



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, February 7, 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, February 7, at 6:08 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 all attendees signed in.

II. Reading and approval of the minutes

- A. Hard copies of the January PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Catherine Levine made a motion to approve the January 3rd meeting minutes; Anand approves and Eric Crump seconds. Minutes approved.

III. Principal's Report

- A. Principal Cesar said that Kindergarten teacher, Ms. Terzi and 2nd Grade teacher, Ms. Keshen are in attendance for this evening's meeting. Principal Cesar announced that our other 2nd Grade teacher Ms. Jimenez gave birth to a baby girl, please feel free to let other 2nd grade parents know.
- B. January Rally Assessments – We've been assessing the students. ELA testing is in March, and we want to focus on vocabulary words, idioms (such as "all that glitters is not gold") and figurative language. We want the students to ask how the author is using certain words to show what has occurred. For Math, students must know their times-tables and sets. We show that multiplication is a shortcut to addition. Students should know how to write explanations of their answers.
- C. Black History Month – Principal Cesar thanks Rasheedah Harris for volunteering and putting posters up, and for getting students to share contributions of African American history.
- D. Coffee and Tea with Ms. C will resume this Friday, February 10th in the Library at 8:15 am. There will be a discussion of Latin, interactive games, will show how it relates to increasing vocabulary.
- E. Q & A – Kindergarten parent Adam Scally tells a story about his son and Black History Month regarding TAG teaching about inclusion, it is appreciated.
- F. Principal Cesar mentioned she enjoyed the Aviator Ice Skating Trip.

IV. SLT Report

- A. Co-Chair Judy Ann Mitchell said we're still working on the goals of the CEP and increasing parent participation. Hopefully the Coffee and Tea with Ms. C event will help do that.
- B. 8th Grade Report – Ms. Erica and Ms. Y are the coordinators of 8th grade activities leading up to graduation. We found a venue for the Prom instead of the gym and are working with parents to get it finalized. It is located in Queens. We are working on the Yearbook, and also with Mr. Gooden. We're working on having an 8th Grade meeting next year and inviting 7th graders so they can get an idea of what it's all about.

V. Committee Reports

A. Audit Committee

1. Anand said that Jenny Lam the committee Chair was not present, but was working on the current audit and if anyone had questions regarding such contact Audit or the Co-Presidents.

B. Budget Committee

1. Chair Eric Crump presented the information and said that Monday, February 13th (morning meeting) and Thursday, March 2nd (evening) we will be discussing what has worked and planning out the next school year.

C. Communications Committee

1. Co-Chair Nina Reiniger presents the report.
2. There have been productive meetings and PTA revamps on the website and the directory. It's live and they're looking for feedback. They put together the menu system, and ask for parents to please click on Website Feedback, or email Communications for all questions or issues you may have.
3. She asked how many of the parents have received the newsletter, and advised those who haven't to check their spam folders.

D. Enrichment Committee

1. Anand speaks on their behalf and says flyers for the spring semesters of Piano and Mandarin have gone out. The Chess flyer will be going up.
2. Field Day – Volunteers are still needed for Field Day.

E. Fundraising Committee

1. Co-Chair Catherine Levine said we have over \$155,000 and are only \$20,000 from our goal.
2. The Costume Party is Saturday, February 11, for elementary school students and one for the older students will be coming up.
3. Valentine Gram collections will continue through Monday morning and will be distributed to the students and teachers on Tuesday, Valentine's Day.
4. Auction – The Auction has a tentative date of April 22. We need donations, including items such as tickets to basketball games, hockey games, anything – even a book. The Project Manager this year is Trina Edmundson.
5. Science Fair – Save the date, as TAG's first Science Fair will be March 11th.
6. The next Fundraising meeting will be Thursday, February 9 at 8:15 am. Email with any questions.

F. Grants Committee

1. Anand speaks on their behalf and gives the update.
2. The committee had meetings regarding three grants:
 - a) HVAC system for cafeteria / auditorium / gymnasium.
 - b) Parks renovation.
 - c) Grant submitted to Viacom for Drama.
3. Parent Adam Scally is working on the first draft for Technology grant, and asks to see the space / room. He asked Mrs. Cesar if he could possibly see the current computer classroom, she said yes.

G. Membership Committee

1. Anand speaks on their behalf and gives the update.
2. The Ski Trip on January 28 was a success.
3. The Ice Skating play date at Aviator in Brooklyn was February 4th it was a success.
4. The upcoming Coffee and Tea with Ms. C will be the morning of February 10th.
5. Reminder: Volunteers are needed for Field Day, please sign up.

H. Vanderbilt Y Update

1. Director Andrea Scott said the next Zumba class will be Thursday, February 16th from 4:45 – 5:45 in the gymnasium. We had Zumba last week and it was great. The Zumba lady works at the Y, and she is coming back on the 16th and we are making it a monthly school event. Sara Coates asked if it was for middle school also; Mrs. Scott replied it is for both elementary and middle school students and their families, all are welcomed. She reported Principal Cesar participated last session, it was fun.

I. Treasury Report

1. Anand stated our Treasurer was not present and we didn't have the current report to give out.

J. Miscellaneous discussion about funding: Filming for TAG Website – Anand said that Jackson the videographer wasn't able to interview the students. Moise (a kindergarten father) asked about a target deadline to release the video and Anand responded that it looks like March, realistically.

K. Revenue – Anand said that there will be a Fundraising meeting this Thursday morning to discuss bringing in more revenue to the PTA and the school (corporate sponsorship).

VI. Question and Answer Period

- A. Judy Ann Mitchell said that on Friday the 8th graders are having a bake sale, make sure the students bring money. Anand asked if it would be every month, Judy didn't think so.
- B. Eric Crump said a 5th grade parent expressed a concern that 5th graders have too much in their backpacks. They are just under the grade to have lockers. Catherine Levine said she is a 5th grade parent. Admin allowed kids to store instruments in classrooms, which was great, but the backpacks were then getting weighed down by other things. Parents should try to go through the backpacks to try to reduce the amount of items inside, if possible.
- C. A parent asked about age-appropriate groups during Field Day. Catherine Levine said Kindergarten students would be with each other. The Paring would be: 1st and 2nd graders would be competing

together, 3rd & 4th graders, 5th & 6th graders, and 7th & 8th graders. They will all get assigned colors. Anand further explained that all K-8 students will be assigned a color, across the grades, but they don't all compete against each other. We're also trying to arrange a Spirit Day. The whole thing is labor intensive. Follow-up question regarding parent training: Anand said there will be a separate training session to go over the different games, and we don't have the training dates yet. Co-Secretary Rasheedah Harris said that TAG is collaborating with the Y. Ms. Scott said they were coordinating with Mr. Wong on what worked and what needs to be eliminated. She said she, Mr. Wong and Kathy Powell-Manning will finalize the activities on February 17th. We want the parents to do a 2 or 3-day activity. A parent asked if that much is really necessary and Ms. Scott replied that from last year's survey, they think it's necessary. Nina said that many parents didn't show up for training sessions last year and didn't know in advance what game they were learning. She suggests only one day of training so parents won't get turned off from volunteering.

D. Anand said the Chancellor will be here tomorrow doing a Town Hall meeting. Nina asked if there were particular items, to which Anand responded that she didn't give us an agenda. It varies because District 4 has many schools. There will be time for Q & A with the Chancellor, and the meeting will take place from 6pm – 7pm in the auditorium.

VII. Adjournment –

A. Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 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