



# Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmundson &  
Anand Raghunath

**Co-Presidents**

Sara Coates &  
Norma Corvera

**Co-Vice Presidents**

John Johnson &  
Rebecca Yoftahie

**Co-Treasurers**

Rasheedah Harris &  
Laura Lampert

**Co-Secretaries**

## MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2016

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, October 11, 2016 at 6:08 pm in TAG's cafeteria.
- B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure all attendees signed the attendance sheets as they entered.

### II. Reading and approval of the minutes

- A. Hard copies of the September 20, 2016 PTA meeting minutes were made available for all attendees.
- B. Anand made the motion to approve the minutes. Ingrid (a parent) approved, Trina Edmundson, Co-President, seconds the motion.

### III. Principal's Report

- A. Principal Cesar had a prior engagement and she needed to leave the General PTA meeting early. Therefore she spoke first. Her agenda ("Principal's Report") and immunization information handouts were distributed. She spoke about immunizations and said DTAP was for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and meningococcal vaccines were for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. She stated the DOE looks at how many students have been vaccinated to prepare their school reports.
- B. Parent conferences are coming up but she never distributes the report cards for this. The first report card will come out in December right before the holidays. During the conferences, we will be discussing the children's progress. A Progress report will be given. Teachers have done a lot of assessments and will discuss the results with the parents.
- C. You can access your child's test results (the state exams) on the DOE website with your child's oasis number. Mrs. C said they can print out hard copies for families as well. You may request this with Mrs. Bruno.
- D. Grades K-4 will be contacted to schedule the times to meet with your teachers. You will go to the teacher's classes to meet with them during your scheduled time slots. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be in the auditorium. It will be like a speed dating event. It worked very well last year. You will go to one teacher, then a ding (ring of a bell) then you go to the next teacher, etc., Grades 7 and 8 teachers will be in the library.
- E. Reminder: school will finish at 11am it is a half day and there is no YMCA afterschool, b/c we want to start as early as we can, aiming to start the parent teacher's conference at 12pm.
- F. TAG Fundraising: children came home with brochures for treats, cakes, etc. Orders need to be in by 10/14, please support. She spoke about how delicious the treats are. She said they support various things in the school such as pizza parties and things for the children. A parent asked if it was too late

to order, Mrs. C replied, no, orders are due by 10/14 and you will received the merchandise before thanksgiving.

G. Mrs. Obbink, Mrs. Bernstein and Mrs. Acevado were present. Mrs. C introduced them and they stood up and greeted everyone.

#### **IV. Question and Answer for Principal Cesar**

- A. Questions: A parent said his/her child has very bad allergies and food allergies and the parent is concerned about the child in Chess afterschool. Another parent clarified and asked if there was a nurse on site, if the child had a reaction, who is available, what are their options, what's the procedure etc? Mrs. C asked if the child had an "EpiPen". She sated the parent needs to contact the school b/c if the child has an "EpiPen" or needs one present, during afterschool, he/she needs to contact the school. A parent clarified if something happens, we don't know what to do, we would not know who is present, who to contact, etc. Mrs. C said Mrs. Cosme is present Friday afternoons, but she reiterated, the parent needed to speak to the nurse and discuss the child's needs specifically. Most Fridays Mrs. C and Mrs. Cosme are usually there. If there's a major emergency, call 911.
- B. Trina read an emailed question: 1 parent emailed and asked if they can allow their daughter to wear the navy pants. The boys wear navy pants, can the girls wear the pants also. Mrs. C said they are allowed to wear the red sweat pants under their dresses or skirts. Mrs. C said the uniforms were discussed and agreed upon in conjunction with TAG Administration and the PTA. Mrs. C and Trina Edmundson agreed they would discuss at a later date and revisit this. Anand read an emailed question: 1 parent emailed saying they would like to improve their child's gym experience. The children are complaining spending majority of their time lining up, sitting still and listening to rules. Mrs. C said she has not witnessed that and she will look further into it. She stated children do need to learn the rules and they must be safe. She will look further into it; she said she would observe the situation.

**V. SLT Report.** Nothing to report yet, they did not meet yet.

#### **VI. Committee reports**

A. Communication Committee –

1. The Co-Chair of the Communications Committee, Nina Reiniger spoke. She introduced herself and she is asking everyone to sign up for the new school directory. She thanked everyone who already signed up. She asked everyone to please update, if you previously signed up. She brought to our attention many families are getting the graduation date wrong. She's asking everyone go back and check their child's graduation date, which is about a 1/3 of the parents.
2. Anand asked if all the dates are updated on the website. Rasheedah asked what website was he was referring to: our PTA website, b/c if so, she confirmed all the dates on our PTA website are up to date. Anand said the reason why he was asking was to tell everyone go to on our website for all the dates for meetings and events.

