



**General Meeting
October 16, 2015
9 a.m.**

Meeting came to order: 9:05 a.m.

Welcome/Approval of September Minutes. September minutes are approved by a general vote of the membership.

Principal's Report (Bob Bender)

Activities Are Gearing Up. There are a number of things going on in the school. Among them: Kindergarten has started their education in dance program. Third grade has started their Circle in the Square Playwriting program. Chess has started for second grade. Third grade is rehearsing their Thanksgiving play and the fifth grade is beginning rehearsals for Shrek.

Showcase Visit. We are preparing for our first showcase visit in early November.

Parent Teacher Conferences. They are coming up the first week of November. The format will be a bit different than in previous years. Usually, teachers do a formal round of assessments in September and another round just before parent teacher conferences. However because we had so few instructional days in September, teachers have only just finished the first round of assessments. It doesn't make sense to do it again before the upcoming conferences. In your conferences, you will see assessments for September. In December, just before the holiday break, portfolios will come home and you will see assessments for December. After that, we'll be back on track on a normal assessment schedule with formal assessments every six weeks.

Thank you for parent help. This building is brimming with family volunteers. Everywhere I look, I see tons of parents taking time out of their schedules to get stuff done for the kids. This building would not function without you and I am very grateful. Thank you.

Presidents' Report (Alex Levi and Colby Trane) ps11ptapresident@gmail.com

Open position for co-vice president of fundraising. A call is made for people who would like to fill the open position on the PTA executive board as co-vice president of fundraising. Santhi Yartagadde volunteers and gives a brief speech. A vote is taken. Santhi is elected unanimously.

Touch Base Meetings. We invited parents to touch base with us on Monday, September 21st in the evening at the school. The event was intended to give parents that cannot attend the morning general PTA meetings a chance to get updated on the PTAs activities. We would like to schedule these more regularly as the event helped us connect to more parents. We will figure out dates and report back.

Bylaws. Last month we proposed two changes in the language of the bylaws in preparation for a vote this meeting.

-Change 1: A motion was made to change the job description of 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. A vote is taken. The motion is passed unanimously.

-Change 2: A motion was made to change the monthly PTA meeting from every third Wednesday of the month to every third Friday of the month, because many people say office schedules are more conducive to attending Friday meetings. A vote is taken. The motion is passed unanimously.

-An additional motion. An additional motion is proposed, to be voted upon during the next meeting. The motion: To change the language regarding family donations to the annual fund from “each family shall be requested to make a voluntary donation of \$500” to “each family shall be requested to make a voluntary donation of \$500 per student.” This will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Membership Report (Erica Ruben Hadzic & Stacey Vukelj)
Ps11volunteers@gmail.com

11 for 11. This is our new slogan with regard to volunteerism at PS11. We are asking each parent to volunteer eleven hours of their time a year to PS11.

Online survey. We have a new survey we are asking every parent to fill out. It will help us better match your schedules and interests to volunteer opportunities at the school. You can take it online on the school website. There is a green button on the right hand side of the page. Click on it to go to the volunteer page, where you can take the survey and find out about volunteer opportunities.

Fall Festival. We are circulating some sign up sheets. If you can't commit because life is up in the air, you can show up and volunteer. I will be at the volunteer sign in table inside

the cafeteria. If you have 20 minutes, let me know. I will put you in a short slot to help someone out.

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

New Parent Social. It was well attended and went very well.

Magazine fundraiser. You should have gotten a packet for the student fundraiser, selling magazines, in your folder. You can use it buy new magazines or renew old subscriptions. To renew, place the magazine in your cart, online, as if you are ordering it, and click the “this is a renewal” box. Please spread the word to relatives and co-workers.

Fairway. 3% of what you spend at Fairways in the city goes back to our school when you show them your Fairway card. To get a card, go to the website, click on Fairway, fill in your information, and we will send you a card.

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

Annual Fund. We are at almost 20% participation. We need your help to get to 50% in the next two months, in order to qualify for a match.

Comedy for a Cause. They are soliciting auction items. Tickets to events and meetings with people sell very well. If you have questions or idea, please email (ps11comedyforacause@gmail.com).

Paddle 8. The art auction team for Paddle 8 will meet in November. Send an email (jay@morganlehmgallery.com) if want to be involved.

