

## PS 163 General PTA Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** April 22, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:05 pm

**Location:** Zoom

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

- 6:03 pm — Call to order
  - Meeting is using Live Transcript on Zoom
- 6:04 pm — Co-president report and upcoming events
  - Readathon ongoing in April, homework passes as prizes are proving to be very popular
    - Students can submit minutes at the end of the week
  - May events
    - AAPI Real Talk - planning early May, also looking at BLM and LGBTQ sessions
    - Teacher appreciation week May 3-7
    - School pictures May 10-11 - will take place outdoors, with after school times available for fully remote students
    - PTA elections - tentatively May 20, waiting to see if DOE will grant a waiver to extend elections to the fall, should know soon
      - Will schedule information sessions about positions
    - June - Family Feud
      - Welcome family involvement in planning (as well as with planning Real Talk sessions)
    - List of PTA and SLT positions available on school website
- 6:10 pm — Treasurer report
  - Annual Appeal at \$42.7k
  - Readathon already over \$8k, receiving lots of donations
  - Waiting for book fair revenue from spring fair in March
  - Reminder about utilizing Amazon/box tops
  - Expenses - no major changes, have paid a few additional teacher grants, also purchased some paper/toner
  - Bank balance of \$23.2k restricted / \$116k unrestricted

- 6:13 pm — Principal report
  - Full time in-person schooling for hybrid and opt-in students starts Monday - information will also be emailed/backpacked home
    - Pod D remains remote to the end of the school year
    - School day remains 8:30 am - 2 pm, Monday through Friday - Monday will no longer be a fully remote day
      - Parent engagement time remains at the end of the day
    - Students should bring materials back to school (workbooks, etc) as well as devices daily
    - Students must come to school each day, otherwise counts as an absence
      - Students can't move in and out of Pod D, lessons are not fully aligned
      - Contact school if necessary
    - Covid testing - students must have a signed consent form on file, including opt-in students
      - New positive rules - 1 positive will still quarantine a classroom for 10 days (they would move to remote). However the 2 case rule changes to a 4 case rule - if 4 cases are linked back to school exposure, that leads to closure
    - Make sure to sign up for Emily's newsletter for updates, and also check school website
    - Arrival on 4/26 - same as earlier this year (try to complete online health screening form)
      - PreK/K in driveway, 1st at Exit 1, 2nd at the ramp (will split into 3 separate class lines), grades 3-5 in yard
      - Encourage breakfast at home, grab and go available at school
    - Lunch - most classes will stay in their classrooms
    - Clusters - cluster teachers have "areas", classes will come to them (ie, Spallina in auditorium, etc)
      - Two additional cluster teachers to help with programming - Dr. D for art and Ms. Kaplan for ELA
    - Encouraging lunch outside (cafeteria is available if needed)
    - Pickup and drop off in same locations am/pm - there is no late room; dismissal starts at 1:45 pm and classes are staggered

- ICT partner teachers are split - decreases students in each room to about 14-15
    - ICT teachers switch am/pm, most classrooms are side-by-side
  - Google Classroom will remain in use (if needed to go remote), but relying on more paper assignments
- Q+A period
  - There will be cluster classes each day
  - Students can opt to go fully remote at any time if so desired, but there will be no additional opt-in dates
  - Ms. Sanders will be doing art in the library - allows students to spread out
  - No separate science class - part of regular classroom lessons
  - DL - there is no pod that is all DL
    - Monday after school Spanish club available
  - Suggestions for Teacher Appreciation for fully remote students - emails, short videos, padlet posts
    - Cards and food can also be sent to the school office
  - Classes are encouraged to go outside, reading garden and K garden can also be used
- 6:36 pm — SLT report (Anthony)
  - Latest meeting was earlier this week
  - Discussion of teaching assistants for K in the fall - would be around \$40k per year per assistant
    - Would PTA pay for any portion?
  - Lots of ongoing work for programming this year and changes for next year
- 6:38 pm — CEC report (Les)
  - 4-case Covid rule now being implemented
  - Summer Rising program
    - Students can be referred by their teachers, everyone is welcome to participate
    - More information to come
    - Hoping to involve fully remote kids - practice being back in an in-person classroom setting
    - Working outside

- Also with some “summer camp” type activities
  - Per Mr. Lopez, 163 will be a host site
  - Therese mentioned that CEC elections are coming in early May
- 6:43 pm — “How to Raise Money Savvy Kids” with Jeanie Ahn, 163 parent and financial journalist
  - Money can be a difficult subject - often not really covered in schools either
    - Less than half (21/50) of states require personal finance education in high school
    - Very important to supplement at home
    - Scarcity mindset versus abundance mindset
    - Students do better when they start learning about money early - kids rely on borrowing less and also save more
  - With the pandemic affecting finances, it's even more important to talk about money with your kids
  - There are lots of reasons to not talk about money
    - Age - kids are never really too young, early exposure is highly beneficial
    - Personal feelings about your own finances - kids still notice what is going on in the home, can be so helpful to talk about it
  - Use language and examples that kids understand
    - Money can be “invisible” now with everything digital
    - Can use books as a jumping-off point
  - Importance of having conversations early and often
  - Concept of envelopes or jars - spend/save/grow/give as a visual example
    - Save first - “pay yourself”
    - Spend - asking kids questions before they spend about motivation, etc
      - Encourage to save toward bigger purchases
        - Possible matching funds from parent?
  - Bank accounts can be great for learning - and long term saving
  - Can always change the rules as you find what works for your family - ideas and mechanics of allowance, etc
  - Jeanie will also be doing Outschool classes for kids on this subject
  - Reminder that suggestions are always welcome for topics for the speaker series

- 7:05 pm — Meeting adjourned