



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmundson &
Anand Raghunath

Co-Presidents

Sara Coates &
Norma Corvera

Co-Vice Presidents Treasurer

Rebecca Yoftahie

Rasheedah Harris &
Laura Lampert

Co-Secretaries

MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 2, 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 6:09pm 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.

II. President's Report

- A. Anand said that nominations for PTA Executive Board positions are open until June. The Nominating Committee will advertise the positions and the PTA will send communications regarding the openings on the board. There will be 2 or 3 SLT openings.

III. Committee Reports

A. Communications Committee

1. Co-Chair Nina Reiniger says we continue to improve the website, which is mostly pictures of the children in Enrichment activities, trophies the children have won. Yellow bus and private bus information is on the website. The private buses include Washington Heights, Inwood and the Bronx. Nina asks that if any errors are found on the website, leave feedback.

B. Budget Committee

2. Chair Eric Crump said we have done very well with iPledge. They anticipate a sizeable increase in the budget - \$179,000 includes large increases such as one more Teacher Assistant (TA), with a proposal of adding a third. Chess, Debate, Theatre program increases. Magazine subscriptions were requested by teachers and we partially funded them. \$5,000 line created for Computer Lab upgrade. \$1,000 for the recess supplies line. Parents have purchased jump ropes and dodgeballs which get worn out. Singapore Math costs have decreased. A few lines are not funded, such as basketball. Our focus is on maintaining the enrichments we currently have. There is no physical space to play basketball. It costs money for Physical Education to get movement programs to get kids up and running. Math initiatives are in the works. We are voting on the Budget in June.

Q: Is there a possibility of TA's for the 3rd grade?

A: It was discussed at length and voted down. Every TA costs another \$20,000, and we don't want to overextend ourselves as a PTA.

There is a discussion of adding a second TA for Kindergarten. Our 3rd grade teachers are Master Teachers so they qualify for more assistance (such as student teachers) who we wouldn't need to pay for.

3. Comment on the budget and the Enrichment lines being increased:
Kathy Powell-Manning says that as the person who has been doing Enrichment for several years, Jennifer Fiore (Co-Chair) and she were clear on why they wanted particular lines increased on the budget. She thought that if we vote on this current budget we won't be able to fund Chess or Theatre for the entire year; it seemed to her the PTA is defunding programs they've thought very much about. Pamela Simon asks for clarification on what Kathy was saying. Kathy said organizations love TAG and they kick in funds when they see all that we are doing in the enrichment fields (i.e. chess, debate, theatre). Nicole from the Sonyc Y loves the program. Chess grows each year. We have a TAG student who competes on the state and national level. She (Kathy) just wants to ensure we maintain these programs and allot money on the budget for each accordingly.
4. Eric clarifies regarding the budget lines which we are proposing to increase, to expand and replace funds. He re-confirmed that the Enrichments aren't being defunded.
5. Comment about the Budget: Looking at the budget and line items regarding technology, Nina said that based on a conversation during the Grants Committee meeting this morning, we discussed possibly getting donations of laser printers. Kathy said that the issue with donated technology is with who then supports it regarding repairs or updates? Eric said he wouldn't want to turn away a donation, but we have to make sure the equipment is compatible. Vice Principal Dascal said the DOE has a contract only with Lexmark. Any Lexmark purchased through the DOE has a 3-year warranty, no ink or toner can be purchased from anywhere aside from Lexmark. We do purchase from other channels but if something happens to them we're on our own. You have to buy a fairly heavy duty printer, and he believes it's somewhere around \$500.
6. In closing, Eric said he's expecting more information to go on the website. He's scheduled a morning meeting for Monday, May 22. There won't be a vote that day, not until June.

IV. Principal's Report (*Since Mr. Dascal already had the floor, he wanted to give the Principal's Report*):

- A. Vice President Dascal thanks everyone for coming out in such beautiful weather. Principal Cesar could not attend the meeting due to an important appointment. He speaks of their undying gratitude to the work the PTA does in supporting the school, providing TA's Field Day, the prom, and enhancing the lives of our students here.
 - B. We are at Day 1 of the NYS Math exam, which took less time than the ELA as expected. Day 2 is tomorrow; Day 3 is Thursday. Nobody was absent today in grades 3 – 7.
 - C. In Mid-May we start to administer the next grade up in Rally testing. We do pre-assessments to see where everyone has strengths and weaknesses. We will continue to use Achieve 3000. Kindergarten students are still working with Smarty Ants. We hope iExcel has been used, usernames and passwords were sent home. The students are highly encouraged to use those and iReady through the summer. Regents testing for 8th graders are coming up. Tuesday, June 13th are morning and evening Regents, two more the following day. Then they're done and out of the way.
 - D. The swim program collaboration with the Dwight School is going "swimmingly." The logistical hurdles to get the students there and back and in time for their lunch period are there.
 - E. Regarding the recent RoboCall sent out, we, like the whole world, are having a problem with fidget spinners. They are a brilliant idea for autistic children but they've been co-opted by general students. We're saying, don't bring them in.
- Q: Nina asked, if the swim program continues well, is it anticipated for next year?

A: The ball is in their court. Right now we're just enjoying the program for what it is. He ended with: "Let's Go Rangers!!" (referring to the New York Rangers in the NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs)

III. Committee Reports (*continued*)

C. Fundraising Committee

1. Co-Chair Catherine Levine said we've raised \$183,000, surpassing the goal of \$175,000. The Talent Show is May 12th. There are a few tickets left for the May 28 Yankees game, and there is another game June 25.
2. PTA Co-President Trina Edmundson asked for an update on the 8th grade prom. Catherine said it was cancelled and then some parents and the PTA stepped in, and now it's back on.
3. Rasheedah asked if there will be a Carnival this year, and the answer was no. Field Day is toward the end of May, there is a lot going on and it can get overwhelming. There are liabilities, and we decided to skip it this year.
4. Responding to an inquiry of how the Annual Gala went, Catherine said we raised a little over \$21,000, and we're still auctioning online.

D. Membership Committee

1. Anand spoke on behalf of Co-Chair Ilaria Mogno. Monday, May 8th at 7 am is the Teachers Breakfast.
2. The Kalahari waterpark trip – There are three rooms left each for Saturday and Sunday.
3. The Welcome Picnic will be June 17th at 11:00 am.

E. Grants Committee

1. Anand spoke on their behalf. We did get \$100,000 from the City Council, once more.

F. Enrichment Committee

1. Kathy Powell-Manning said that Field Day is May 16 for grades K – 2, May 18th for grades 7 and 8, and the big one is Monday, May 22 for grades 3 – 6, parents are definitely needed. We've partnered with the school and the Y, we've had monthly meetings. We hope for sunny days.
2. We are looking for new Enrichment Co-Chairs.

G. SLT

1. Anand said they've been working on the template for the 2017/2018 CEP. Parents are encouraged to participate.

H. Treasury Report

1. Chair Rebecca Yoftahie said that as of right now just up to April, half of the total, is at \$9,700. Next month a lot more money will kick in. The Yankees tickets were an expense. \$2,700 for prom costs. Whatever money comes in stays, whatever is not needed gets refunded.

IV. Adjournment

- C. Anand Raghunath motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 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