



PS11 PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024 | 7:00 pm ET | 150 Participants

Welcome (Co-President, Hope Lesane) – Hope called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 January 17. 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 January and February financial statements. Projections for year-end continue to be an anticipated net loss of about \$408K. Questions about the financial statements can be directed to treasurer@ps11bk.org.

Development Report (Co-Development Chair, Naomi Hightower)

- *Raise 11:*
 - o Raise 11 will be held in Industry City on May 17. The theme is Sneaker Ball. Tickets sales are open. Sponsorship options are also available. Families can help by buying tickets, sponsoring, donating items for auction, or sourcing donations for auction.
 - o Important dates are:
 - Early bird tickets: March 20-29
 - Regular price tickets – March 20-May 10
 - Teacher time auctions – April 8-15
 - Regular auction – May 13-19
 - o Honorees this year will be Seble Tareke-Williams, Janelle Benjamin, Ty Campbell, and Lillian Fuller. Teacher honorees will be Ms. Londis and Mr. Sinchi.
 - o The Mr. Rand Heart and Soul Award recipient this year will be Ms. Cunningham.
- *PS 11 Community Yoga:* Save the dates for PS 11 Community Yoga in the big yard: 4/5, 5/3 and 6/4.
- *Book Fair:* The book fair is April 15-19. Volunteers are requested. Please contact Meagan Douglass.
- *One Love Community Fridge:* Saturday, March 23 is the One Love Community Fridge Family Day of Service.

Call to Action (Hope Lesane, Tiphonie Boston)

- Hope called for volunteers for the events planned for the 5th Grade. Email volunteer@ps11bk.org or contact Charisse.
- Parent Tiphonie Boston asked families to be on the lookout for information on voting for District 35 Participatory Budget. A PS 11 project is on the ballot – to replace classroom sinks and faucets in the school. Anyone in District 35 over age 11 is eligible to vote.

NYC Kids Rise Save for College Program

- The NYC Kids Rise team gave an overview of the program.
- Unless a family opted out, their child's NYC scholarship account is funded with \$100 from the City. Additional matching funds will be contributed if the family completes additional steps like funding the account.
- The NYC scholarship accounts are available regardless of immigration status.
- If a family has their own 529 account, it can be connected to the NYC scholarship account.
- Families can activate their child's NYC scholarship account at: <https://a002-nyckidsrise.nyc.gov/p/nyckr/nyckr/register.html> and can get more information at: <https://nyckidsrise.org/get-started/activate-account/>. In case of questions: email info@nyckidsrise.org or call 833-KID-RISE (833-543-7473).

Administration's Report (Ms. Hope and Mrs. Rand)

- *Some important dates:*
 - o Spring parent-teacher conferences are Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22. Families should schedule time with their child's teacher if they haven't already done so.
 - o Thursday, March 21 – no extended learning. ASE and YMCA continue as usual.
 - o Friday, March 22 – early dismissal at 11.30 am. No after-school programs.
- *COVID-19 guidance:* Mrs. Rand reminded families of guidance around COVID-19, Flu, and RSV. If a child tests positive and has symptoms they should stay home until 24 hours after fever abates. If no symptoms they can be in school but please inform your child's teacher, and have the child wear a mask.
- *NYS testing in grades 3, 4, and 5:*
 - o Grades 3 and 4 will have paper-based tests for ELA (April 11-12) and Math (April 7-8).
 - o ELA (April 16-17), Math (April 9-10), Science (May 15) tests for Grade 5 are computer-based.
- *Save the date for stepping up ceremonies:*
 - o Pre-K Step Up Ceremony – June 12
 - o Kindergarten Fun in the Sun – June 18
 - o Grade 5 Promotional Ceremony – June 21
- *Reminder of the Healthy Classroom Celebrations policy:* only one sugary treat, or a juice box for birthdays and other celebrations.

- *School Safety*: Mrs. Rand also gave an update on School Safety drills that will occur during Spring. She also reminded families about other safety guidelines including arrival and dismissal, respect for property, acting with kindness. Reminder to families to please avoid double parking at drop-off and pick-up. School staff are not allowed into the bathrooms, so families are requested to remind children of expected bathroom etiquette. Please don't send glass bottles to school. Reminder to send healthy lunches, not just snacks.
- Please complete the school survey at www.nycschoolssurvey.org. You'll need the OSIS number, which is at the top of the report card.

The floor was then opened for questions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.