



P.S. / I.S. 276 PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION INC.

General Meeting Minutes
 Friday, September 25, 2020
 3:07 pm - 4:05 pm
 Virtual Zoom Meeting

Executive Board Members 2019-2020		
Co-Presidents	Melinda Orlic-Katsiris	Tammy Meltzer
Treasurer	Fatima Galarraga	Shonali Gupta
Co-Assistant Treasurer	Stephanie Ranft	Amy Mofenson
Co-VP Fundraising	Julie O'Donnell	Ashlee Wolfe
Co-VP Communications	Christy Knettel	Nicole Joy Elmgart
Co-VP Parent Relations	Kathleen Sidell	Megan Smyser
Co-Secretaries	Jacky Goldman	
PS/IS 276 School Principal	Terri Ruyter	

I. Call to Order: 3:07 PM (Melinda Orlic-Katsiris & Tammy Meltzer)

- Welcome and brief reminder of Zoom protocols (please stay muted, use the chat feature to ask questions and send to everyone)

II. Approval of June General PTA Meeting Minutes

- Approval of June minutes tabled for now due to Secretary position turnover

III. PS/IS 276 Principal's Report (Terri Ruyter)

- Thank you to the PTA for providing lunch for the staff on Wednesday. It was much appreciated.
- Introduction to the administration staff for the 2020-2021 school year
 - Dr. Nico Victorino, Middle School assistant principal - Congrats to Nico who got his doctorate over the summer!
 - Grace How, appointed assistant principal, grades 3-5, technology - Welcome to Grace, appointed by the DOE for our school this year to help.
 - Alexis Hoffman, lower school assistant principal, preK-2 - Welcome back Alexis!
- Communication
 - The school website is updated consistently. Please follow the link to the distance learning guide here and the school calendar for detailed information.
 - The grade level websites are also helpful pieces of information and are

- consistently updated.
- Don't forget to sign up for the Remind App so that you can be informed if school goes fully remote or there is another school wide message for Terri to relay.
- Make sure you are receiving and please read the emails from Sabrina and the PTA for helpful updates.
- Safety
 - Ventilation - 100% air exchange (in and out). The school is in good condition to open.
 - There is PPE in place throughout the school.
 - There are Purell dispensers in classrooms and in the halls.
 - Students and staff will maintain safe social distance.
 - Everyone is required to wear a mask in the school building.
 - All families will be given a digital thermometer.
- Technology
 - The school is working on setting up technology for families. A reminder to please have parents set-up the email accounts for their students with both their bpcschool account and the NYCDOE email address. Not having both of these accounts is impeding instruction, so please sign your child up ASAP if you haven't already.
 - The school has received a grant for \$50,000 which we are using to buy computers.
 - Everyone continues to work through platform issues. Thank you for your continued patience. Please remember everyone is struggling with this. The school is mindful of parent/student stress and frustration. Please also be mindful of teacher stress and frustration.
- Programming
 - State and city mandates in programming - What we have to offer - PE, art, synchronous minutes, core academic subjects, Social Emotional learning
 - Staff constraints - some teachers are working remotely with accommodations and some who are at school)
 - The schedules are complex and interrelated.
 - Pods, learning from different time zones, parent work schedules are all family concerns but the school is unable to switch schedules around to accommodate specific family needs.
- Respectful requests
 - Unless adults are invited, students are to be the only people on the Zoom call. This is partly for legal purposes but also for student independence.
 - Students need space from their parents, opportunity to develop independence, privacy from other adults in order to make and learn from mistakes, and a classroom space for classroom community members.
 - The role of a teacher is to teach the students, not to train the tutors. Teachers need time to develop relationships with students and to assess skills, habits and passions.

- Calendar reminder
 - No school on Monday, September 28, 2020. School will resume on Tuesday, September 29 and we will be following the hybrid schedule.
- SHSAT and high school applications
 - We are awaiting SHSAT updates
 - If you have questions, some resources for help are the high school admissions email list, explore the MySchools high school directory online, visit the school website to read the latest updates, watch the high school admissions video series and read the High school admission guide online.
- Barnes and Noble Book Fair
 - There will be a Barnes and Noble Book Fair on Oct. 25-31st. A portion of the proceeds from items you purchase in the Tribeca store or online with the code will benefit PS/IS 276.

IV. Co-Presidents' Report (Melinda Orlic-Katsiris & Tammy Meltzer)

- Welcome to the PTA and brief introductions of Presidents and EB positions.
- Next PTA Meeting will be held on Friday, October 23. A poll will be presented at the end of this meeting so that you can vote on the time (8 am, 8:30 am, 5 pm, 5:30 pm).
- Don't forget to go onto Membership Toolkit to sign up or update your information for this school year. This is how you are able to receive eNews emails from the PTA, give donations, purchase tickets and apparel, so please sign up for MTK. You can also sign up to become a grade level parent or other volunteer through MTK.
- EB elections for this year will be held at some point this fall. If you are interested in joining the EB you can nominate yourself or a friend. We are looking for a co-treasurer, a co-assistant treasurer, a co-vice president of fundraising. The EB positions and responsibilities will be posted on the school website.
- Thank you to Tammy for organizing the PTA appreciation lunch for the teachers and staff this past Wednesday.

V. Treasurer's Report (Shonali Gupta)

- Overview of budget for the 2020-2021 school year. This year the budget is unique because of the pandemic. We were unable to hold the school auction in the spring, which brings about 20% of the PTA income each year. This year the budget was made that hopes to preserve most of our programming.
- Overview of PTA Budget for the year.
- Overview of net income (fundraisers, community events, Amazon purchases).

VI. New Business (Melinda Orlic-Katsiris)

- Volunteers needed for the school website, photo day, fundraising.
- All ideas are welcome for fundraising this year. Please share your ideas!
- The first clothing drive of the year has not been scheduled yet. In the meantime, there is a link on the school website where you can donate supplies for the URI children in need.

VII. SLT Update(Preeti Priya)

- There are open seats on the SLT team for the 2020-2021 school year. Volunteers are needed for the tech committee, diversity and inclusion committee.
- SLT met throughout the summer to discuss school safety protocols and last minute DOE changes.
- Parents are allowed to listen in to the SLT Zoom meetings.

VIII. Committee and Project Reports (Melinda Orlic-Katsiris & Tammy Meltzer)

- Volunteers needed
 - Please volunteer for grade level parents, photo day, Run for Knowledge, outside events, yearbooks and more.
- Communication
 - The PTA eNews will be sent every 2 weeks instead of weekly. Please update your info or sign up for Membership Toolkit so that you are receiving the eNews emails.
 - P-EBT Cards - Did you receive yours? If you had a child enrolled in public school in the spring you were unable to receive food (breakfast and lunch) in school because of the pandemic. The government has sent out Pandemic Electronic Balance Transfer cards (P-EBT) that have a \$420 value. You can use this to purchase food. You can use it and/or donate some portion of the money to the school.
- Fundraising and Community Building
 - Please share your ideas!!
- Let's stay connected - please email the PTA and/or visit the school website or PTA Facebook page for more info.

IX. Poll (Tammy Meltzer)

- Attendees were asked to complete the poll for the time that works best for them for the next General PTA meeting in October (8 am, 8:30 am, 5 pm, 5:30 pm)
 - The result of the poll was that 8 am is the best time, with 5/5:30 being the runners up.
 - The Friday, October 23 meeting will be held at 8 am.

X. Adjournment of Meeting: 4:05 pm