



PS11 PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023 | 7:00 pm ET | 153 Participants

Welcome (Co-President, Seble Tareke-Williams) – Seble called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (Recording Secretary, Richa Naujoks) – Richa read the highlights of the minutes of the last meeting that was held on October 18. The minutes were made available on the screen and were also posted on the website. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Treasurer, Janelle Benjamin) – Janelle read the highlights of the October financial statements, including a spike in legal and professional expenses, largely driven by enrichment/residency vendor expenditures which is not amortized over the year. October net loss was \$110,041. Projections for year-end continue to be an anticipated net loss of about \$400k, and expected ending cash balance of \$400k. Questions about the financial statements can be directed to treasurer@ps11bk.org.

Upcoming Events (Co-President, Seble Tareke-Williams)

- Co-recording Secretary Megan Douglass gave an update on the Original Works Art Fundraiser. The deadline has been extended so families are encouraged to send in orders.

Development Report (Co-Development Chair, Naomi Hightower)

- *Giving Tuesday*: Giving Tuesday this year is focused this year on school support staff. Last year 30% of funding came from corporate matching grants so she encouraged families to find out from your HR if your employer does corporate matching. Stock can also be donated. Link to donate for Giving Tuesday is at: <https://bit.ly/3FBekzE>
- *David Yurman Shopping Fundraiser*: Marissa Procope gave an update on a shopping event December 7, with David Yurman, at their Soho store. 10% of all sales will be donated to the PTA.
- *Holiday staff appreciation fundraiser*: In addition to anything the classes organize, the PTA does a school-wide fundraiser to balance out variations in holiday gifts across classes, and also to ensure that enrichment, support, and custodial staff were included. Link to donate to the staff appreciation fundraiser is at: <https://bit.ly/4768nAB>

- *Fresh Food Drive*: Hannah Gladstein gave an update on the Fresh Food Drive in collaboration with One Love Community Fridge. Fresh produce, herbs, spices, tomato sauce, and also sandwiches can be donated. Tables will be set up Nov 20 at drop off time to accept food donations, and One Love will pick it up and distribute it immediately.

Spotlight on TechFIN

PS 11 parent, Nigel Frankson, co-founder of TechFIN, talked about the not-for-profit, which refurbishes and distributes unwanted computers donated by companies. As of now, 218 refurbished machines have been donated to PS 11 families through TechFIN, with the aim of reaching 300 by the end of the year. While there are desktops available for distribution, families prefer laptops. Therefore, Nigel requested anyone who works at a large or mid-size company to please reach out to their employers and connect the IT department to Nigel, so that any unwanted machines can be donated to TechFIN, to be revitalized and distributed to PS 11 families who need them. More information about TechFIN is at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/5319157/admin/feed/posts/>

Administration's Report (Principal Hope and Assistant Principal Rand)

- Mrs. Rand endorsed TechFIN and mentioned that chrome books are still available for distribution if needed.
- Nov 16 and Nov 17 are parent-teacher conferences. Families should sign up to talk to their child's teacher if they haven't yet done so. PTCs are 10 minutes, but families can set up time one-on-one with the teacher if they need additional time. 5th grade slots are full but additional slots will continue to open up next week.
- Families are reminded that they can get updates from their child's enrichment teachers as well – dance, art, PE, etc. Enrichment teachers will have an open link posted on Dojo.
- Early dismissal is at 11.30 am on Friday Nov 17 and there is no after-school.
- The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are doing service projects, which is a good way to teach children about service, empathy, and being change makers.
 - o The 3rd grade organized a plastic-free lunch in partnership with the school kitchen. The PS11 Environmentalist Committee will also be leading PS 11's participation in the DOE's climate action days, which will be on the theme Energy on Dec 6, Waste on Feb 7, Health, Wellness & Green Space on April 17, and Water on June 12.
 - o In partnership with the Calvary Mission, 4th graders will distribute healthy food to the local community.
 - o In partnership with One Love Community Fridge, 5th graders will work on food security with the eventual goal of a community refrigerator run by PS 11. The first event is the Thanksgiving Fresh Food Drive on Nov 20.
- Some important dates:
 - o *Friday, Dec 8*: Middle school application due
 - o *Tuesday, Dec 5*: Kindergarten application opens
 - o *Week of Dec 4*: PS 11 Open House 2023. Parents and caregivers can come into school and see the learning in action.

- *Thursday, Dec 14*: Make up picture day (K-5). Before Dec 14, families will get a link to be able to view pictures that were taken on the initial picture day, in case there is need for a re-take.
 - *Thursday, Dec 14*: Pre-K Holidays around the World showcase
 - *Friday, Dec 15*: K-2 Holidays around the World showcase
- Mr. Rand gave an update on the Dad's meeting the prior week, which generated some good ideas that will be shared as they are executed. Some other important dates:
- *Wednesday, Nov 22* is the annual Turkey Bowl parents' basketball playoff.
 - *Saturday, Nov 18, at 4 pm* at PS 113 is the final game for the Baby Ballers (1-2 grade basketball team).

The floor was then opened for questions. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.