

PTA Meeting
September 17, 2019
Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

PTA President Jodi Heywood opened the meeting with a motion to begin and it was seconded by Rachel Gallagher.

PTA Report by Co-Presidents Danielle Pomerantz and Jodi Heywood

- Introductions & thank you to administration for a smooth start to the school year.
- Treasurer Report – Distributed approved budget and projected fundraisers.

There will be voting on events at PTA meetings in the upcoming months.

- Motion to add second treasurer – Michele Kourbage.

Jodi Heywood – motioned. Rachel Gallagher – 2nd the motion

Now a 5013 status so a second treasurer will be helpful.

- Dues \$50 – Pay by cash, check or through Cheddar Up.

All those who paid will be entered to win a stay at Kalahari.

After tonight's meeting, there will be a raffle for a Regal Theater gift card. Each PTA meeting will include a raffle for those in attendance.

- Pop Drop Off – special male figure dropping off the students

This was a success. Mr. Hicks will be making a slide show with the photos taken.

- Bake Sale 10/30

Volunteer schedule and notice of when to send in treats will be sent home.

- Ice-cream Friday – Michele Kourbage will post the sign up on Facebook.

Many parents want an opportunity so be mindful when signing up.

- GO store is opening.

- Reminders, minutes and other information – on Facebook, website and Remind.

- Amazon Smile

Go to smileamazon.com - 5% of money spent will be donated to the school.

- Marie Maloney – created logo for PTA correspondences.

- Fall Festival – 10/18 More information to follow.

- School Picture Day – 10/24 & 25

10/24 – class photo day, uniform is required

10/25 – individual photo day, uniform is optional. This is the photo that will go in the yearbook.

Volunteers are needed for 10/24. (Volunteer sheet was available at the meeting. However, you can still volunteer if interested.)

Retake picture day will not be posted until all original photos are distributed.

- Fall Festival – Afterschool event for families. Costume optional.

- Halloween school parade – Halloween morning classes walk around the block of the school.

Children dress in costume.

- Turkey Trot – 11/24

- Volunteers are needed for events.

Google form has a list of events and an option to volunteer. Will be posted on Facebook and Remind.

Principals' Report – Elizabeth Welsome

- Thank you to PTA board. She welcomed all parents to volunteer and attend PTA meetings.
- Introduced herself, named new staff members hired over the summer.
- 5th grade is currently 4 classes due to overcrowded classes last school year. Parents and administration fought for the 4th class and succeeded.
- School has been cited by the state due to chronic absences. <90% average. Students miss 5 or 6 consecutive days of school due to vacation. Understands that airfare is cheaper but encourages families to vacation during school breaks. The Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) of the school will include a goal on improving absences. It was discussed at School Leadership that incentives may be put in place. Reminder that Middle School and High School applications factor in attendance.
- Good news regarding state test scores. Data.nysed.gov
School percentages of proficiency (level 3 or 4) went up in both ELA and Math, including Special Education students. In ELA we are 2nd in the district and 3rd in the district for math.
- State science exam data will be shared at another meeting.
- Focus on Productive Struggle. Administration noticed students were giving up quickly when challenged. Teachers were scaffolding so much activities became easy for students so when support was taken away they didn't know what to do. Students should learn to try and try again and again and to persevere when something is difficult.
Students should take ownership, have some choice, be given formative assessments throughout lessons, and given feedback from teachers and peers.
- Teachers College is partnering with our school. Next week on site professional development in the classrooms. Some professional development at Teachers College.
- Algebra For All – grades K-8
Provides a deeper understanding of math, different from the traditional way math was taught.
- K-5 will be using Envision, no longer Go Math. The city changed their contract so using Go Math would be too expensive. It will be used as a supplement and taught alongside the standards. Every page in the workbook may not be completed because it is a supplement.
- Meet the teacher night was a success.
- Glee Club auditions tomorrow.
- Band auditions have begun.
- Regents class will begin in Living Environment and Algebra.
- 5th grade Writer's – will begin Thursdays after school in October
- After school clubs – SONIC and RAA starting soon.
- Safety meeting tomorrow – tell concerns to Michele Kourbage and she will report them at the next meeting.
- Morning drop off on beach 134th street is a problem. Neighbors are not happy due to double parked cars. This is a stop, drop and roll. If you would like to get out of the car with your please park and walk a block or two to the school.
- First Dress for a Cause – 9/27
Donations usually are given to local charities.
On the 27th donations will be given to St. Baldrick's to go along with St. Francis' event Rock the Bald. On Monday morning Mrs. Welsome gave a "shout out" to our students that participated in the event and had their heads shaved.
In October the money raised will be donated to *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* because the staff has a team walking at the event. Students will wear pink. The date will be announced.

On Dress for a Cause days students are permitted to wear a specific color that supports the foundation where the money raised will be donated. They are expected to wear a uniform bottom. Usually \$600 - \$800 is raised. Each charity is voted on at School Leadership meetings. Social Emotional Committee headed by teacher Regina Restive developed a slogan – PS/MS 114 is making WAVES. Waves is an acronym representing (**W**ork together, **A**cceptance, **V**alidate each other, **E**mpathize, **S**tay flexible)

- Students will be highlighted and recognized for working together.
- Parent Jean Belford shared that a Census meeting is next Tuesday 9/24 at PS 183 and asked if the school would be recognizing the climate strike. Mrs. Welsome said that nothing had been planned or will be done.
- A parent asked a question regarding the math program. Pearson (the company that writes the new math program) writes the New York State math test. Perhaps this program will be more unlined with the state exam. Mrs. Welsome does not know why the city made the switch of the math programs.

Jodi Heywood motioned to end the meeting and Lori Creamer 2nd the motion.