Spring Match. If you are thinking of donating 5k or more to the annual fund, please send us an email (ps11annualfund@gmail.com). We are working on a Spring match.

Scholastic Book Fair. It will run from Oct 26 through Friday, Oct. 30th. Please put money in a baggie labeled with your child’s name in their bag on the day designated for their class to attend. For families for whom this is a hardship, or those who forget, the PTA will offer vouchers for up to \$8 so that no child leaves without a book. There will be a collection bank at the register to help support this effort. If you are able to donate the change from the money you give your child, please do so. The online fair will go longer than the one in the school. Children will be able to pre-order the new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Books will be delivered to the school when they arrive. Volunteers are needed to help set up the fair and sell books. People with retail and merchandise backgrounds are especially needed.

Antonio Prieto Salon. This salon will be offering deeply discounted services to all PS11 friends and families every Tuesday and Wednesday in November. All proceeds will also be donated to PS11.

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

Digest. We've been sending out a weekly email digest with important events for the next week every Friday morning. If you're not getting them, look in your spam folder. You can drag the email back into your primary folder or approve the PTA as a sender to avoid that. If you have anything you'd like included in the digest, please send it to us by Wednesday.

Programs Report (Program Chairs) ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com

Garden. Nov. 7th from 10-3 is a garden work day. You can bring kids along.

Chickens. A crew of volunteers rebuilt the chicken coop on Columbus Day.

Chess. PS11 hosted a Chess in the Schools tournament on Columbus Day. Over 700 kids throughout the city attended. Our rookie team placed 3rd out of 30 schools and our novice team placed 4th out of 30 schools. We also had ten individual medals. Tomorrow at Fall Festival the team will be playing out in front of the school against anyone who wants to play them for a \$5 donation.

Spelling Bee. We had a bee yesterday at PS11. Two fourth graders are moving on to the school bee in November. Thanks to all the parents who helped out. We need more of you for November. The event will be Wednesday, Nov. 18th from 6:30 p.m. until about 9. The three top fifth graders from the November bee will move on to the district bee in January.

Library. We need volunteers. There are shifts available during the week.
(ps11library@gmail.com)

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

Budget overview. We are about 1/8th of the way toward our goal for the annual fund.

Swimming costs. The cost for swimming has risen from 15k to 18k because there's more demand for swimming due to our expanded school numbers, particularly in the 2nd and 3rd grade. We are required by law to have an additional lifeguard on duty during these times.

SLT Report. (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn) edrps11secretary@gmail.com

Book Club. The parent book club is in progress again. We are re-reading Paul Tough's *How Children Succeed* again, for those who missed it last year or those who are new to the school. If you would like to join, please email the SLT (ps11slt@gmail.com) to be placed in a group. When this book is done, we'll be starting a new book.

Curriculum Night. Curriculum night was October 8th. It was a new format this year. We did reading, writing and math all in one night for K-2. So far feedback has been very

positive. The curriculum night for the upper grades will be on Oct. 29th and will follow the same format.

75 Morton. This is a new middle school that has not yet opened in our zone. It is currently holding meetings for those from the community to weigh in on what kind of school it should be. PS3 and PS41, in our zone, have been very vocal, but PS11 has not. If you are the parent of a 3rd or 4th grader, please consider getting involved in the upcoming meetings. The next meeting is on October 20th at PS41 at 6:30 p.m. Email the SLT (ps11slt@gmail.com) for information about upcoming meetings, or check the website.

Special Guests (Crossing Guards)

We'd like you to cross at the corner in the lines, not the middle of the street. When the light gets to five, please stay on the corner and wait for the next round of pedestrian crossings. Please walk all bicycles, skateboards, and scooters across the street.

Comedy for a Cause (Dara Gottfried)

Charity Buzz. The online auction site we use for Comedy for a Cause is about to get a lot of national press, and people will be looking at online auction items. Please get in touch if you have items or ideas for items, or contacts for tickets, etc. that we can put on the site and raise money for the school.

Parents' Night Out. We're organizing a parents' night out at Sid's Gold Request Room (165 W. 26th Street, between 6th and 7th), Wednesday October 21st at 8:30 p.m. It was organized for 1st grade parents, but parents from all grades are welcome.

Meeting Adjourns: 9:55 a.m.