She also reviewed lots of outside programs they do- day in the life of the Hudson River, school play, spirit week, chorus, talent show, and band. This year they will have 26 for 2026 for the eighth graders and clap out the kids on their way out. Lastly she spoke about the concept of Umbutu - Community, interconnectedness, humanity. Next month will be the first Student of the Month, the theme for next month is Effort.

Vote to Change the Bylaws

The vote was to change the meetings going forward to Thursdays at 6:30. The vote passed with 91% and the bylaws will be changed.

Ways to Contribute

M. Hauser presented and reviewed the many ways to contribute financially to the PTA. He also introduced some possible new ways the PTA is looking to raise funds.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7.32 pm by S. Chin