

PS 163 General PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 20, 2020

Time: 9:00 p.m. – 9:52 a.m.

Location: Zoom

Prepared By: Alissa Schaible, Recording Secretary, PS 163 PTA

- 9:03 am – Call to Order
 - Brief introductions of executive board members
- 9:10 am - Principal Update - focus on remote schooling and middle school.
 - Started prepping last week for fully remote schooling, which started yesterday. Hybrid student pods are currently grouped together with their in-person teacher. The fully-remote D group was oversubscribed, so the hybrid remote teachers are now assisting with the D group.
 - Teachers are urged to follow a regular schedule with links posted.
 - Families are encouraged to reach out to teachers or Mr. Lopez with any questions or concerns; 2-2:20pm is reserved for parent-teacher engagement each day.
 - Families can use their NYCStudents account to monitor attendance, which is recorded daily.
 - 11/30 will be the start of new students joining the “hybrid” model. When the DOE decides to resume in-person schooling, 163 will shift back to the hybrid model.
 - Currently no update regarding middle school admissions. Both Mr. Lopez and the guidance counselor will pass information along as it becomes available.
- 9:19 am - Principal questions from Zoom chat
 - Regarding the amount of synchronous time with remote learning. Current guidance says 40-50 minutes for kindergarten, ramping up to 90 minutes for fifth grade (amounts also shift upward later in the school year). 163 is currently able to exceed those times.
 - Dual language update
 - Some material has been going home, but not school wide
 - If fully remote for longer term, possible reprogramming of students under DL/GT teachers
 - Cluster teachers are finalizing their schedule with fully remote; schedule will be published

- Some science materials are going home, along with typing - no regular focus on coding this year
- 9:27 am – Co-presidents report - Therese
 - Raz Kids (and DL) were purchased from PTA funds. Brain Pop (Jr/regular/DL) was purchased with funds from the second grade GT
 - This is in addition to Epic, which is currently free during the school day
- 9:29 am - Treasurer's Report /Financial discussion - Martha
 - Current budget is limited in both expenses and income
 - Annual Appeal - typically budgeted at \$40k, this year \$20k. \$13.25k has come in so far this year.
 - Box tops - can scan receipt digitally in the app or website
 - Class supplements - funds both from PTA and donors
 - Bank balance of ~\$26k restricted, \$91.7k unrestricted
- 9:36 am - Anthony SLT report (last meeting took place before fully remote)
 - Discussion of Model 1 v. Model 2, plus plan for fully remote
 - Meetings are open for viewing, though must be invited to contribute
 - Email Emily for link; next meeting 12/15
 - Per Mr. Lopez, there may be a potential shift to Model 1 when in-person school resumes - pod C may be collapsed into pods A and B, resulting in students attending in-person two guaranteed days per week
- 9:40 am – Fundraising Update - Deborah
 - Focus on AA and other fundraising/community events
 - Stephanie mentioned a DL film festival; to send info
 - Mary - looking into details regarding a virtual readathon
 - List of ideas to come once details are worked out
- 9:46 am – Open Q and A
 - Michelle - question from CEC regarding possible support for families regarding school supplies (not tech)
 - Mr. Lopez said workbooks and supplies were in the process of going home with hybrid students, going to mention in upcoming family letter
 - Michelle - 2 outstanding orders for pickup from book fair, reaching out to those families directly. \$ amount raised from book fair forthcoming.
- 9:52 am – meeting adjourned.