



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, December 6, 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, December 6, 2016 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)

II. Reading and approval of the minutes

- A. Due to technical difficulties, hard copies of the November 1, 2016 PTA meeting minutes were unavailable. All minutes are on our TAG PTA Website for viewing. Next General PTA Meeting, we will read and approve October, November and tonight's minutes.

III. Principal's Report

- A. Principal Cesar thanked parents for coming out to the PTA meeting.
- B. Principal Cesar introduced members of the teaching staff – Ms. Liu, Ms. Syed, Ms. Jaffri. 1st grade teacher Ms. Liu said there is a focus on non-fiction reading, and the whole school is transitioning to non-fiction based reading for ELA. Math and arts are focused on, while keeping up with Common Core standards. Principal Cesar said that state tests are coming up in March, and we're making sure the students are ready.
- C. Recess Equipment donations were organized by kindergarten parent Adam Scally, and thanks go out to all of the parents who helped the students have a variety of balls, ropes, hoops, etc.
- D. Principal Cesar thanked the PTA for providing the Physical Education Assistant Teacher, Mr. Clifton Powell, Jr., who has been vetted and will start tomorrow.
- E. The Technology candidate is in final vetting with the DOE and we will know by next Wednesday, December 14 when he can start. Meanwhile he has been coming in and working with Ms. D'Abreu.
- F. The first marking period ends Friday, December 9 with the second marking period beginning Monday, December 12. Report cards will go out on Thursday, December 22.
- G. First marking period awards assemblies start Friday, December 16. Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom afterward for about 30 – 40 minutes.
- H. There will be two types of Honor Roll this year. Gold Honors are awarded to students achieving level 4's in all four core areas, and Silver Honors are awarded to students achieving level 4 in three of the four core subjects and a level 3 in the other.

- I. Winter Break will be from Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2, with school resuming on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.
- J. **Q & A for Principal Cesar**
 1. A question asked if parents of middle school students may visit the classroom after the awards ceremony? Answer: Yes.
 2. Can snacks be brought to the classroom for the children during the visit? Answer: Yes, the students will probably enjoy that very much.
 3. Responding to a question about the Winter Concert this Friday, December 6, Principal Cesar said the 7th and 8th grade students are performing and the 3rd graders were supposed to perform as well, however the new music teacher who started after Ms. Revi transitioned out, may not be ready yet.
 4. Will there still be dance parties and such for the students during recess? Principal Cesar said everything should continue; we are getting someone new.
 5. Anand Raghunath said we're shooting a new video for the TAG website next week. The videographer might be asking for testimonials from the teachers and students. We may use that to go to corporations and ask for donations.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Communications Committee –
 1. Co-chair Nina Reiniger presented the information and said that they got a volunteer to work on the website. Two parents are working on the design and the committee will get back to the parents when it is up and ready.
- B. SLT Report –
 1. Co-Chairs Judy Ann Mitchell and Eric Crump presented the information. Both of the SLT meetings this school year focused on making sure parents and Administration are on the same page. Regarding communication, parents want to hear more. Judy said the next SLT meeting is Tuesday, December 20th.
- C. Fundraising Committee –
 1. Co-Chairs Catherine Levine and Pamela Simon presented the information.
 2. The Book Fair started today and will continue tomorrow and Thursday. Tomorrow, December 7 is Family Night from 5-7pm.
 3. Holiday Grams – the deadline to submit Holiday Grams with payment is Monday, December 19. There are lists of volunteer times to assemble and coordinate the items. We made about \$4,000 last year in Holiday Grams.
 4. Another Box Tops Dress Down contest will occur, for dress down days of December 21, 22 and 23. You can purchase online or hand in the Box Tops.
 5. The Dave & Busters fundraiser is starting, with \$10 and \$20 powercards available for purchase. They are for use nationwide, have no expiration date and no fee. We are organizing a school wide play date likely in January. Powercard purchases are due by December 19. We have a lot of synergy with the Membership Committee including:
 6. Ski Trip, January 28. It will be at Camelback Resort, and Fundraising is having a raffle for the trip, to include round-trip bus, equipment rental fee, ski lesson and lunch.
 7. The next Fundraising meeting will be next Thursday 12/8 at 8:15am and 5:45 pm in the Library, and will include discussion of the annual Auction for April 2017.

D. Membership Committee

1. Anand Raghunath explained that the Membership chairs aren't available this evening.
2. New York Common Pantry – there will be an event where the students have the opportunity to donate to the pantry, on Sunday, December 18, more information will follow shortly. The next Membership Committee meeting is Friday 12/9 at 8:15am.

E. Enrichment Committee

1. Anand Raghunath gives the update on their behalf.
2. Field Day plans are underway and will be in May. The preparations and the event itself are very labor-intensive. We need people to get students on the buses, administer the games onsite, get the students back on the buses, etc..
3. The Citywide Chess Tournament is coming up, February 4th and 5th at the Brooklyn Marriott.
4. Catherine Levine said the Book Fair during Family Night tomorrow will have a raffle; tickets will be distributed from the purchase of books during Family Night.

F. Budget Report -

1. Chair, Eric Crump said that all committees are still in the green, none of the committees are over budget.
2. Catherine Levine asked to re-allocate the extra funds from Phys Ed to fund the Scholastic Magazine for 5th and 6th graders, which would cost \$1,056. Eric explains to the attendees that there is leftover money from the teachers during the time we didn't have these certain positions filled during this year.
3. Principal Cesar requested funds from the PTA and said we're interviewing a person to take over as Teacher Assistant (TA) for the kindergarten teacher who took over for the 2nd grade TA, and she advocates for a 2nd grade TA. Catherine responded that this request has to be brought to the Executive Board and if voted through the executive board, we can then bring it to the PTA to vote on.
4. A vote is taken regarding the re-allocation of extra funds from Phys Ed to fund the Scholastic Magazine for 5th and 6th graders, at a cost of \$1,056. 14 vote yes, 0 vote no, 0 abstain. The vote unanimously passes.

G. Treasurer Report –

1. Anand Raghunath presents the report.
2. November started with approximately \$219,000, which included funds from iPledge, Fairway, Sweet Harvest Bake Sale.
3. Expenses included the TA, which was around \$25,000, plus in-curriculum chess.
4. Adam Scally set up the Amazon page for recess equipment.
5. The end of November shows at \$205,973 and the information is detailed and laid out on the printed Treasurer's Report for November.

V. Question and Answer –

- A. Rasheedah Harris said a parent asked about the dance studio in the building which we share with the other school – can we utilize it more, such as during recess? Ms. Bruno said that the Esperanza School uses it, and to contact her after which she will contact them. Catherine Levine said the dance studio is very small, logistically, only able to fit 10-12 students in the room. How would we pick which kids would use the room? Rasheedah responded that was a good point, she had no idea the dance studio was so small, and that was in essence the response to the question. She will let parents know how small the

dance studio is and that it's not a real option for an indoor recess alternative.

- B. Singapore Math – there was a question if the teachers find it useful, and maybe we could do an anonymous survey and see if it could be used online instead, as it's a big-ticket item on our budget. Pam Simon responded that we always try to do an analysis. According to Principal Cesar and Vice Principal Dascal the feedback is that Singapore Math is good for conceptual ideas in conjunction with common core math. A portion of the money is for professional development, it's also support-based. Pam said we can see about transitioning depending on the needs of the students and teachers.

VI. General Information –

- A. Rasheedah Harris thanks everyone for coming out and she introduces a new TAG parent, of a 3rd grader. Everyone thanked her for attending and asked her to continue to attend.

VII. Adjournment -

Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 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