

PS 163 General PTA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 20, 2021

Time: 9:00 am – 10:45 am

Location: Zoom

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

- 9:05 am — Call to order and agenda
 - Mr. Lopez is at a D3 principal workshop, Emily Little will present
 - Kelly Aherne is attending to report from the Integration Committee
- 9:06 am — Co-president report
 - Upcoming events
 - AAPI Forum was well-attended and well-received
 - Planning BLM forum, tentatively for May 26th at 6pm
 - LGBTQ event in June
 - June events
 - Family Feud game night - teachers/staff versus families
 - School picture makeup day TBD
 - Outdoor pictures and new photographer were both a success
 - Town hall/forum with Mr. Lopez June 16th at 9am
 - Hope to have some information about the fall
 - Can submit questions ahead of time
 - Waiver was received for PTA elections - will hold in the fall for the 2021-22 school year
 - All PTA terms are 1 year, SLT serves for 2 years
 - CEC 3 Multilingual Committee is hosting a DL Showcase today at 1pm
 - Family and Community Wellness Collective - looking for parent ambassadors
 - Contact PTA if interested
 - Position involves 4 online training sessions, then leading a session for the school in the fall
- 9:15 am — Treasurer report
 - Doing well versus budget for both expenses and revenue

- Readathon brought in over \$10k (still tallying some donations)
- Annual Appeal is still open
- More teachers have taken advantage of the available classroom grants
- Bank balance of \$22.6k restricted / \$124.8k unrestricted
- 9:19 am — Principal report (Emily Little)
 - Thank to PTA and parents for Teacher Appreciation Week
 - Covid news - currently 1 positive case in building, resulting in a classroom closure
 - Clubs are starting back up - Spanish has already started, science club for fourth graders, running club, games/puzzles, coding with Ms. El Chami (Tuesdays for grades 2-3 and Wednesdays for 4-5)
 - Kindergarten enrollment - seats are filling, but still some available, usually some movement over the summer
 - June 16th PreK/K Orientation
 - Letter went out to fifth grade families with information about graduation events
 - In-person graduation for in-person students, separate for remote
- 9:22 am — SLT report
 - Meeting took place last week, has been meeting consistently throughout the year
 - Focused on end of year, plus GT program
 - More parents attended
 - Meetings are open to observe
 - Current plan is to continue tracks in the fall, through there are still variables related to guidance from the DOE
 - Comments
 - Who “engaged” in the GT discussion? Timeline shows SLT meeting, February PTA general meeting, letter home in March
 - Was it actually robust discussion that was open to feedback? Were people aware of the implications?
 - SLT minutes show 8 minute discussion, is that “extensive”?
 - Fall plans - survey families to better predict/plan?
 - Staffing issues for the fall?
 - Per Kelly Aherne (163’s UFT rep), there is always a process for medical accommodations - for this school year, they were more

“blanket”. Mike Mulgrew (UFT) has been telling teachers to not expect that for fall 2021

- Is kindergarten enrolling with the expectation of “normal” classes in the fall? Intention is to return to normal
 - Mention guidelines/spacing constraints at orientation?
 - Superintendent Loughlin at CEC meeting said GT in 1-5 will continue in fall assuming various conditions (staffing, students, etc) - is there also a chance for DL to not return?
 - Better communication around decision making?
 - Were parents aware of the GT discussion/decision before it happened?
 - Affects other families in the district
 - Fair to make a decision while half of families are remote?
 - Swift decision in a transitional year?
 - Change in screening led to change?
- 10:01 am — Kelly Aherne, Integration Committee
 - Meeting today, have had 5 meetings so far
 - Working on vision statement and guide - finalize by mid June
 - SLT reviewed and had revisions
 - Will be a “living document”
 - Working on scheduling, curriculum, and planning
 - Will it apply to grades 1-5?
 - Plan is for normal programming in the fall - there is also already integration with clubs, NDI, etc
 - (Kelly Aherne and Emily Little left the call)
- 10:10 am — Naveed Hasan, 163 liaison from CEC3
 - Naveed was elected 2 years ago, currently awaiting reelection results
 - There isn't a formal liaison relationship, but the CEC members often try to split up the schools in the district to stay up to date
 - Programming at other district schools for the fall?
 - Naveed tried to use commercial real estate this school year, but made little progress with various groups
 - Priority on continuing programs

- Schools that were under enrolled had easier time
 - I.e., PS 145 continued its Spanish and Russian DL programs this year - less kids
- How will spacing be handled this fall?
 - Who makes the decision? Is there more room? Are decisions too conservative?
- Anthony suggested making a list of topics to discuss with Mr. Lopez
 - GT decision (timing, notification, option to reverse?)
 - Fall tracks for current students
 - Spacing of students / other obstacles?
 - It seems many remote families expect full in-person in the fall - many of those who stayed remote in the spring did so to not change teachers
 - Remote option possibly run separately by DOE?
 - Importance of “reporting out” what happens at SLT
 - Detailed agendas and minutes
 - Public Zoom link? Currently it has to be requested
 - Have agenda beforehand in order to be aware of potential discussion topics?
 - Possible discussion at Town Hall in June, also potential separate call earlier than that
- 10:45 am — Meeting adjourned