



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Anand Raghunath
Nina Reiniger
Co-Presidents

Jennifer Fiore
Ilaria Mogno
Co-Vice Presidents

Rebecca Yoftahie
Trina Edmundson
Co-Treasurers

Laura Lampert
Rasheedah Harris
Co-Secretaries

MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2018

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 9, at 6:05pm in the cafeteria of the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars.
- B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure parents and TAG teachers signed the attendance sheets. The following people were present: (see attendee list in secretary's binder)

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Hard copies of the November and December PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Anand made a motion to approve the November and December minutes; Deirdre seconds. Minutes approved.

III. SLT Report

A. Deirdre said she wasn't present at the last meeting but the December 12th meeting minutes are accurate. She said they ensured they did a DOE survey. She said we seem to be taking up the issue of detention, seeing what other G & T schools do and coming up with ideas. For the CEP we have to collect parent participation information. We need to know about volunteers from Picture Day, iPledge, etc. It could be either / or numbers, names. Co-President Nina Reiniger said we'll organize to get the information. Deirdre encourages all to join the SLT.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Budget

1. Co-VP's Eric Crump and Ananda spoke. Ananda said the next Budget meeting is January 25th at 8:00 am; in January we start working on the budget, whether we're on, under over budget. We estimate \$5,386 for additional expenditures. Eric said some committees requested more money, and we'll go over it. We're starting the big push for next year's budget. Then we'll present it to the Executive Board and the general body throughout the year.
2. Co-VP of Budget Eric Crump said he and Ananda are working out a time for a new meeting, nothing new to report. Nina said regarding procedure, if you have something in mind bring it up to the committee.

B. Audit

1. Anand spoke on behalf of Audit and said the audit has been done and the new one will start in the spring.

C. Communications

1. VP Pam Simon said the next meeting is January 10th at 8:15 am. They are continuing to revamp the website. They are working on the emails so as not to bombard Parent Coordinator Ms. Powell, to only ask her to handle major things. Deirdre asked about the TAG logo. Pam said the next step is to look through, weed through the submissions, bring the number down to about 5. Then those would go to the Executive Board, then the general body, down to about 3, then back to the Executive Board, and Principal Cesar.
2. Deirdre said Principal Cesar mentioned she wanted a 2-sided glossy brochure. Pam said we can discuss it tomorrow; it would fall under Communications. Principal Cesar said private schools have excellent brochures and we can tweak ours. You want to make sure it is not too complicated for a company to make. Pam said they're digital files so we can tweak them as needed.

B. Enrichment

1. Anand spoke on behalf of Enrichment and said there is extended enrollment for Chess. Our Chess team's tournament went well over the weekend. Rasheedah said there is extended enrollment for Chess and Mandarin and Piano enrollment might be this week. Hip Hop will be starting up. Principal Cesar said when the Chess team wins they should submit photos to Ms. Powell.
2. Sheri, Debate Coach, said this is her last year and she is looking for someone to take her place. The Debate team is doing well.

B. Fundraising

1. Anand gave the iPledge update: \$187,607. Class K-113 is the winner of the ice cream party with 99% class participation; it will be on February 14th.
2. The TAG Annual Auction will be April 28th. They are calling it "The Benefit".
3. Picture Day retakes will be January 30th at 8:30 am, contact Ms. Powell.

B. Grants

1. Rasheedah spoke on behalf of Grants. They are focusing on getting new grants and hoping to work with political figures. It's a great committee to join; you can do things behind the scenes, at home, on your own time, etc.
2. Anand said he and Eric Crump are on NY DOE Community Education Council (CEC) for District 4. They are working with the District 4's Superintendent regarding the capital needs. They will supply a list. The next meeting CEC is January 10th at 6pm in TAG's auditorium.

B. Family Engagement

3. Nina spoke on behalf of Family Engagement. There is a Wellness Workshop on Thursday, January 11 at 8:15 am, regarding changes adolescents are experiencing. It is for all parents and best suited for parents of 4th – 8th grade students.
4. This is the last weekend for Ski Trip booking
5. Multicultural Day – there will be a meeting Friday morning, January 12th. Luigi Kapaj said it is the same time as the Kindergarten awards ceremony.
6. Volunteers are needed for Cleanup (cleaning up the PTA area of the Ms. Powell's office & packing up clothes for a local shelter), a Wellness Workshop on January 12th. The next Family Engagement meeting is Jan 19th.

