



**General Meeting
November 20, 2015, 9 a.m.
DRAFT**

Meeting Commences 9:04 a.m.

Approval of October's Minutes

Principal's Report (Bob Bender)

Spelling bee. Thank you to Kimberly for an amazing spelling bee. We have three spellers going to district finals.

Chess. First, second and third graders are going to get chess instruction in class. The Monday after Thanksgiving, we have a new online chess initiative launching. Chess NYC, the organization that coaches our chess team and teaches the afterschool chess class, has created a username and password for all kids at PS11. On the Monday after the Thanksgiving break, Chess NYC will come in and do a ten minute demo in class to show the children how to log in. This will allow them to play the game and do chess puzzles online, just like the kids on the chess team do. It will also allow the people at Chess NYC to identify kids who are doing well so that we can invite them to join the chess team. Information will be going home in book bags.

Third grade Thanksgiving show. It will take place on Wednesday. Families are invited to the 9:45 a.m. show. Kids will see the afternoon show.

Fifth grade Show. This year's show will be Shrek. Wednesday the kids will find out who is playing Shrek.

Matilda. On Dec. 2nd we are taking the Fifth grade kids to see Matilda on Broadway. (The PTA is paying for this.)

Math professional development sessions. We have math professionals working with the teachers. We have implemented math journaling for kids. The work is incredible. Ask your child about their math journal.

Ms. Rosevear. She is coming back full time from maternity leave. She's going to help reduce class size. Beginning Nov. 30th there will be more periods in which Ms. Dale and Ms. Rosevear will be pushing in to second and third grade G&T classrooms. We will see that impact immediately.

School IDs. A lot of time and thought went into them. You must bring them. Especially with what's happening in the world. It is to make sure kids are safe at all times. If it is a large event, like PTA meeting or Family Friday, and I'm allowing you to come into the building, you don't have to sign in. But if you or one or two people are coming in the building, you must sign in. If anything were to happen in this building we need a record of who was in the building.

World Events. I believe families should have the power to decide what their children know. There are many children whose parents don't let them watch the news or read the paper. Other parents think it's important for kids to know about world events. We are not addressing these events, on a school level. Unless an event has impacted our school directly, we are not going to have class meetings about worldwide catastrophes. If a child brings it up, however, we are prepared to talk to a child about that event.

Parent Coordinator's Report (Stephen McGill)

Photo retake day is Dec. 2nd. If you have any issues with photos received from photo day, the instructions are on the website as to what to do. It is important for you to know it will be on Dec 2nd.

Kindergarten applications. If you have a kindergarten student for next September 2016, please go online right now and sign up for the alerts. Applications go live Dec 7th on the DOE website.

Fifth grade parents. Middle school applications are due back to classroom teachers on Dec. 2nd.

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

Vote on bylaws. A vote was taken on the proposed change in language 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." The vote was passed unanimously.

Auction and Gala 2016. We need a co-chair for the auction position. **As of now** the kick off meeting for the gala and auction is planned for December 16th at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Touch base meetings. We will be holding touch base meetings for people who can't attend the morning PTA meetings every other month at 6:30 p.m. They will generally be held the Monday after the Friday meetings.

Community involvement. We have a new middle school, **75 Morton Street**, a 900 seat middle school in our neighborhood, coming as well as Pier 55, a new island being built in the middle of the Hudson River that is purported to have parks and areas good for kids and families. We'd like to get PS11 parents more involved in the planning for these kinds

of community services/events. On Dec. 16th we will hold an evening meeting here, at PS11, re: 75 Morton Street. We hope to get a good show of representation by PS11 parents. We pushed to make this meeting happen. We need to get the word out.

No bums on the mums. Please don't sit on the planters in front of the school that have been surrounded by wire. The flowers planted by the garden committee are getting squashed and ruined.

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

Match. We hit the 50% participation goal for the annual fund to get the 30K match. As of today we are at 56% school participation. We already have 2 classes at 100%. Eight more classrooms are close to 100% and 21 classrooms are above 50.

