



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, March 13, 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, March 13, at 6:14 pm in the cafeteria of the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars.
- B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure all attendees signed in.

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Hard copies of the February PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Anand made a motion to approve the February minutes; Rasheedah seconds. Minutes approved.

III. Committee Reports

A. Budget

1. Eric Crump and Ananda said per the bylaws we have to pass the budget by the June meeting. The next Budget meeting is Tuesday, March 27 at 8:15 am in the Library. Anyone who wants to propose something new, please bring it there. Regarding new proposals for the new budget lines, the more detailed it is the more robust chance you have of getting it through. Ananda said there is no reason to wait, you can email us and we can talk about feasibility. Thursday, May 3rd is our following meeting, after TAG's Annual Benefit, so we can see how much money we actually have. That meeting will have up and down voting for the Budget proposal. Thursday May 17th is the Executive Board review. Any parent can go, only the Executive Board can vote. June 12th, the proposals (whether approved or not) will be shown to the full general body, for general vote approval. They encouraged everyone to come to all four of the meetings. May 3rd will be a vote by a show of hands; per the bylaws the votes must be in person. Co-President Nina Reiniger said that is abiding by the Chancellor's Regulations, as well.

Ananda discussed a proposed change to add in-curriculum Chess for the 6th grade. Enrichment is asking to move \$420 from an Enrichment line into the Chess line, for in-curriculum Chess for the 6th grade. Principal Cesar wants to expand in-curriculum Chess past Kindergarten and 1st grade, to 2nd – 5th grades and hopes to add the 6th grade. The proposal is to move \$420 into the \$3,200 Chess line.

Vote: All in favor of moving \$420 from Enrichment to Chess for 6th grade in-curriculum Chess?

Unanimous vote in favor.

B. Audit

1. Anand said Audit isn't here but it can be viewed in the Parent Coordinator's room, in the binder in the purple cabinet.

C. Communications

1. Anand speaks on their behalf and said they have a newly revamped website, and gives thanks to parents. The Communications Committee continues to work on the app and the PTA database. The next meeting is March 14th at 8:15 am in the Library.

D. Enrichment

1. Sherri, Debate Coach, spoke regarding the Debate Team. She is leaving Debate in April, and someone needs to take her place or there won't be Debate in September. This past weekend the students went to the city championship. They didn't win but they've won in the past. Next month is the last tournament. The Debate Coach's responsibilities require two hours Friday afternoon, and once a month Saturday, though the job is really the two hours on Fridays. Anand said we need parents to escort the students to and fro on Fridays.
2. Anand said Field Day is May 15, 16 and 17. The students go out to Randall's Island and play games for the day. This is TAG's third year. Nina says the days for each grade are May 16th for grades K – 4, May 15th for grades 5 – 6, and May 17th for grades 7 – 8. We need a lot of parent volunteers. It is a really fun event. You can chaperone the groups to different events. You can go with your child's group. Middle schools need the most volunteers as less parents go. Eric said volunteers could help coordinate setting things up. It's a movement day. Jennifer Fiore said we also need parents to escort students over. Johnae Ferguson said there are training dates for parent volunteers. The week after will be the rain dates, corresponding to which day might require it. If you are interested, reach out to Enrichment.

E. Fundraising

1. Anand speaks on their behalf. The TAG Annual Gala will be April 28th and is the second biggest fundraiser of the year, behind iPledge. Childcare is available. Nina adds that for childcare you have to sign up in advance, you can't just show up the day of and get them in. Jennifer said donations to the auction are tax deductible. Nina asked when online bidding is starting and Jennifer responded that she isn't sure, but item submissions are until March 29th.
2. Rasheedah Harris said the Talent Show is Friday, May 11th in the evening. Auditions are going on now and live auditions are March 14th starting at 3:00. You can submit a video audition online.
3. Box Tops for Dress-Down Day. Rasheedah said when submitting, include your child's name and class. We're also taking cash; \$5 for each day and it is cash only, no online link or checks. The money is to go to Ms. Powell.
4. NY School Survey. Nina reminded parents to fill out the survey. Ms. Powell said it is due at the end of the month. If you send Ms. Powell the confirmation that you've filled out the survey, your child will get a dress-down day on April 13th.

