



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmundson &
Anand Raghunath

Co-Presidents

Sara Coates &
Norma Corvera

Co-Vice Presidents

Rebecca Yoftahie

Treasurer

Rasheedah Harris &
Laura Lampert

Co-Secretaries

MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

I. Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-President, Anand Raghunath, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 6:07 pm in the cafeteria of the Talented AND Gifted School for Young Scholars. Co-Secretary, Laura Lampert, seconds.
- B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure both parents and TAG teachers signed the attendance sheets. The following people were present: (see attendee list in secretary's binder)
- C. Anand said we have a five-year old video on the TAG website and we're updating to a new one. On January 19, 23 and 24 there will be all-day filming sessions. Jackson Gay had told Anand she will set aside a day to film children; there will be disclosure sheets to fill out. There will be teacher interviews, and the video is expected to help toward getting corporate donations. Anand also mentioned that Co-President Trina Edmundson cannot be here for the PTA meeting today.

II. Reading and approval of the minutes

- A. Hard copies of the October, November and December PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Anand made a motion to approve the October 11 minutes; Kathy Powell-Manning approves and Eric Crump seconds. Minutes approved. Anand made a motion to approve the November 1 minutes; Adam Scally approves, Pam Simon seconds. Minutes approved. Anand made a motion to approve the December 6 minutes; Judy Ann Mitchell approves, Pam seconds. Minutes approved.

III. SLT Report

- A. Co-Chair Judy Ann Mitchell said that regarding the CEP we look to increase parent participation at PTA meetings. Maybe we will have a financial advisor session. At our next meeting we will discuss different ideas. The next meeting will be Thursday, February 16 because Tuesday is Valentine's Day. Kathy Powell-Manning asked if there will be more morning PTA meetings. Anand said the one we did last school year went well and we will try again.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Enrichment Committee –
 1. Co-chair Kathy Powell-Manning presented the information and said that there is big news to report. The new session of after school chess starts this Friday. Please register before Friday as "the day of" gets a little crazy. Theatre, Debate, Mandarin and Piano are in effect.
 2. Field day is coming up in May. Phys Ed instructor Mr. Wong met with us in November and we met with Y Director Andrea Scott. We're going to be involved with parent training. The children will

be wearing color-coded clothing and they win if they accumulate points over three days. Grades K-2, 3-6, 7-8 will go out each day. Last year we had them wear a shirt of a certain color; we thought for this year we could sell TAG shirts in those colors. It would cost, so if you know someone who could help with the printing, it would help. Also, having extra water and refreshments available as it gets hot out there. We are meeting next week with Administration.

3. Our Chess Team is going to the February 4 and 5 Chess Sports Championship.
4. The Debate Tournament will be January 14 and they have been doing well.
5. For Theatre, we asked Nicole, from Y middle school after care for help. She is going to put in a little pot of money and I'm going to ask the Executive Board for re-allocation of funds.
6. Kathy said she believes the Math Counts Championship is coming up in February. Math Coach Tonya Gross is involved and it's down at Stuyvesant.
7. Regarding Field Day, Adam Scally asked if the t-shirts are for identification and Kathy said it's by color, for the teams. He asked if it could be something else like wristbands or hats. Pam said, or vests. Kathy said she'd take it into consideration. Judy said middle-schoolers seemed to want to pick teammates. Mr. Wong said if that is something the parents all want to do, fine, but his opinion is that they'll friend-up and that doesn't work toward teamwork and team building. Kathy Powell-Manning said the goal is what Mr. Wong said and she tried to get that in last year. Sportsmanship is very important. The #1 complaint of the coaches is that the kids struggle to work as a team. Anand said it's not grade-specific; grades are grouped together. Kathy said it didn't work out for Kindergarten to go out there last year. The bigger goal is the middle school kids got to know the younger kids. That's the goal, it's a community. We wanted to do a Spirit Day also. A parent asked since parents will be trained, will students as well? Kathy said children have different abilities, it's interesting to watch how they navigate. A parent asked if there was a way to get the team spirit up, to which Kathy responded the schedule doesn't allow for that. They sometimes have Phys Ed at the same time and that's a way they could practice as a group. Kathy and Anand said we need more parent volunteers. Kathy said that Admin is more interested this year. Pam said maybe there are online resources we can use as well. Less "school schedule" and more "interactive." Anand asked parents to please sign up for the event, adding that it is labor-intensive. Ilaria Mogno asked about the status of First Aid. Kathy said they were going to look into what is available. Laura Lampert said volunteer ambulance corps might be a good source to ask for donations of first aid kits and AED's.

B. Fundraising Committee –

1. Co-Chair Pamela Simon presented the information.
2. Pam said we're doing really well; our goal is \$175,000 and so far we've raised \$142,000. We're still waiting for checks to come in from Picture Day.
3. For January we're looking to do a Dine-Out, and if you have any contacts regarding restaurants, feel free to send us an email.
 1. Talent Show Auditions for the show in May will be January 19 – 21. This year, please email instrument auditions to Fundraising.
 2. The iPledge re-launch will be February 1.
 3. Science Fair – we're looking to do a Science Fair this year. Admin is in State Test mode so it will be a Saturday event.
 4. Dance – the middle school party will be on a Friday. We'll have the usual Saturday party for the

younger grades. The next Fundraising meeting is January 12, morning and evening meetings.