B. Fundraising Committee –

1. Co-Chair Pamela Simon spoke. She introduced herself and said she just wanted to briefly discuss iPledge. She said it's vital we all participate. Our goal is \$90,000; we use this to fund a lot of wonderful things we want to give our children to enhance their experience at TAG. We need a lot of volunteers; you can pledge time and money. Thus far, we are at 5% we have 575 students and we are at 5% and that is scary. If you pledged already, talk to your fellow parents. We need the money to fund our programs; it is vital for the programs to succeed. You can go to the TAG website or leave it in the drop box in Mrs. Bruno's office. For every \$100 you give, you get entered into a raffle to win an iPad, the class to receive the most participation will win a pizza party, ice-cream party and a surprise gift. Fundraising will also be giving out a little token of their appreciation, a

small thank you item for **everyone** who pledges. The following fundraising events we have coming up are: used uniform sale, career day in conjunction with the membership committee, a bake sale (sweet harvest) and movie night. More details will follow about each event soon. Next fundraising committee meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, they will have a morning and evening meeting.

2. A lot of families are asking what's the difference between TAG fundraising and PTA fundraising. TAG PTA fundraising is what iPledge is; it is a PTA Fundraiser, where we get all the parents involved, we vote on how the money will be spent. When you get the emails and you see the PTA in brackets, or anything on our PTA website, it is all PTA. Any events where the PTA asks for donations or is charging for a service for PTA related activities; all the money goes to the PTA. It is all PTA Fundraising. TAG school's fundraising is for the school, it's separate from the PTA fundraising. If you have any questions about TAG's school fundraising, you have to contact Mrs. Bruno.
3. A parent asked how well did Schoola do and will we continue it, was it worth it. The parent said we can inform everyone, that anyone can go to the Schoola website and search for TAG and request a Schoola bag be sent to your home. When you receive the Schoola bag, it is postage paid already, for you to stuff the bag with all the clothes you'd like to donate, seal the bag up and drop it in a mailbox or post office. The bag has special barcodes identifying a portion of proceeds for all these items, when sold on schoola's website, will go to TAG PTA. If we spread this news, we can avoid the big collection of clothes on site and requiring volunteers to sort through, pack up, etc. Pam said this sound like a great idea and we will discuss more at the next fundraising meeting.
4. Another parent asked if iPledge is only for this month. Pam replied we need the bulk of our money now that's why we're pushing this campaign now. We plan to have another one, but we need the bulk of our money now, but you may donate through iPledge all year.
5. A parent asked if we ever considered asking parents for a set amount. Pam said a lot of parents ask for this, but we are a public school, we cannot tell a parent to give a certain amount. We encourage parents to give what they can when they can.
6. Rasheedah reminded Pam to mention the Box Tops and tell them to hand them in now, to not hold them and wait for the Box Top contests b/c they do expire. Pam replied to Rasheedah she was waiting for the box top drive, but she then announced that we collect box tops as one of our many on-going fundraisers. We have various box top drives with dress down incentives to hand in as many as you can, to win dress down days for your children through out the year. She stated we have Florelle Diver, our Box Top coordinator who keeps a record of each student and their box top submissions; and they do carry over, so each box top you hand in, your child will get credit for. She mentioned amazon is an ongoing fundraising also. Anand reiterated iPledge is all year around but it's very important to donate now as much as we can to help budget and prepare for next year.

#### C. Enrichment Committee –

1. Kathy Powell-Manning and Jennifer Fiore, Enrichment co-chairs, went up. Kathy spoke and encouraged all families to come out to their enrichment committee meetings when they can. She told us Chess was due to start this Friday 10/4 for k-8 afterschool. Tim, a TAG parent, agreed to be the chess parent volunteer. Kathy asked to please show up on time to pick your children up on Friday afterschool. We are registering children now for piano; they still have available seats. She looked around for middle school parents in the room. The Theatre flyer went out for the middle school (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade). If your middle-schooler is interested in theatre, contact us

immediately. Mandarin will start in November. If there is enough interest for Saturday, we can have a Saturday program. Breakaway hoops approached Jennifer Fiore and they will meet and we will see where that goes. We haven't given up on basketball, but we need gym space. In Debate, our children did very well on October 1<sup>st</sup>. They are amazing. Jennifer confirmed the next Enrichment Committee meeting is on 10/28 at 8am in the library. A parent asked them to explain about the Y-afterschool and the other enrichment afterschool programs. Kathy said children must co-exist with the Y program. Another parent asked how many programs can a child attend, if they are in the Y afterschool. Can they miss one day of the Y a week? Kathy said we are not trying to pull them out of the Y. Jennifer explained the Y-afterschool needs to have 89% attendance, this is why you must sign in and out. A parent asked about Saturday mandarin, Kathy said we need enough interest and we need parent volunteers to help. If a parent is interested in volunteering to help, that parent's child will get a scholarship for the mandarin program.

