



## PS 705 PTA MINUTES

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting in auditorium called to order by Kelly Bare at 6:15 PM.

### 2. ICEBREAKER

Diversity Committee members Lillian Colson and Eric Haber asked PTA members to form small groups. These small groups discussed their commonalities and “uniquities” then shared them with the larger group.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

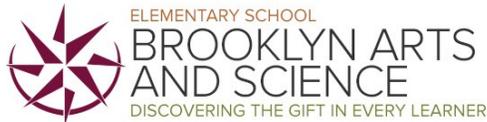
Reading of minutes by Mai Hoang and approval of minutes

### 4. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Our application for **501(c)(3) status** is moving along. Paperwork almost done.
- A recruiting effort for **English Language Learners (ELL)** is underway (led by Liz Maldonado).
- **Learning Leaders** update. LLs are trained and certified volunteers who help out in public school classrooms, front offices, etc. Kelly encourages PTA members to attend trainings. Training can be held at PS 705, perhaps even on a weekend, if we get 10 or more people signed up. Otherwise, training will take place elsewhere. More on LL: <http://www.learningleaders.org/about/>
- The **Brooklyn PTA 5K Fun Run** will be held on Saturday, May 10, in Prospect Park. School groups with 20 participants or more will share the proceeds from the event. Kelly will delegate a team captain.
- Two ongoing efforts need your support: **Boxtops for Education** drive and the **BASES bookstore**. During the meeting, Lois Davis gathered \$100 in donations for the BASES bookstore. Also a parent asked if items available at the BASES store could be screened for family-friendliness (no messy glitter products). More on BASES store: <http://www.brooklynartselementary.org/the-bases-bookstore-how-you-can-help/>  
More on Boxtops: <http://www.brooklynartselementary.org/easy-money-for-our-school/>

### 5. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

- Principal Soto said she was heartened by the **community spirit** displayed at the ‘70s Dance Party on Jan. 24 and by the strong ongoing level of parental involvement.
- A pilot program of **lunchtime chess** will begin in the spring with two classes of mixed ages (K-4). Teachers will choose which 24 students will participate. The duration will be 10 weeks, possibly broken up into two 5-five week cycles so that another round of 24 kids would get a chance.
- After Feb. 24, **Studio in a School** will begin for the upper grades.
- **Fencing** is now being offered only for the upper grades, but the program might be expanded.
- On February 14, there will be a **“For the Love of Reading” event** where everyone at the school will “drop everything and read” in the hallways. Students can wear pink, white, or red. And teachers will be sending home an announcement about Valentine’s Day celebrations/cards.
- A **birthday policy** has been introduced. **(Birthday policy will be posted to website.)**



## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- According to Richard Davis, there is no recent bank statement, so our balance is the same as last month, about **\$7,700**.
- The '70s Dance Party on Jan. 24 raised **\$884**.
- Votes were taken to (1) approve **payment of \$150** to Richard Davis for dance-party pizza; (2) approve Events Committee **request of \$150** for 2/28 Movie Night; (3) approve **\$100 reimbursement** to Amanda Barrett for art supplies, etc. used during PTA babysitting. All three passed by majority show of hands.

## 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

- **Library cleanup** on Feb. 1 was a big success. Thank you to all who participated.
- Parker Lutz spoke about a nutrition/fitness program called **Wellness in the Schools**. She shared some guidelines regarding the cafeteria: <http://www.wellnessintheschools.org/index.php/resources/schoolfood-resources/101-wellness-policy-guidelines>
- Examples include getting rid of Styrofoam trays in favor of biodegradable trays; composting leftovers; getting a salad bar and water jet; starting a school garden. Another example was getting rid of chocolate milk in the cafeteria. But there was concern that some choice should be left to families.
- It was suggested that an **ongoing dialogue** begin so that the whole community can have a voice. Principal Soto suggested that surveys be used to gauge support, perhaps at parent-teacher conferences, and that educating kids to make good choices about nutrition was key. Someone also mentioned cooking classes for kids, like the one offered by Wingspan.

