



General Meeting
September 18, 2015
9:00 A.M.

Meeting comes to order: 9:00 a.m.

Welcome/Approval of June's Minutes

Science Fair (Stephen Roylance)

Informational meeting. The orientation meeting will be held Monday, October 5th, from 8 a.m. -8:45 a.m. in the auditorium. This meeting is for parents and guardians of 3rd and 4th graders and those who want to volunteer to help with the fair. PS11 students may be dropped off in the cafeteria for supervision while the meeting takes place. Attendance is mandatory for those with children who would like to participate and for volunteers.

Background: The science fair is a highly successful new initiative at PS11. It is voluntary for 3rd and 4th graders and mandatory for 5th graders. Mr. Roylance will be helping kids in the science classroom pick out projects. Examples of last year's projects: Turning milk into decorative plastic products and how fears change with age. For more information, including a packet that students will need to fill out in order to participate, go to the website: <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11-science-fair/>

Legal Aid (Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankell, LLP)

Free legal help. This law firm has a longstanding partnership with PS11 and helps families with legal issues that threaten their children's ability to attend PS11. Among the issues they can help with are housing issues, public benefits, family law and immigration issues. They cannot represent a family in a matter against the school or in cases regarding criminal acts. They are available for consultation every Family Friday in The Ryan Center on the third floor of the building. If an issue arises for which you need immediate assistance, please contact Stephen McGill for a referral form.
<http://ps11chelsea.org/legal-services/>

President's Report (Colby Trane and Alex Levi: ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)

PS11 Website. Please check out the website regularly—it contains a full roster of what happens at the school.

PTA Recap Meetings. We will be holding a couple of PTA recap meetings in the evening for those who can't attend morning PTA meetings. The first one is Monday, September 21, at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

Nominations for open PTA Board Positions.

Members at Large. Each year we elect two people to the executive board of the PTA who are from families new to the school. These people will attend monthly executive board meetings and have a vote. Nominations and a vote were taken. The two new members at large are: Adrienne Filipov and Preeti Vasudevan

Unfilled Board Positions. We also have several unfilled board positions. Nominations are held and a vote is taken. Newly elected members of the executive board are:

Co-VP of Programs: Radhika Nagampalli

Co-Treasurer: Fran Genesi

Co-VP of Fundraising: No volunteers

VP(s) of Community Membership: Erica Hadzic and Stacy Vukelj

Amendments to the Bylaws.

-Position language. We would like to change the language describing the board position of Vice President of community membership to Vice President of Volunteer Coordination and Community Outreach. The new language is meant to make the duties of the position clearer.

-Meetings on Fridays. In the past general meetings were held on Wednesday mornings. The board voted to move the meetings to Friday mornings because many said this time was better for those in office jobs.

A vote will be taken at the next meeting on these two issues.

Principal's Report (Bob Bender)

Introduced assistant principal, Serena Mueller

The school is growing and so is the staff. We have:

937 students
43 classroom teachers
8 specialty teachers
8 intervention/enrichment teachers
2.5 speech teachers

2 occupational therapists
1 physical therapist
1 ESL teacher
2 special ed teachers
1 reading recovery teacher
1 guidance counselor
14 paraprofessionals
1 pre-k class
7 kindergarten classes
6 first grade classes
7 second grade classes
6 third grade classes
5 fourth grade classes
5 fifth grade classes

PTA support and class size. Last year the PTA wrote a check that allowed us to hire more teachers and reduce class size, creating as small a teacher to student ratio as possible. Gen ed 2nd grade classes now number about 20 students. Gen ed 1st grade classes now number under 20 students. Gen ed kindergarten classes have about 20 students.

G&T and upper grades and class size. . Upper grade classes (3-5) are still larger than those in the k-2. And the G&T program is a district-wide program and we are not able to reduce the size of those classes. As soon as a seat opens up, it has to be offered to a family on the waiting list. The class size limit is 32, and most are filled to capacity

We have tried some different avenues to solve this. A few years ago we did a lot of research about assistant teachers. I don't believe in them, and research suggests that they have very little impact on student progress. For me a highly trained, licensed teacher is the way to go.

We decided that having another teacher spend time in the classroom was a better way to go. We have a lot of teachers out on maternity leave. We have offered those teachers the ability to work 2-3 days a week. We now have seven of those teachers, and Ms Rosevear, who recently went on maternity leave, has recently agreed to come back in this capacity, five days a week, to support the third grade.