2. Anand thanked them and reiterated to parents that they can explore all opportunities for whatever programs they want. Kathy mentioned we are hiring an enrichment person to help with the enrichment programs. She stated they would love to have parents shadow them this year, b/c this is their last year as co-chairs. Anand said a parent was interested in launching a taekwondo program. He said to contact enrichment to see how to get this started.

D. Budget Committee –

1. Eric Crump went over the budget and announced next Budget meeting date was on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 8am.

E. Membership Committee –

1. Anand spoke for Kasha and Ilaria (Membership co-chairs, were not able to attend), he stated the class parent orientation is scheduled for this week and everything seems like it will go well, we have class parents for every grade and that was a good thing.

F. Grants Committee –

1. Michelle McCraig the Grant Committee co-chair spoke. Her co-chair, David Kwok was not able to attend. She introduced herself and explained how they are helping to get funding for enrichment programs. They received a grant for the middle school drama program and they'd like to expand their program.

## VII. Treasurer's Report

- A. Rebecca Yoftahie and John Johnson, the co-treasurers, introduced themselves. Rebecca went over the treasurer's report. This month's income was \$3,000 which includes money from the Year Book (June 2016), the fairway cards usage, amazon, schoola, TAG wear and a little bit of iPledge. Expenses are about \$6,000, the bulk of that was for TAG wear, small amount for debate (we pay for our AGAPE Debate coach) and small fees (such as pay pal), etc.

## VIII. Question & Answer for PTA – Anand thanked the co-treasurers and he mentioned we are updating the video for our TAG website on 12/6 at the December PTA meeting. A videographer will be here filming us. Trina and Anand open up the floor for questions.

1. A parent asked the cost assigned to the video shooting and asked can we do an iPledge video. Anand responded the videographer is doing it for free and there's not enough time to get it in for this iPledge campaign. The video will be geared towards corporate sponsors, as far as who we are what we do and what we need, geared towards the major corporations. Trina clarified that the parent shooting the video is a TAG parent and she's donating her time and services.

2. A parent asked if more iPledge flyers were getting sent home to families. Anand replied we will have more flyers going out, we will try to have parents passing them out in front of the school in the morning, we will send out more emails, we will definitely promote our iPledge campaign more.
3. A parent asked who do we talk to regarding corporate matching. Pamela Simon replied please email the fundraising committee about corporate matching inquiries.
4. A parent said as a class parent himself, it will help for him to know who in his class donated and how well his class is doing as far as iPledge participation, etc. Pam said they will notify everyone the progress of the participation soon. She said she will be at the morning class parent orientation and her co-chair, Catherine Levine, will be at the evening class parent orientation to discuss the iPledge to the class parents.
5. Rasheedah mentioned the next membership committee meeting is Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>.
6. Trina wanted to reiterate that we are hiring an enrichment coordinator, so Kathy & Jennifer won't be overwhelmed with all the emails about chess, mandarin, which is coming and about debate and all the other enrichment programs. We will have the person here on Wednesday – Friday from 2pm to 6pm. She will meet the parents periodically, if your child is involved with these many activities. Trina chuckled and stated, "I already said *she* and we haven't even chose a candidate yet, but we are in the process of interviewing". We are also in the process of interviewing the gym teacher/recess assistant. Once the interview process is complete, we send the candidate to Mrs. Cesar, Mrs. Cesar then sends the candidate through the DOE approval process. We estimate they will start sometime in November. Trina smiled and repeated, "we will have an enrichment coordinator!" she said that's exciting, (the parents agreed and applauded). Trina said it's exciting b/c collectively as a team; we bring something into this learning institution every year. And every year we decide we want something and we make it happen. Trina said when she started in kindergarten they had nothing! She repeated, "We had nothing" another parent said "we had a little something...." they chuckled and agreed they had piano, *one* piano class with Kathy and everyone was trying to get into that one piano class. But they had nothing else. This is just a testament that as a team, we can accomplish anything! But we all must recognize we are a part of the team. We must work together.

#### **IX. Adjournment –**

- A. Anand said if there is nothing else, we will adjourn the meeting, at 6:59pm, Ingrid motioned to adjourn and Pam seconded the motion.

#### **Minutes submitted by:**

Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

#### **Minutes approved by:**

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President