

PTA General Meeting

October 21, 2016

9:00am

1. **Welcome / Approval of September Minutes**
 - Alex called for the approval of the September minutes.
 - Minutes were approved.

2. **President's Report** - Alex Levi and Mike Farrah (ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)
 - Nominations for open Board positions. Sellers Kennington was nominated for the position of VP of Membership. Sellers Kennington was voted in.
 - Alex introduced the two chairs of the PS11 auction Julia and Christina. Chairs discussed the auction and said there will be a lot more information to come.
 - The PTA is looking for parent volunteers to facilitate physical fitness activities. These activities will take place before school starts.

3. **Principal's Report** - Bob Bender
 - As of today, student enrollment is 932.
 - Parent-Teacher conferences are coming up. Please sign-up with your teacher.
 - The weather is starting to change. Students go outside for recess except for inclement weather. Please make sure your student wears appropriate clothing. Put your child's name on all outerwear. If a name is on your child's clothing, you will get it back.
 - The Kind Bar Company is starting a brand new initiative that pairs up different elementary schools to foster empathy. PS11 will be partnered with a school in Arkansas. Two of our 3rd grade classes and two 4th grade classes will participate.
 - PS11 is implementing a new initiative to help introverted students find quiet places to recharge. There will be a designated quiet lunch space in the cafeteria. Parent volunteers are needed to assist. Parents who practice meditation and mindfulness are preferred.

4. **Parent Coordinator's Report** - Stephen McGill
No report.

5. **SLT Report** - Robin Broshi
 - There was an SLT meeting on Tuesday.
 - Curriculum Nights were the most successful ever. There was 150 attendees each night.
 - Launching our new book club format. Three different books will be discussed. 1) How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character. Meeting date is November 30 at 8:00am/auditorium 2) The Gift of Failure. Meeting date December 6 at 8:00am/auditorium 3) Quiet Power: The Secret Strengths of Introverts. Kick-off meeting date is November 2 at 8:30am/auditorium.
 - The HOP website has been streamlined. It is easier to find resources for you to work with your child. There is a blog where parents can discuss the book of the month. Discussions take place about the book.

- A town hall meeting took place about safety issues. Someone in facilities will be putting different hardware on the cafeteria doors to make them safer.

6. **Budget Report** - Michael Goldman (ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)
 - Budget was handed out. It reflects the beginning of the month. It does not include a lot of the fundraising that has taken place. Talked about revenue to date. We are on track.
7. **Fundraising Report** - Sienam Lulla and Kate Daly (ps11annualfund@gmail.com)
 - Sent out emails regarding the 25K match with 50% annual fund participation.
 - We have raised 77K to date. That is only 20% of our annual fund goal. Need donations from families. We are asking for \$500 per student to meet our fundraising goal.
 - Corporate matches - check out the companies that are on our list. If you are part of a company that is not on the list, please let us know.
 - **Comedy for a Cause:** Comedy for a Cause is one of our biggest fundraisers. 1. Charity Buzz, online auction. These items go for a lot of money. Experiences or meetings are needed. 2) sponsorship tables, 2k 8k 10k going fast. Tickets going on sale December 6th. Flyers will be going home soon. Tickets sell out within hours. 3) We are looking for volunteers. There are so many ways to help out.
 - **Paddle 8:** This is an art auction. There will be a meeting in a few weeks. If you are connected to a gallery, please let us know.
8. **Membership Report** - Robin Lockwood (ps11volunteer@gmail.com)
 - Discussed the 11 for 11 Initiative. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to the link on the PS11 website for myriad ways you can volunteer.
 - Take the parent volunteer survey to let us know what you are interested in doing. You will only be contacted based on your interests.
9. **Events Report** - Liz Willette Danneels & Santhi Yarlagadda (ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)
 - **Fall Festival Recap:** The event went really well. It was very successful and the vendors were happy.
 - **Art to Remember:** Self-portrait student fundraiser. Deadline to order items is Tuesday, October 25th.
10. **Programs Report** - Adrienne Filipov & Carrie Beth Griffith (ptaps11programs@gmail.com)
 - **Fairway Cards:** If you need a fairway card, go to the PS11 website and click on the Fairway icon.
 - **Chess Team:** The Chelsea Chessmates participated in the Columbus Day chess tournament. Over 700 students from all over the city participated. PS11 won two 1st places, a 3rd place and a 4th place. Check out the chess team on our website.
 - **Farm to Table:** 1) Volunteer meeting Tuesday, October 25th, 8:50am/Cafeteria. 2) Fall Clean-up and Work Day, November 5th, 10:00am-2:00pm.
 - **Spelling Bees:** 1) 4th Grade Spelling Bee, Monday, October 24th. 2) 5th Grade Spelling Bee, Tuesday, November 15th, 6pm/auditorium.
 - **PS11 Newspaper:** Application are due October 21st. 2nd-5th graders welcome to apply.

- **Young Artists Program:** 1) This is the 4th year for the program. Each week, a small group of children will meet with a parent mentor to learn and create. At the end of eight classes, each child will select a piece of artwork to display in a show. 1st-5th graders only. 2) We are looking for parent volunteers to facilitate the classes. If you are interested, please attend an informational meeting Wednesday, October 26th, 9am/cafeteria. 3) Especially need volunteers for lunchtime classes 4) If you have a connection to an art gallery, please let us know.
- **Book Fair:** October 24-October 28. If you want your child to buy books, please send in money in a plastic baggie clearly marked with your child's name. Your child can donate change to All For Books.

11. Communications Report - Michael Walsh and Aarti Sanan (ptaps11@gmail.com)

- Michael discussed weekly emails. Please READ them! Find somebody that wasn't at the meeting and ask them if they read the email. There is a lot of information and this is a great way to see what is going on at school.
- There is a new web team working on the PS11 website. Feedback is welcome.

Adjournment - 9:55am