These teachers will serve in two ways—pulling kids out of the classroom to work with them individually, if they need help, or helping to elevate them, if they need a higher level of work, or pushing in—entering the classroom to support classroom teachers. The push in aspect will be directed by the classroom teacher.

School Aids, supplies, and math and literacy coaches. The PTA has also helped to pay for two additional school aids, so that there are more eyes on the kids during lunch and

recess, two full time math and literacy coaches who can push into the classroom, school supplies, and outside consultants to do math and literacy development with our teachers.

Other support. PS11 also has student teachers and literacy specialists from Teachers College and America Reads tutors from NYU. Every class will have an America Reads Tutor. They are all used by teacher choice. If a teacher wants them, we will give them to them. Every third and fourth grade teacher has a support teacher.

At the moment, all of our extra support teachers are helping us with our baseline September reading and math assessment with each student. From now through Oct. 13 you may not see them in the classrooms. They are pulling kids out one at a time to assess them. Once we get data from that, we can create schedules for kids to be pulled out and where teachers will be pushing in.

PS11 is a showcase school. Though PS11, did not apply to be a showcase school, Chancellor Carmen Farina decided that we are one of the 22 schools in the city chosen for this honor. Other schools will be touring PS11 periodically to see what we're doing.

Playgrounds. We have some physical work being done at the school. Student bathrooms have been upgraded. We are getting brand new playground flooring—the thick bouncy stuff—in hopes of preventing injuries. This will hopefully be installed during Thanksgiving week.

New alarm system. All of our doors now have alarms. If you go outdoors via any door other than the front door, the alarm will go off. Please only use the front door. If the alarm goes off, please alert the front guard or the office so that it can be re-set and so that we don't think a child did it by leaving the building.

Welcome back Potluck. Tonight is our potluck dinner in the big yard.

Parent Coordinator (Stephen McGill)

Website. Please check the PS11 website. There are new postings all the time.

The Ryan Center. They are giving out flu shots to students. All the procedures for that and the necessary forms are online to download. <http://ps11chelsea.org/school-based-health-program/>

Chess. The chess team is currently holding tryouts.

Fifth grade parents. All of the school tours are being announced on the website.

New York City School Accounts. This is the new ARIS, i.e. how you find out if the demographic information the DOE has for child is correct and where you can check test scores. See Mr. McGill for more information.

First day packets. Hopefully you sent back the forms signed, including the school food application (online or on paper). Every family has to complete that form whether or not you send them to school with home lunch or they are eating school lunch

Family Friday. Next Friday, September 25th, is our first family Friday. Legal aid will be here in The Ryan Center for families who need legal advice.

SLT Report (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn: edrps1secretary@gmail.com)

Introductions. (Kristin Sewell) Parents who are members of the SLT introduced themselves to new members of the PTA. (Kristin Sewell, Robin Broschi, Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn, Ben Agrawal, Tori Lyon.) The SLT is comprised of equal parts parents who are elected and appointed officials, including Bob Bender and Debbie Osborne, who runs our after school program. We develop the school CEP and also sponsor family events, including tonight's potluck.

Curriculum Nights. We've changed the format on curriculum nights this year, in response to feedback we got last year. This year, K-2 math and literacy will all happen on the same night, October 8th, from 6-7:30. Math and literacy night for the upper grades (3-5) will take place on October 29th, from 6-7:30.

Book club. (Robin Broschi) Last year we read *How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough. Parents came together, as teachers had done, to read and discuss the book. And we had two more cycles afterwards with different books. Insights from this book have been incorporated into the curriculum. You can see examples of some of the ideas generated by both teachers and parents in your child's home folder.

This year we will start by reading Paul Tough again, for new parents to catch up. New books will be incorporated at a later date. The first meeting will be Oct. 5 at 9 am. We will form groups at this time. A notice will go home in the backpack. If you can't attend, you can still be a part of a group.

Budget Report (Michael Goldman: ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)

*Numbers available upon request

Robotics. The robotics team is not part of the current budget. The team presented a budget indicating anticipated revenues and expenses. A vote was taken to approve the PTA funding the team for a maximum of \$2,000.00. Vote was unanimous in favor.

