

PS 516 PTA General Meeting Minutes  
November 28, 2017

8:30am—Room 409--Called to order by president Deeanna Abrams at 8:40am  
6:00pm—Multipurpose Room--Called to order by president Deeanna Abrams at 6:10pm

**Attendance**

All members of executive board present at both meetings (Deeanna Abrams, Farah Uriarte, Joy Chen)

Morning Meeting Attendance: 15

Evening Meeting Attendance: 8

Quorum Reached

Guests:

- (AM) Principal Smith, Ms. Giambo and 4th grade students, Raquel Nieves, Ms. Lessner
- (PM) Assistant Principal Knudsen

**Guest Speakers (AM Meeting)**

Presentation from 4th grade regarding

- 4th graders will be selling slime on Thursday to 2nd and 3rd graders to raise money for Puerto Rico

**Community Greeting & Review of Meeting Norms**

**Review minutes from last month's meeting.**

Questions from AM Meeting:

- Will fundraising reach out to neighborhood and beyond?
  - Winter Carnival will be open to the public
  - Currently most fundraisers are targeted to school families
  - The PTA is working on getting 501c3 status. Once finalized we can reach out beyond the school community (ex. Amazon Smile)
- Is translation fund for PTA meetings or other meetings?
  - Translation fund is for PTA meetings in order to provide access to all families. The PTA will always attempt to seek volunteer translators

Minutes approved unanimously

**Treasurer's Report**

AM Meeting--Ms. Lessner presented proposal for 1st grade Nutcracker trip

- Monthly Expense Report

<b>Income</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
\$269	Halloween Movie Spectacular	\$545	Ms. Zhu--Kindergarten Farm Trip

\$72.50	Family Friday Donations	\$217.75	JD Printing-- School Store Supplies
\$166.35	PTC Bake Sale	20% of \$1191 = \$238.20 in Store Credit	Chau Luna Spanish Language Book Fair
Total income: \$507.85	Total expenses: \$762.75	Beg. Balance: \$7497.30	<b>New Balance: \$7242.40</b>

- Funding Requests: (The PTA must approve all new funding requests.)
  - Ms. Lessner (Dance Teacher) – 1<sup>st</sup> graders to Nutcracker - \$124 toward families who cannot afford tickets
    - AM Question: Can this be funded from money already allocated to classroom trips?
      - It can but it would be tricky and take away funds from trips that have already been planned. – Approved (20/22)
  - Ms. Tennenbaum (Special Education class, 7 students) – Trip to the Aquarium - \$89.50 - Approved (18/21)
  - Hard case to store translation headsets \$150--
    - Through Title 1 funds the school purchased translation headsets that are worth about \$2000. A case is needed to store and protect the equipment
    - Approved 17/22
    - Fundraiser Proposal (The PTA must approve all new fundraising ideas.)
      - Ms. Wong (Art Teacher) proposes that the PTA partner with Square One Art –
    - Ms. Wong will work with kids to create a piece of art. Square One Art will create a catalogue for each student and families can buy a keepsake with student’s art. Regardless of purchase kids get stickers with their own artwork on it. PTA gets a percentage of the profits. PTA’s role would be to promote it
    - Approved (19/22)

### President’s Report

- SLT Election
  - Tara Bringley (mom of Oliver, Pre-K 101) will finish out someone’s term for the remainder of this year
  - Approved unanimously
- PTA By-Laws
  - Option 1: We can use current by-laws, but they are from before the Chancellor’s regulations were updated AND we would have to pay for them to be professionally translated.
  - Option 2: Use revised translated template on the DOE website. We would fill in with our own information in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic and vote at the next meeting.

- Comments:
  - PM--A parent who is a lawyer who works with by-laws for nonprofits says the new ones are much clearer and easier to understand and have simpler rules. She recommends we go with Option 2. She is also happy to take a further look at them.
- Approved unanimously
- PTA Direct Appeal
  - Letter going out within the next week or two.
  - Letter includes several different ways to be involved with the PTA
  - At the end of the letter families are asked to consider a financial donation on a sliding scale.
- Title I Committee Presentation by Ms. Smith (AM) & Ms. Knudsen (PM)
  - Over 60% of our students qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, so we are a Title I School.
  - The Title I money goes to everyone in the school, NOT just those who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch.
  - A percentage of the school's Title I money (1% set-aside, a little over \$2,000) is decided on use by parents. Looking for parents who want to be on the Title I Committee. Committee has full say on how to spend the money. Any parent can be on the Title I Committee.
  - Parent's Rights:
    - It's your right as a parent to know how your child is doing and request meetings with teachers or administrators. Tuesdays after school (2:40-3:20) is parent engagement time, so teachers are always available at that time.
    - It's your right as a parent to know that your child's teachers are highly qualified. You can complete a form requesting your child's teacher's qualifications.
- Updates from the School Leadership Team (SLT)--Shared at PM meeting
  - Robin Hood Grant - \$500,000 (for our school and Sunset Spark) – 2-year grant – exploring/implementing computational thinking into all subjects.
    - Aim is to take a scientific approach to solving any problem. Will provide professional development and intervisitations
    - Will start with 6 teachers in 1<sup>st</sup> year, another 6 teachers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Vertical team across grades. Enhances the curriculum with project-based learning, trips, etc.
    - Arts Grant - \$50,000 – Theater Residencies – Pre-K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 20-week program with Teaching Artist; 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade – 10-week program with Teaching Artist.
    - Music Grant through DOE – for schools with large ENL and SpEd populations – with Creative Music Programs from Williamsburg - \$15,000 (4<sup>th</sup> grade – recorder; 3<sup>rd</sup> – drumming; eventually this year every grade will get it)
    - Integrated units of study. Every grade is taking on one unit that integrates a content through multiple subjects. Kindergarten - Pumpkins, 1<sup>st</sup> grade - Rainforest, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Democracy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Food, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Extreme Weather (4<sup>th</sup> graders are making and selling slime as a fundraiser for Puerto Rico!)

## **PTA Committe Updates**

- Winter Carnival – January Date TBD 10am-2pm – community event and fundraiser. Also looking to invite people from the larger Sunset Park community (not just our school).
  - Volunteers needed
- Weekly Snack Sale – once a week after school. We need people to help sell and also pick up snacks from Costco. Let Deeanna know!

### **Questions and Concerns**

- Parents would like to know more specifics about the curriculum. What do students DO all day? Would like to know that as a parent for own knowledge AND to help support kids at home.
  - Suggestions:
    - workshops per grade
    - info during PTA meetings
    - monthly newsletter (with parent volunteers that help translate them)
    - parent point-person to share information from teacher to all parents and put it on the website.
  - SLT will discuss

### **Old Business**

#### Uniform Policy Updates

- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Parent discussion
  - Share Chancellor's Regulations
  - Share all pros and cons about the uniform
- Jan/Feb there will be an evening school forum to include administration, teachers, students and families
- In Spring there will be a full PTA Vote. Final decision made by SLT

Meeting adjourned: 10:00am & 7:05pm

Minutes prepared by: Raquel Nieves, Tara Bringley and Deeanna Abrams