



General PTA Meeting Minutes 3/11/2020
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Cafeteria

1. Meeting Start – Call to Order – 8:30am
2. Approval of Minutes, 02/12/20 - Approved
3. Co-Treasurer's Report – Dabo
 - a. Current cash on hand: \$109,921.43
 - b. BTG doing okay; about 73% of the budget has been met. Spring performance did well. Next big fundraiser is the auction.
4. Co- Presidents' Report - no specific update; captured by the committee updates below.
5. Principal's Report
 - a. We have been approved to have a comfort dog at school; this program allows the school to have animal assisted interventions. We'd get a dog trained to be a therapy dog/comfort dog, in a particular schedule work to support the social/emotional needs of staff and kids. There are research based benefits to support this program; for example, studies have showed therapy dogs help the kids' academic learning. Our dog is named Phoebe. Permission slips will be sent out to parents about this and will be a very slow roll out; Phoebe will always be on a leash and get abundant downtime. The permission slips will give parents the chance to identify if a child has allergies, aversions to dogs, or just note general preferences (for example, no contact with it, only group contact, etc.). Ashley the OT/Speech Therapist has gotten additional training for incorporating therapy dogs into her sessions (funded by PTA).
 - b. Coronavirus: Maggie has been passing on whatever info she receives each day. For Coronavirus-related absences, there is a special attendance code so the absences don't negatively impact a child's attendance record-- this special absence code can also be used for parents who just proactively want to keep

kids out of school to limit exposure. The school is also proactively addressing bias issues relating to Asian students.

- c. In answer to a parent question, she has not heard anything official regarding extending April break.. Noted that remote learning doesn't really work in elementary schools, for example, kindergarten can't learn remotely.

Everyone should make sure Dreambox is set up in case breaks are extended; kids are also being allowed to bring extra school books home, just in case.

- d. There is a new K teacher sub for Lesley.

6. Bridge The Gap -

- a. Elizabeth - focusing on increasing participation rate; we have calculated the participation % per grade and will be sharing this info with class parents as part of a grade-specific push to increase participation.

7. 250 Water Street Update -

- a. Megan - still waiting for official remediation work plan - going to be a phased process
- b. Langan and DDC brought in our independent community monitor, Blue School's engineer brought in and also a third engineer from Durst--all 3 engineers found major problems with the work plans. Currently trying to assess safe levels of these toxins. They are working in concert with DOH but DOH is of course busy right now with COVID-19 so don't expect much movement on this in short term.
- c. Separate from remediation - HH unveiled what they want for the property. All 4 towers they proposed are very tall and they do not have the rights to build towers in any of those heights.

8. Committee Briefings:

- a. Community Crawl (March 14, 7pm kickoff at Paris Cafe)
 - i. Deanne - still continuing after discussion, ~25 RSVPs. Event originally started to help businesses post Hurricane Sandy and upcoming event could do the same thing in light of current events [NOTE: POSTPONED AFTER THE MEETING].
- b. Auction (May 2):

- i. Have reviewed contracts to make sure we're protected if there is a postponement but right now continuing to work towards May 2nd date.
 - c. "PSE" - Peck Slip Experience (ongoing) - brooklyn game lab on sunday, upcoming yoga classes.
9. Nominating Committee Info for 2020-2021 Executive Board- still looking for people to be on nominating committee.
10. Meeting Finalized – Meeting close – ~9:05am

Professional Skills Needed: Graphic Designer, CPA, Computer Skills, Photographer, Videographer
Volunteers Always Needed!! Sign up at
<https://forms.gle/nXNxc6hvQ5a1fdGi8>
Or visit peckslipschoolpta.org -- "Volunteer" tab
Thank you!



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