



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, April 4, 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 at 6:11pm the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 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.
- C. Co-Secretary, Laura Lampert, arrived at 6:25 pm, Principal's Report already in progress.

II. President's Report

- A. Anand discussed the Nominating Committee and its responsibilities and the need to recruit parents to join this committee.

III. SLT Report

- A. Eric Crump said they are beginning the process for next year, he explained the program and told parents they can read more about the SLT and CEP on the PTA website and the Department of Ed's website. He said there will be openings on the SLT panel for next year and we will need to start advertising this for parents to explore.

IV. Principal's Report

- A. Ms. C introduces Ms. Blount, Ms. Tabrizi and Mr. Dureya in attendance. Ms. Blount spoke about the tests the students recently took. Said children were still not done by 2pm. They reminded us the Math tests will be from 5/2 – 5/4. Ms. C explained that when the Rally Test results come in, they analyze them, and work with the students and encourage them to strengthen areas of weakness. She said our Nurse brought someone in to talk about testing and anxiety related to the testing time with all of our students, she felt it helped them a lot. She said she has a friend that's a principal at another school and they told her that their school was still testing at 5pm. So this year's testing was brutal for all children, across the board, but TAG handled it well. She talked about the swimming program and reminded us that this Friday, Grades 1 and 2 will start swimming. She reminded everyone to stay on track with their children by utilizing the Achieve 3000 and programs a like to keep the children on track.
- B. Pam Simon asks if the Spring Break Holiday Packet will be lighter. Principal Cesar said it will be lighter for Spring Break; they just had the State tests.
- C. Survey – We are behind our competitors and sister schools in completion of the school survey and only have 34% response. Nina Reiniger asks how we can have a better response, and Principal Cesar said she explains that it gives a better idea of how people feel. She understands that it is long. Anand said it is

a DOE survey, not specific to TAG.

D. Q & A –

1. Rasheedah wants to discuss lunch detention. When elementary students get detention they are to sit at a table and get to talk. Her daughter loves that because she gets to talk, although she likes to go outside and run around. Principal Cesar said she is trying to get more supervision so it would be more of a deterrent. They don't get detention for every little thing; it is if the teacher puts them in detention. Middle schoolers report to her office. She explains the students have to get a warning. During lunchtime the noise is so elevated, students can't hear when it's their time to line up. Lunch isn't time to talk, they can choke on food. It's better if they eat first and then talk, at a low murmur. Last week the noise caused complaints during testing, so we had to then do a quiet lunch. Responding to Rasheedah inquiry about the protocols, Principal Cesar explained that when they go to the auditorium they have music, games, Mr. Powell brings hula hoops. In the lunchroom she tries to balance safety and the lunchtime, no running.
2. Nina asks about the TAG tour schedule. Principal Cesar said we will work on that after the break. In response to Nina saying there was a complaint that the tour groups are too large, Parent Coordinator Ms. Bruno said we have to have more volunteers, and she has a list of parents who are interested in helping.

V. **Committee Reports**

A. Audit Committee

1. Anand said we will try to have the status for next month.

B. Communications Committee

1. Co-Chair Nina Reiniger says we are still revamping the website and you might see errors on the website. Wednesday, April 26 is the next meeting and we are trying to get the newsletter out before the break.

C. Membership Committee

1. Co-Chair Ilaria Mogno says the water park trip to Kalahari is almost all booked, with about 80 bookings. Anand said there are about 19 rooms available for Saturday night, and there is no deadline to book.

D. Budget Committee

1. Chair Eric Crump said there is a meeting this Friday. The Executive Board is reviewing the final budget proposal and is voting on it during the April 20 meeting.

E. Enrichment Committee

1. On behalf of Co-Chair Kathy Powell-Manning, Eric presents the report and explains that a Field Day meeting is happening upstairs right now. We still need volunteers, especially for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Field Day occurs over May 16, 17, and 18 – a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. More volunteers are needed, small snacks, bottled water, juice boxes.

F. Fundraising Committee

1. Co-Chair Pam Simon said the Annual Gala is the main focus right now. There will be open bar, unlimited food, entertainment, on-site child care. Our fundraising goal for the Gala is \$30,000. If you have any contacts regarding goods / services, reach out to Co-President Trina Edmundson or ask Pam for her email information.
2. The Talent Show will be on Friday, May 12.
3. The Carnival will be in June.
4. A parent explained his company is donating 2 cases of wine for the Gala and he is personally donating. He asked about delivering them prior to the Gala. There are also restaurant gift certificates. Pam said yes, we will work on making it happen.

G. Grants Committee

1. Anand wanted to mention some pending grants such as a Manhattan Community Grant, another grant from Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, an HVAC upgrade, Manhattan Borough President for Parks, and the D'Addario Foundation.

H. Treasury Report

1. Chair Rebecca Yoftahie says we are heavy on income this month. There were a lot of corporate matches. Phys Ed and the Teacher Assistants value increased by \$997, it is the money we spend on Mr. Powell for his additional help, lumped in with the overtime. Every event we have is pretty much up to date aside from Pay Pal, about \$12,000.
2. Regarding Dine-Out, Pam said she asked to find out the amount collected and our donation, we are awaiting that information.

I. **Question and Answer Period**

1. Swimming through the Dwight School – Eric Crump explained the in-curriculum 10-week swimming only goes from K – 4th grade because of time restrictions. The Dwight School said their Free Family Swim is Friday afternoons through the end of school, not through the summer. A parent has to be there. If we can find a parent to chaperone kids from TAG at 2:30 that would work out, the Dwight School would love to have all of the kids. Laura asked about the possibility of a chaperone to bring the students from the after school program, Eric said they could look into that as well.
2. Lily Sakai's father Miki asked, if he were to write a letter for a general donation, is there a sample letter with TAG's history, and the answer was yes.

VI. Adjournment

- A. Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. Rebecca Yoftahie seconded the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Laura Lampert, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President