II. Principal's Report

- A. **Swimming** – there were problems with the Dwight School getting coaches but swimming will commence next week with grades 1 and 2. She is asking the PTA to donate hair dryers; we don't want the kids to catch cold. 6 or so would be good and they can pass them around. They didn't have space for 5th grade but they asked for time in June for 5th grade to go. Grades 3 and 4 will go later in the year; they're preparing for State tests now.
- B. **Gym** – After winter break, the custodian informed them that a 30-pound fixture fell through the ceiling. They shut down the gymnasium; other loose debris was in the ceiling. It will take 12 – 15 weeks. Engineers will discuss whether to put up netting and they're waiting for the report from SCA. Mr. Wong has the kids moving around in the auditorium. We're making every effort to make sure the students move around. She made calls and got the snow out of the yard so the students can go out during recess.
- C. **Debris and Graffiti in Yard** – Resulting from complaints of debris and graffiti in the yard, every day she has Mr. Ender check it out and if necessary she calls downtown and has them clean it out.
- D. **SciTech Kids** – SciTech started with grades 3 and 4; they have their State tests in June. It is 10-12 sessions of hands-on science and activities. Ms. Blount said this week they came in and worked on how matter changes. They took vinegar and baking soda and showed how it made a car move. We're happy to have them. She thanks the PTA for the support. Hand-out of Test Design is distributed.
- E. **Technology** - Tech teacher is probably not coming back for 6-8 grades. K-5 is pretty much filled, that tech teacher is just waiting for her file number. Enrichment had funds they were willing to give for Robotics. Nina said Brandee had a proposal from the budget line and we're still working it out. Monday started the Harvard students coming for a few weeks. \$50k was taken for overhead, from the \$200k allocated to us for work on the lower yard (school yard), not a lot but work will be done, re-pavement, putting some murals out, etc.. We have more money from the City Council but it takes a while to get here. The lab room is wired for the equipment for K – 5; hardware will be in by the end of the year.
- F. **College Awareness** – It will be this Thursday for middle-schoolers. Students are to wear shirts and sweats to represent a college they're interested in.
- G. **Detention** – Principal Cesar thinks the word is loaded; we need a different term, such as reflection time to reflect on their own behavior. We're telling them you're going to take 5 minutes and reflect on what you did. We can discuss an alternative way to help kids and refocus. Did you think that was right? Was there something you could have done differently? Other options, etc. They would reflect on how they can change their behavior. Kathy Fernando said she is on the SLT, they've been talking about it. Even if kids do something wrong they recognize there needs to be consequences. They were adding clarity on what detention is. Principal Cesar said when she is down here in the cafeteria she doesn't see the kids acting crazy.
- H. **Latin** – Latin started for the 1st graders and they love it. Mr. Akiva is the teacher. The 1st grade never had Latin but he wanted to expand it, and they absolutely love it.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Co-Treasurer Rebecca Yoftahie presented the information.

- A. The gross income is \$53,000. Book Fair - although income shows \$7,300, it’s consignment so a portion of that, approximately \$5,300, goes back to Scholastic so our net is about \$1,500. The biggest expense was our new SciTech program

IV. Question & Answer –

- 7. Rasheedah wants technology teacher clarity. Principal Cesar said we have someone for K-5, we need someone for middle school – focusing on Engineering, Robotics.
- 8. Rebecca said in November, the PTA Board voted to allocate an additional \$180 to Communications for Mail Chimp access.
- 9. Nina said we’re looking for another Enrichment Coordinator for after school. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday afternoons. Mr. Powell is unable to continue with it.

V. Adjournment

- A. Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm. Co-Secretary Rasheedah Harris seconded the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Laura Lampert, Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretaries

Minutes approved by:

Nina Reiniger, TAG PTA Co-President