Comedy for a Cause. The deadline for auction donations for the February event is Dec. 16th. Flyers are going home Nov. 30th. General admission and VIP tickets will go on sale Dec. 8th at noon on Gotham's website. You can also purchase tickets for teachers there. Judy Gold is going to be hosting. Mario Cantone and Big Jay Oakerson are among the line up. We will find out about John Oliver next month. Sponsorship tables are being sold now and are almost sold out.

Scholastic Book Fair. The fair was a big success. Your children donated over \$300 in change. The PTA spent \$440 dollars so that every child could go home with a book if they did not have money that day. Over all we sold \$15,307 books at the fair and \$582 at the online fair. We take our profit in books for the school from Scholastic, and that translates into 7,777 to Scholastic dollars used to purchase books for the classrooms. The next book fair will coincide with Poetry Night in May.

Antonio Prieto. The last two days for the Antonio Prieto Salon fundraiser/discount service for PS11 are November 24th and November 25th. Mention PS11 when you book your appointment and you will get a discount. All proceeds come back to PS11.

Paddle 8. The PS11 online contemporary art auction will launch at the end of February. Last year we sold works to Australia, California, and beyond. If you're interested in helping or know artists willing to donate, please get involved in the auction committee (jay@morganlehmgallery.com).

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

Email blast. We've been doing a weekly email blast and we are working on a more mobile friendly version of it. We'd love feedback.

Programs Report (Corinne Piscariu, Radhika Nagampalli & Program chairs)

Young Artists. We had the initial meeting. There was a good turn out and it looks like we'll be able to offer more spots than last year.

Spelling Bee. The bee was great. Three kids are moving on to the district bee in January. Every district has their own. It's for 5th through 8th graders. Last year one of our fifth grades moved on from district to city. We need another person to help run this next year (ps11chelsea.bee@gmail.com)

Chess Team. The National Chess Championships are the first week in December. We have 12 students from PS11 attending. We have a strong 4th grade team. We had a coffee/snack fundraiser last Family Friday and it was very successful. We're going to try and do it again next Wednesday. Please stop by and buy coffee and donuts. We're excited about Chess NYC making the chess app available to all PS11 students. All of the chess team students do it every week and they really enjoy it (chelseachessmates@gmail.com).

Farm to Table. Thanks to everyone who helped in rebuilding the chicken coop in October. We also had a work day Nov. 7th that was fantastic. This year's kindergarten students just harvested the potatoes planted for them by the previous year's kindergarteners. The third graders harvested some herbs that will be sold at the farm market. The Garden committee could use some more volunteers (ps11farmtotablegroup@gmail.com).

Science Fair. It's trucking along.

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

***numbers available upon request**

Membership Report (Erica Ruben Hadzic & Stacey Vukelj: ps11voluneer@gmail.com)

Fall Festival. Thanks for help with fall festival. It was a big success.

Volunteer Survey. Please fill out the volunteer survey on the web page so we know what interests you.

Let us know if you need volunteers ASAP. We're trying to collect everybody's wish list now for the whole year. Send requests now and we will get it into the volunteer spot system get it well described. That information will come to me and I will be able to extract parents email addresses and names who may be interested in your volunteer needs and either give you those lists and/or support you with phone calls or emails to those parents.

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

Fall Festival and the magazine fund drive. Both were successful
*numbers available upon request.

Fairway. Go to the website to get a swipe card so that a portion of purchases goes to PS11. Tuesday Dec. 1st is a double day. We get double points that day.

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

Curriculum Connection. The first one will be held Dec. 9th at 8 a.m. (Childcare provided.) It will be focused on notebooking, reading and writing in grades 3-5.

Book club. Dec. 3rd is the kick off for the new book club book. The new book is *Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking*. We have a very broad array of learners and it's important to empower kids in a school setting that may be more about extroverts. We'll be seeing what grit looks like to an introvert. People will be grouped at the first meeting. Your group can meet at any time. You can also read the book on your own.

Meeting adjourns: 9:58 a.m.