



Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Mark Levin
Sandra Alexandra
Co-Presidents

Rasheedah Harris
Vice President

Anatoly Garelik
Johnae Ferguson
Co-Treasurers

John Lee
Secretary

MEETING INFO - TAG PTA GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday April 13, 2021
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Virtual, via Zoom:
Meeting ID: 861 1942 0288; Passcode: 747447
Pre-registration link:
<https://nycdoe.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlsduCsrDsoEtz-JVDZTbNd9Cb2lp9XaQWA>

Attendance:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Present?</i>
Mark Levin	Co-president	Y
Sandra Alexander	Co-president	Y
Rasheedah Harris	Vice President	Y
John Lee	Secretary	Y
Anatoly Garelik	Co-treasurer	
Johnae Ferguson	Co-treasurer	
Daylym Lopez	Co-VP of Family Engagement	
Mylee Zschech	Co-VP of Family Engagement	
Elizabeth Butler	VP of Budget	Y
Felix Garcia	VP of Grants	
Steven Leshnower	VP of Audit	
Luigi Kapaj	Co-VP of Communications	Y
Marco Tomaschett	Co-VP of Communications	Y
VACANT	VP of Fundraising	--
VACANT	VP of Enrichment	--
Mr. Jonathan Dascal	Acting Principal	Y
Ms. Jennifer Cosme	Assistant Principal	Y

Quorum (minimum 2 executive board members and 6 parent members): Yes

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, President's Welcome.....6:02 PM**
- A. Call to order at 6:04
- II. President's Report6:03 PM**
- A. **President Levin will be stepping down as his children will no longer be enrolled at TAG.**
- III. Approval of Minutes6:04 PM**
- A. **motion to approve by Ms. Harris; seconded by Mr. Tomaschett**
- IV. Principal's Report.....6:05 PM**
- A. Welcome to Ms. Sun and Ms. Anzures (Kindergarten team); Ms. Tang (SETTS); Mr. Johnson (Parent Coordinator).
- B. Opt-in window closed this past Friday afternoon. Last update checked today: 38 families have opted in; generally regularly distributed across grades. 4/26 expected return as per DOE.
- New social distancing guidelines. K-5 CDC guidelines of 3' have been adopted, but 6' for adults. Will allow for increased capacity of classrooms and should be able to offer 5/day week instruction for 1st grade and 2nd grade. Hoping to be able to do that for 4th grade as well.
 - Grades 6-8 are still 6' apart. Will not be able to offer 5 day/wk for 6th grade. Not enough staff and room.
 - 6' distance enforced during eating. For classrooms that are over this capacity, they may have to split classes just for breakfast (grades 1, 2, 4, 5); same thing for lunch.
 - Haven't figured out instructors yet; there may be shifts in remote/in-person staffing.
- C. Ms. Arabia (grade 1 teacher) is extending leave until the end of the school year.
- D. State Testing
- Grades 3-7 survey has gone out to families from TAG about testing. You must opt in to testing through this survey.
 - Grade 8: won't be taking state exams; will be taking Regents exams instead (as usual).
 - Test window for ELA starts 4/19 which is before opt-in period ends. Changed CDC guidelines will dictate space.
 - Numbers update: ELA opt-in. 241 responses; ~90 fully remote students have opted in to take the test. Tentative ELA schedule has been made and will go out to community tomorrow. Tests start at 8:45AM, takes about 1.5 hrs on the long side.
 - a) 4/20: Grade 4-A
 - b) 4/21: Grade 6-A, all Grade 7 in-person.
 - c) 4/22: Grade 3 all in-person, Grade 4-B
 - d) 4/23: Grade 5 all in-person; Grade 6-B
 - e) 4/26: Cohort D Grade 3 and 4
 - f) 4/27: Cohort D Grade 5
 - g) 4/28: Cohort D Grade 6
 - h) 4/29: Make-up testing only
 - If a family changes their mind and decides not to take the test, it's fine. Just reach out to Mr. Johnson.
 - multiple siblings - can they be tested together? if they are in different grades it may not be possible because state doesn't want different grades in the same room. TAG will do what they can but given the numbers and how many rooms may be used for testing, there may not be the capacity and flexibility that they want.

- E. Ms. Cosme: Lots of stress right now; providing support with stress management and mindfulness workshops with Ms. A Cesar (counselor). Workshops starting this week with remote grades 5-7, and then expanded afterwards. Look for e-mail from Mr. Johnson; scheduled for asynchronous periods.
 - Ms. A Cesar is working remotely, so she will be streaming for in-person students.
- F. Grades K-8, activist art projects. Will be showcasing them on the TAG website. Need media consent forms from parents if you want to participate.
 - Look for e-mail from Mr. Johnson.
 - Ms. Sun (K): focused on SEL aspect. Music shakers and friendship nature bracelets. Kindness, peace, and using your voice.