5. Ilaria asked about the Silent Auction and Pam said we're hoping it will be April 22. We're looking for venues. To Adam Scally's question on what type, she responded that we're looking for a big space, for auction items and bar, and space for seating and food. We like to bring in our own food/catering. A parent asked, if the parent isn't signed up how does she get on an email list or updated regarding donations? Pam said we send emails out to all parents asking who is interested.

C. Budget Report -

1. Co-Chair Eric Crump said that the planning process starts after the new year, so we're getting into the process.
2. Kathy Powell-Manning said that Jennifer Fiore and she are co-chairs of Enrichment and are done in June; they aren't planning anything further because it takes a lot to plan, so if you have ideas now would be the time to let us know. Last year parents wanted Mandarin and we got it with many parents saying they'd volunteer. First there were too few, then too many. If parents want things done here, they have to support it. We're not going to put anything in there that parents come to us with in April or June.
3. Eric said if there is something you see you like or want you can come to the Executive Board meetings; we talk about all of these things. January, February, March are the times to tell us.

D. Membership Committee –

1. Co-Chair Ilaria Mogno presents the report.
2. The Dave & Busters playdate is this Saturday at 2 pm in the Bronx so if you bought the Power Cards you could use them at the play date. Pam said they're trying to set something up regarding carpooling there.
3. Ski Trip, January 28, a full day. The flyer is going out this week and it's on the website. We're raffling one ticket through Fundraising.
4. Ice Skating is February 4 in Brooklyn from 1:30 – 5:30 pm. Kathy Powell-Manning commented that it's very far. The response was there was a complication regarding a closer venue.
5. Judy said that 8th graders want to do a ski trip, and asked if it would be good to work with Ms. Erica because if the kids get excited about it the parents would be more interested. Kathy said she thought the students have advisory on Fridays; they could do it at that time.

E. Communications Committee –

1. Anand speaks for them. He says they're working on the website. When Principal Cesar was here last time she gave a good report in her Principal's Report. The Communications Committee is going to take what she discusses and get it out there on the website.

V. Principal's Report –

- A. Principal Cesar is not here. Phys Ed instructor Mr. Wong said that for the younger students he has stations set up; a lot of kids don't know how to throw, there are soccer stations, etc. Older kids have flexibility stations, etc. He has a variety of different stations for different purposes.
- B. For Field Day, we're trying to switch it up with some of the colors, give each team a name. We haven't finalized it with the kids yet. Then the Y would actually manage some of it because they see a lot of the kids all of the time. Parent chaperones can stay with a group of kids and monitor them. Responding to Ilaria's question regarding students who want to sit out some of the activities, he said he tells kids he couldn't just show up to math class and not do the work in the class. He understands some kids are hesitant because they don't feel confident or don't know how to play a particular game.

- C. Mr. Harris, 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher, spoke. He said he's new to TAG, went to Fordham University and played two sports there. For Field Day he'll try to raise social skills from the classroom to the field in sports. He said he has set up more trips, getting the 7th and 8th graders out to see more of the world, and applauds everyone involved with the school. The fact that you push us helps us push the students and bring out the best in them.

VI. Treasurer's Report –

- A. Chair Rebecca Yoftahie presented the information.
- B. Income is in toward 5th grade packages, and the Cooking with TAG event. \$22,000 more was distributed, money from iPledge. Small amounts from TAGwear, \$510 from Dave & Busters power cards. Movie Night. The Scholastic Book Fair essentially netted \$1,900. \$3,400 came in from Holiday Grams. Box Tops are chugging along, with almost \$1,000 in.
- C. Expenses such as Teacher Assistant expenses, \$100 childcare cost for meetings. The 5th grade moving-up ceremony cost us about \$1,000. Debate expenses for in-curriculum and chess. Small expenses for Holiday Grams, Dave & Busters, Music, Movie Night, Theatre. Pay Pal fees – we give them 2% of what we bring in. We're trying to get some bank fees reversed. The Debate grant from last year is exhausted. The Louis Armstrong grant has a bit left so we'll see if it can roll over, it benefits their organization as well.

VII. Question & Answer Period

- A. Anand asked if there were any questions, there were none. He said the next Fundraising meeting is January 12, Communications would be January 25 and Grants was today.
- B. Rasheeda Harris said parents are interested in some sort of tutoring system she thought they had a few years ago. Pam said that in terms of SGI (Small Group Instruction), they were trying to have it through lunch. Mr. Harris (the social studies teacher) said that structurally we were trying to get it. There's talk of getting it in, and for after school for students targeted for such tutoring. Kathy Powell-Manning said it's more for the students in test years.

VIII. Adjournment –

- A. Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm. Co-Secretary Laura Lampert seconded the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Laura Lampert, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President