### CREATIVE COMMITTEE

- The committee presented **designs for T-shirts** that can be used as uniform alternatives on Mondays. A survey of colors and sizes was circulated. Pricing of silk-screening options and T-shirts was in progress.
- The committee passed around **Habits of Mind button samples**. The buttons would be used as incentives for students as they master each Habit.
- The committee asked for an **initial outlay of \$1,000** to purchase T-shirts. A vote was taken to approve this outlay and this was passed by a majority show of hand.  
(POST-MEETING: Michael Scalfani sold 50 buttons for \$1 each.)

### EVENTS COMMITTEE

#### Upcoming events

- **Movie Night on Friday, Feb 28**, showing "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2"
- **Jump-a-thon on Saturday, March 29** (after Saturday School)
- **Spring Fling Dance Party on Friday, April 25**
- **Mother's Day event on Friday, May 9**
- **Father's Day picnic in June**

### MONEY COMMITTEE:

- The PTA will be handing off **\$7,000 to Principal Soto** to pay for Studio in a School. The IOBY account created for the Fall Appeal would be closed. The LiveStream proceeds of \$250 would also be added to this



amount. One last appeal would be held for <https://ioby.org/project/ps-705-pta-fall-appeal>. The deadline to donate will be Saturday, February 8, at midnight.

- Previous fundraising ideas: custom-art fundraisers, another Schoola event

#### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE:

- An **International Food Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 15** (after Saturday School), in conjunction with workshops about diversity.
- The **set-aside proposal** was briefly discussed. The proposal calls for de-zoning PS 705 and creating enrollment priorities for Title 1 and ELL families.
- Read the **Diversity FAQs** drafted by Appleseed: [http://www.brooklynartselementary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Appleseed\\_FAQ-Regarding-Diversity.pdf](http://www.brooklynartselementary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Appleseed_FAQ-Regarding-Diversity.pdf)
- The next Diversity Committee meeting will be Feb. 26

#### 8. SCHOOL LEADERSHIP REPORT

- Kelly gave a brief **overview of the SLT** and its evolving goals. At its inception, its four goals were (1) start the school; (2) Hit achievement benchmarks in reading; (3) Create a safe environment, where 80 percent of students say they feel safe or respected, (4) integrate Habits of Mind.
- **SLT Minutes:** <http://www.brooklynartselementary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/About-the-SLT.pdf>
- The need for an off-cycle SLT meeting was raised so that parental concerns could be raised and a **constructive dialogue with the administration** could be facilitated.
- The next **Curriculum Night will be March 18**, when the Common Core curriculum will again be discussed, along with goals for the South America study unit. **(Curriculum handouts will be made available.)**

#### POST MEETING:

Babysitting Reminder: \$5 donation to cover babysitter + pizza dinner

---

**School Website, Calendar + Blog:** [www.brooklynartselementary.org](http://www.brooklynartselementary.org)

**Subscribe to PTA's Yahoo Group – BrooklynArtsPS705:** [BrooklynArtsPS705-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BrooklynArtsPS705-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

**P.S. 705 PTA email:** [ps705pta@gmail.com](mailto:ps705pta@gmail.com)

**P.S. 705 PTA Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/PS705>

**P.S. 705 PTA Twitter page:** <https://twitter.com/PS705PTA>

#### **Executive Board Members' Contact info:**

Kelly Bare, PTA President – [kellybare@gmail.com](mailto:kellybare@gmail.com)

Bryant Archie, Vice President – [dbryantarchie@gmail.com](mailto:dbryantarchie@gmail.com)

Richard Davis, Treasurer – [legend1999@netzero.com](mailto:legend1999@netzero.com)

Mai Hoang, Co-Secretary – [minhmaihoang@yahoo.com](mailto:minhmaihoang@yahoo.com)

Michelle Mercurius, Co-Secretary – [mamercurius@gmail.com](mailto:mamercurius@gmail.com)