Fundraising Report (Sienam Lulla: ps11annualfund@gmail.com)

Annual Fund kickoff and details. We have a full match for 30k if 50% of PS11 families give to the annual fund by December 15th. Please give what you are comfortable with to get us to the 50% mark by December 15. We have two interesting rewards. The class that gets 50% participation by Dec. 15 gets 15 extra minutes for recess. The classroom that gets to 100% participation gets an ice cream sandwich making and eating party.

Comedy for a Cause. (Dara Gottfried). This is a comedy show started three years ago by Dara and her husband, Gilbert Gottfried. It has been hugely successful, sell-out event featuring top comedians. This year, the event will be held on Tuesday Feb. 9th The first planning meeting will be held on the 28th of September, after drop off. Comedy for a Cause kids is another event geared toward families. It will happen the Saturday before the big show, here at PS11 in the auditorium.

Paddle 8. (Susanne Carbin, Jay Lehman) This is an online art fundraiser for which pieces of art are donated and sold, with proceeds going to the school. There is a list going around for anyone who wants to volunteer.

Membership Report (Erica Hadzic: ps11volunteer@gmail.com)

11 for 11. This is a new volunteer campaign. Please put in 11 hours of volunteer time for PS11. We're going to be doing a lot to educate people on the ideas of volunteerism. We use that idea very broadly. We can be creative with what parents do to help the school. If you go to the PS11 website, on the right hand side of the home page, there is a bright green volunteer button. Please press it. That will take you to information on how you can help us. Please fill out the volunteer survey. It will help us understand what your skills are and how we can reach you.

Events Report (Liz Willette Danneels: ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)

New Parent Social. Will take place October 1st from 6:30 to 8:30. Bring a dessert or appetizer. It's a great way to get to know other incoming parents and about the school. St Peter's Episcopal Church, 346 W 20th St, New York NY.

Fairway. We have a community relationship with Fairway. If you go to the website and click on Fairway and fill out the form you will receive a card you can swipe every time you shop there. Three percent of everything you spend comes back to our school. Get as many cards as you want and give to family and neighbors.

Fall Festival. (Dan Ryan) Oct. 17th 11-4. This is Fall's largest community event. It is a great opportunity for volunteers. There are some forms going around the meeting. Also next Friday we will send out an email blast with volunteer spots we need to fill. The fair will feature bouncy castles, arts and crafts, face painting and tattoos, a chess-a-thon, bake sale, popcorn, raffle prizes, food and drink and an Etsy Street Fair out front. Proceeds all go to the PS11 PTA.

Programs Report (Program Chairs: ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)

Chess Team. It's doing great. They have had tryouts the last few days. If you are interested in the program there is information on the website. Or contact chelseachessmates@gmail.com.

Lost and Found. You can visit it after drop off. You will be allowed in if you show your ID. You will not be allowed in at dismissal until 3:30. You can also visit it during Family Friday and PTA meetings. Please label with first and last name and class number. If you do, items will come back to you. It's organized every week, and you have about two weeks to retrieve items before they are donated. We need three volunteers to spend an hour once every two weeks from 9-10 to manage the items.

Farm to Table. We have a meeting Oct. 2nd at 9 am. Volunteers will work with the chickens, cook, garden with the kids, and help with harvest day. If you have ½ hour after you drop off your child, please take a quick look at the garden and pick up stuff kids have thrown in the garden. The chickens are let out for a little awhile when we clean the pen and they eat whatever they find in the garden. If you have five minutes, ten minutes clean a bit of the garden that is a big help. ps11garden@gmail.com

Library. The library is 100% volunteer run. We need parents. The two shifts are 9-12 and 12-3. It involves working with kids, reading to smaller kids and helping them find books. We ask that you don't volunteer for your own child's class because it can be disruptive to the class. ps11library@gmail.com

Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee is for 4th and 5th graders. It's really helpful to have parent volunteers with children in lower grades on Oct 14 and 15th to help score the spelling, because-- we don't want to correct our own child's qualifying tests. We could use help. You can click on the website. An email blast also went out. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Kbi2W6Poh8d48ecmR3RcrPVRkUyywsLMcHtl8OjbRsI/viewform>

Communications Report. (Sonal Patel: ptaps11@gmail.com))

New PTA Email Format. We will be sending out one email weekly on Fridays that will include all important dates for the upcoming week. This requires a lot of coordination and cooperation. If you want something to be included, we need the information Wednesday by 5 p.m. to be included in that Friday's blast.

Adjournment: 10:34 a.m.