F. Grants

1. Anand spoke on their behalf. The Grants Committee applies for City Council Fund grants and other grants. Rasheedah added that they research the grants and put in the information. You can help by subscribing to receive their emails and can help research and apply for grants.

G. Family Engagement

1. VP of Family Engagement Johnae Ferguson explained that Family Engagement is about building community. Paint Night for middle school will be in March. The committee will be coordinating workshops with Ms. Powell for April and May. There will be an Anti-Bullying workshop with BRAVE. Separately, a few of the 4th graders had already approached her regarding their start-up of an anti-bullying program at TAG.
2. June – a lot of volunteers will be needed:
 - a) Kid’s Spa Day at Milk & Cookies on the Upper East Side
 - b) Welcome Picnic
 - c) Annual Waterpark Trip
 - d) Multicultural Day
3. We coordinate with the Class Parents. There will be an email send out regarding roles and responsibilities that Class Parents handle. Regarding bullying, start with Ms. Powell, she may refer you to Ms. Erica, Ms. Y.
4. The next Family Engagement meeting(s) will be on Friday, March 1th at 8:30 am and 6:00 pm, each covering the same topics.
5. National Student Walk-Out. They were asked by some parents regarding the school’s plans for the Walk-Out. Anand said they are going to address that later in tonight’s PTA meeting.

II. SLT Report

- A. Deirdre spoke and said she wasn’t at the last meeting but has the notes. The SLT meetings are open to everyone and the next is March 20 at 5:45 pm. Send an email or come in person. We’ve been discussing detention, and have encouraged Mr. Solomon and Mr. Ender to get on the Jupiter system which would alert parents. Parents also have an onus to engage.
- B. The CEP is underway for this year. We divide up the document and go through it. SLT – Senior Leadership Team. It’s a 2-year nominated appointment, and includes the participation of teachers, Administration, Ms. Scott the Y director. Eric clarified that the SLT consists of 5 parents and 5 school members (Principal or Vice Principal) and at least 1 faculty member. Deirdre explained the CEP is a document of high-level goals, going year to year, which out the tone for the actual school budget, STEM or STEAM programs. It’s a real discussion between Admin and parents.
- C. The Great Books program. The SLT meeting had a discussion around Great Books, and the instructor is coming in to TAG.
- D. Kathy Fernando introduced herself and said she is on the SLT. She said they posed to Principal Cesar – what is one bold and actionable area – and Principal Cesar said STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). It is also one of the top things parents were interested in also.

Rasheedah made an announcement for Enrichment, regarding Engineering for Kids in middle school, in-curriculum has begun. An email went out regarding Engineering as enrichment for the younger students, afterschool program.