Mr. Dascal for organizing this.
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1KXvcm18kQvzpl4iNoVONTx8jW8wygCcPCrLak0ZQAD4/edit?usp=sharing>

V. State tests (Ms. Harris)

- A. State tests are not mandatory. Reiterate: STATE TESTS ARE NOT MANDATORY.
- B. Remember 70% is remote, and remember we're still in a pandemic.
- C. Speaking as a parent: these tests serve no purpose. Success Academy opted out of state tests. They don't affect grades, they're not used for entrance exams, etc.
- D. Mr. Dascal: does send a report on strengths/weaknesses based on state tests, but point taken.
- E. Asking parents to stand with movement to eliminate testing.

VI. Treasurer's Report6:45 PM

- A. will return to this when Mr. Garelik joins (noted that he was arriving late)**
- B. at 7:34 --**
- C. About 15k behind from a year ago. Spending is less.
- D. raised 64k less compared to year ago; spending is 66k less.
- E. so available funds going into the 2021-2022 school year is about the same as a year ago.

VII. School Leadership Team Report.....6:50 PM

- A. thank you to Ms. cosme for SEL workshops and activist art projects. they were well received.
- B. focus on trauma support this fall.

VIII. Committee Updates6:55 PM

- A. Budget (including COVID Discretionary Funds)
 - Ms. Butler: Starting to work on budget for next year. Not looking great. Pitch in if you can.
 - CDF: no movement. 40k set aside, have used about 10k.
 - Chipping in with Fundraising, working on a TAG yard sale. Would welcome help.
- B. Fundraising (Pres. Alexandra)
 - We are behind. Ms. Butler needs help. If we don't get enough help it may not happen so please!
 - iPledge: we're behind here too.
 - TAG merchandise. Site is set up, testing right now. Won't replace TAG Wear gym uniforms (couldn't do that because of in-person distribution).
 - Want to do a virtual sponsored fun run (probably a 5K).
 - No gala this year.
- C. Enrichment (Ms. Harris)
 - This committee did a lot in the past.

- Handled some in-curriculum enrichment.
- Lots to do, need folks to pitch in. Have gotten some e-mails.
- Debate (funded by enrichment) has been doing great.
- Chess going well with virtual sessions.
- Ms. Butler: brings up that other schools use 3rd-party vendors. Ms. Butler is investigating 2 vendors. Looking for comments on after-school enrichment.

D. Family Engagement

- Ms. Harris speaking for Ms. Lopez and Ms. Zschech. no updates but they are still brainstorming. Please attend next meeting at start of May.

E. Grants (Mr. Garcia)

- won't have much time moving forward but not much to do at this point.
- lots of grants schedules are for the fall. plenty to do at that time.
- would love to stay on and help but needs a co-vp. Would help out either as a co-vp or not.
- will be helping with 6/12 "TAG Swag" day. Ms. Butler: there are about 5 projects that need managing.

F. Communications

- have been working on bylaws; will be addressed in new business.
- unrelated: put in a request for a bike rack to be installed at TAG about a year ago; received a response that they are looking into it.

G. Audit

- no updates

H. Nominating Committee

- look at PTA site for descriptions.

IX. New Business7:10PM

A. TAG PTA Bylaws Amendments

- attended bylaws webinar (mr. lee) - not necessary to to amend bylaws to reflect FACE guidelines.
- copy edited for clarity.
- and a few changes to substantive issues.
 - a) there were some changes last revision for co-vps. some language needed to be fixed.
 - b) allowing executive board to change meeting dates - relaxed rules for that.
 - c) moved some language out of budget to its own fundraising section
- will send out a link for membership to review. vote will come at next general meeting.

B. Vacant Positions (VP Enrichment, VP Fundraising)

C. CEC 4 Update (Kasha Cacy)

- tomorrow 6-8PM, two candidates coming.

D. District 4 CEC Candidate Forum (this friday 4/16)

- there are 24 candidates; 6 are from TAG.
- candidate list:
<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/education-council-elections-2021/run-for-a-seat-on-a-council/ccec-elections-list-of-candidates-for-all-councils/community-education-council-for-district-4>

E. YMCA after school update

- got word from Mayor re: summer camps, probably starting 7/6. communication will come soon via Mr. Johnson.

- Doing build-a-bear for April; families must register. reach out to Ms. Scott if interested.
- Family Feud for parents with Y (virtual).
- reminder for families that have opted-in: in-person afterschool is open! applications for K-5 will be accepted.

F. Question and Answer Period

Can someone pls speak to the rumor that kids no longer need to wear uniforms to school?

- Even though TAG is a uniform school, TAG didn't feel it was prudent to ask families to purchase uniforms given the late opt-in dates. It's very hard to be strict about this, but reiterate that TAG *is* a uniform school, but it's OK to not have uniforms this year. Underline: we are making accommodations during the pandemic; this is not something that is the new normal.

- Ms. Scott: which grades are going 5 days/wk? Mr. Johnson: thinks it's K-5.
- Mr. Garcia: something about chess/virtual chess with laptops? -- check recording.
- Bus/transport? reach out to mr. johnson or ms. maritza
- Poor Richard's Playground shooting: per Ms. Tang: a memorial is set up there so it has come up with students.

a) https://www.gofundme.com/f/francisco-villalva-deliveristas-funeral-expense?utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2B5102-48hr-donor-share

X. Adjournment7:40 PM

A. Motion to adjourn at 7:54 by VP Harris; seconded by Mr. Tomaschett.