

PTA General Meeting: 11/13/19

Tracey opened the meeting. A parent asked about viewing the minutes from the last meeting. They requested that the last month's minutes be emailed to them. Tracey said they were available for viewing by any PTA member.

Motion to dispense with the reading of last month's minutes was passed by voice vote.

President's Report:

- K tours are 11/22 and 12/13. Eirik is leading the presentations. Need volunteers, especially Roosevelt Island residents to take prospective parents around the school and answer questions. Ms. Siegel will speak. Also looking for volunteers who speak languages other than English.
- G&T tours will be scheduled after results are released in spring
- Giving Tuesday is when Facebook matches money
  - Last year, all their matching funds had been allocated in the first 2 minutes
  - Will get together on island morning of giving tuesday to make an event out of it
    - Start at 7:45 so that can all log in at 8 AM sharp
    - Maybe at Nisi
    - Maybe coordinate with Community Service team at school to include canned food drive as part of event. So that children can participate in giving
- Annual Fund is still going. Raised \$30K so far. Want 100% participation. Shift message to encourage everyone to donate in any amount.

Treasurer's Report:

- Expenses passed by voice vote

SLT Report:

- 5 school wide improvement teams: community service, school culture, conservation and sustainability, educational resources, school community
  - School culture brings in spirit week, unity day, respect fo all, Black History Month, Women's History Month, PRIDE
  - Conservation and sustainability: recycle crayons, work on energy conservation-turning off lights, etc, grants for green roof, water bottle filters
  - School community: relationships within school, student morning announcements, teacher-buddy initiative, cross grade-level activities like older grades reading with younger grades, major challenge to schedule these activities though
  - Community service: canned food drive, letters to veterans, valentine's day visit with nursing home, wrestling team interested in doing community service as a group for team building

- Educational resources: put together the homework help website. Would like feedback on usage.

Book Fair update:

Want to try to do something in time for the holidays. Decided not to do one with Astoria bookshop because too much to set up and take down every day. Maybe online option? Barnes and Noble fair would only take place in store. Would families be willing to go to Manhattan for a book fair? Book Culture doesn't have capacity to do a book fair. Astoria Bookshop is very interested in doing a pop-up during the Cherry Blossom Festival. Reaching out to Follett about an online book fair.

If school wants to install water bottle filling stations, it has to buy filters for them through the DOE contractors. Installation must be through DOE. \$7500 to 100000. Grants are available through school sustainability team. But DOE process is long.

A parent inquired about the lead mitigation measures at the school. 3-4 years ago, there were a couple water fountains with elevated lead levels (in wrestling room and in 1 2nd grade classroom). These have been addressed. The protocol is that the school has to run the water in the morning to flush any standing water from the pipes. Parent wanted to know if this was still being done, and if the water fountains needed filters if the water had lead in it. Tracey said newly installed water fountains had to have the filter per DOE regulations, and we'd look into whether or not, the flushing protocols were still in place.

Tracey adjourned the meeting.