III. Principal's Report

- A. Principal Cesar greeted the parents and acknowledged the 4th grade teachers present for the PTA meeting, Ms. Dolginko and Ms. Chiu.
- B. K – 5 Technology teacher Ms. Iris Ho started today. Hired in December, she just got cleared, and is assessing what the students know.
- C. Parent-Teacher Conferences – Tomorrow morning is the last time to sign up. Dismissal for all is at 11:05 am; Dismissal will take place in the yard for pick-ups and busing will be provided for the bussed students.
- D. Report cards will be sent home tomorrow.
- E. Swimming – this is the last week for 1st and 2nd grades. Grades 3 and 4 will start swim on Wednesday, April 18th.
- F. State Exams – We are targeting the areas we saw from the last rally. ELA will be April 11 and 12. Math will be May 1 and 2.
- G. Coffee and Tea with Ms. C will be Thursday, March 29. Many students and / or parents are suffering from loss in the family such as death, divorce. Dr. Gerber will discuss strategies to deal with this, communication, etc..
- H. Curriculum Fair will be Saturday, April 21 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Contributors will be giving the community different insight about what's going on.
- I. District 4 Science Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 25.
- J. National Student Walk-Out, March 14th from 10:00 am to 10:17 am. Grades 6 – 8 will be given notice by classrooms that if participating they can head to the basketball courts where they will be supervised. Lower grades will have the support of the staff but will have to be signed out by their parents for the 17 minutes of silence, in the lower yard, and then signed back in. This is a student-led walk-out regarding violence in schools, especially high schools. There will be 17 minutes of silence and we will support those students who want to go. Co-Secretary Laura Lampert asked if a child has a note from a parent or guardian authorizing another person on their child's sign-out sheet to escort their child, would that be allowed, and Principal Cesar said adult must be on the blue card. Kathy Fernando asked if someone was explaining the context of the walk-out to the younger students. Principal Cesar said it may be more difficult to understand for K – 1. We can do that for the 2nd graders and above. We are careful with the terms we use. Luigi Kapaj said we're already doing lockdown drills with the younger students. Principal Cesar said we explain drills are in case an intruder comes in who really doesn't belong. We stay quiet, we lock the doors, we stay out of sight. We don't use language which invokes fear. We do a Code Blue – the DOE, three times a year sends a dummy and all people trained in CPR come running, and they have to administer CPR and shock. It's a drill in case a student or adult is in crisis. There is an active team that takes over during these drills. They brief the police and the first responders. Rasheedah asked how many defibrillators are in the school and Principal Cesar answered that there is one outside the auditorium, one in the gym, one on the third floor, and they get battery checks accordingly.
- K. A parent asked about specialized high schools. Principal Cesar said around 37 students got into schools such as Beacon, NEST, Bard, Brooklyn Tech, Brooklyn Latin, Bronx Science, and Stuyvesant. Johnae said she is concerned about diversity; NY1 said each year around 10 black students get into Stuyvesant. Principal Cesar said there is a program to get students interested, and we start prepping the 7th graders in January.

L. Principal Cesar said there was an improper use of emails with an incident of one parent saying another parent said something and copied it to other parents. Teachers are concerned about this as well. Let's find a way to positively get our concerns out without hurting each other. Let her know, let Ms. Powell know. We don't want our kids to resolve issues in that way. Rasheedah asked Principal Cesar to remind parents that every Tuesday, teachers are available to meet with parents. She responded that she will make it a part of their robocall, and if it is something urgent she can make a meeting w/ the parent and teacher in the morning.

IV. Question & Answer

1. A parent asked about 2nd grade awards ceremonies. Principal Cesar said a slight majority said they wanted it, and it will be the same, in the auditorium. A parent asked if a survey would go to the 3rd grade parents about that. Principal Cesar said they're definitely going to have the awards ceremonies because they're taking the state tests. Said the 2nd grade families want the ceremonies, she probably will not proceed with surveying the 3rd grade families.
2. A parent said that on Friday they needed to go to the Lost & Found and security said it was closed. Parent was wondering if this is a new rule. Principal Cesar said that likely was the response because Ms. Powell was probably not around. Rasheedah added that it could be because parents start to roam, parents must be mindful of after-hours in the building and they ask to go to the Parent Coordinators office and start roaming the halls.
3. Principal Cesar said Kindergarten and 1st grade will have a moving-up ceremony, with no awards.
4. Principal Cesar said we want to make sure that we're on top of getting kids ready for the 21st century.
5. Principal Cesar thanks the PTA and all for their support.

V. **Treasurer's Report** – Anand said the Treasurer's Report is on the table, ensured everyone received a copy to review and asked if anyone had any questions regarding it. No one had any questions..

Anand reminded parents that the next PTA General Meeting is April 10th at 8:15 am – (morning)

VI. Adjournment

- A. 7:29 pm - Ananda motions to adjourn the meeting. Laura Lampert seconds 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