



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, June 6, 2017

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

I. Call to Order

A. PTA Co-President, Trina Edmundson, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, June 6, at 6:11 pm in the cafeteria of the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars.

B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure parents and TAG staff signed the attendance sheet.

II. Nominating Committee – Patricia Prass along with Soraya Santiago. They read the list of those who are nominated and for which positions.

A. **President** – Anand Raghunath and Nina Reiniger are nominated for Co-President. The floor opens for other nominations. No one else nominated or self-nominates. Voting via show of hands. 2 opposed. Anand and Nina are voted through as Co-Presidents.

B. **Vice President** – Jennifer Fiore and Ilaria Mogno are nominated for Co-Vice President. The floor opens for other nominations. No one else nominated or self-nominates. Voting via show of hands. 1 abstains. Jennifer and Ilaria are voted through as Co-Presidents.

C. **Treasurer** – Rebecca Yoftahie and Trina Edmundson are nominated for Co-Treasurer. The floor opens for other nominations. No one else nominated or self-nominates. Voting via show of hands. Unanimous. Rebecca and Trina are voted through as Co-Treasurer.

D. **Secretary** – Rasheedah Harris and Laura Lampert are nominated for Co-Secretary. The floor opens for other nominations. No one else nominated or self-nominates. Voting via show of hands. Unanimous vote. Rasheedah and Laura are voted through as Co-Secretary.

E. **SLT** – Pamela Simon and Anna Wolf are two candidates. Eric Crump nominates Kathy Fernando. Jennifer Fiore nominates Soraya Santiago. Trina Edmundson nominates Brandee Williams. Responding to parent asking if it can be all 5 on the committee, Eric explains the SLT Committee must have 5 DOE people and of the other 5 there are only 3 available slots, to replace the out-going members of the SLT.

III. Budget - Budget Chair Eric Crump explains that the budget comes up for approval and ratification.

Occasionally a budget is approved in June and then amended in September. We approve the budget line though sometimes not all funds are spent, so those go for general purposes. \$186,000 - \$197,000 to spend for the upcoming year.

Brandee Williams - a parent addressed in a recent meeting a request for an additional TA (teacher assistant) for kindergarten. A proposed amendment to add a line for a second TA for kindergarten and pointed out that other City-wide G & T schools have them. The cost is \$19,928. Currently a line of ~ \$9,000 with no other proposed programs.

Singapore Math – proposal to reduce the allotted \$4,000 to \$0.

Computer Lab upgrade – Middle school students need printers and ink, there are funds left over in a technology grant. Anna Pan said there is a \$150,000 grant going to the school in unrestricted funds toward technology. Anna clarifies the school also funds Singapore math and the school never asked for that money back. Brandee said it doesn't mean we're not going to have Singapore Math, her understanding is the agreement was that the PTA would assist in funding Singapore Math in decreasing amounts, and they would like to use the excess funds toward the additional Kindergarten TA. A parent asked why Kindergarten and not 3rd Grade.

Trina said the numbers Anna and Brandee are putting out in this meeting are not accurate. There are incidentals. If we have an emergency, we can't spend every dollar we have. Fundraising is a projected total. The amounts haven't come in yet. You can't allocate funds we don't have, that is a liability. This isn't the venue for this and they both know this. If Eric told you this, he didn't have accurate numbers.

Anna said the budget approved is \$189,000, we're wanting to go up \$5900.

Pam Simon, Fundraising co-chair, said she has been Chair of Budget previously. Our process as Eric stated, this budget has been talked about for months. We've talked about this with parents, faculty, etc. Eric has been working on this for months. Everything gets hashed out in the main meeting. At this meeting, we vote on it. Any amendments would come in September after everyone is aware of how much we actually have. We're talking about putting a big-ticket item up when we haven't gotten all of the checks yet. The Board has gone over this. The committees are still working over the summer. This goes with the process and our by-laws.

Brandee said nothing in the by-laws says you can't bring it up in a general PTA meeting. She said she thinks there is relevance on why not a 3rd grade TA but her understanding is they are master teachers, and they get student teachers, so the kindergarten teacher have more of a need for the extra support.

Pam said the reason we have a process is because we have a process. I can come back in September and say I don't like this and gather a room full of people and amend it. And someone can come back the next year and do the same. It would set a precedent.

Eric said we as a Budget Committee and Executive Committee decided we wanted to fund a third TA, for the 2nd grade. There are other proposals we turned down. Parents do have the right to propose an amendment at a general PTA meeting. Brandee and Anna are proposing to add a fourth TA and eliminate three other lines.

Nadia Jarrett asks about the 7th and 8th grade math and other lines that read "TBD" – can they be revisited next year? Eric explains that yes, it can be revisited.

Catherine Levine said everything we implement must be sustainable. We already agreed to bring one more, now people want two. We may not have the money to continue it, and how is that consistency for our children?

A parent asked what happens if the budget isn't approved, and Pam responded that essentially, as of June 30th, you cannot spend any money.

A parent asked the disadvantage of voting for the budget now and then moving to amend it in September, and Eric responded that there isn't any.

Principal Cesar said we cannot use funds if we're not aware they're there. \$4000 can barely buy anything for a classroom. Students share laptops, etc. and she's not aware that those lines are being cut, and she's perplexed on why they would be cut. Teachers have one view of what is available to them alone, not to the school as a whole.

Nina asked what amount we are unsure of for the upcoming funds, and Catherine replied there are corporate

checks we're waiting on.

Trina said we had an agreement – TAG PTA will pay for ½ of the Singapore Math program on a reduced amount. How can you as a community vote to phase something out without discussing it with Administration?

IV. Budget Approval

Eric asked all in favor of the proposed amendment. 5 in favor. 23 opposed. Proposed amendment fails. Eric asked all in favor of approving the \$179,000 budget. 30 in favor. 5 opposed. Budget approved.

V. SLT Approvals

A. With ballots tallied by the Nominating Committee, Patricia Prass announces that the 3 SLT members voted in are: Kathy Fernando, Pam Simon and Soraya Santiago.

VI. PTA Executive Board Approvals

A. Eric Crump motions for someone to nominate the Co-Secretary to cast a vote to approve the new Executive Board. Pam Simon makes the motion. Co-Secretary Laura Lampert casts the vote for approval. Executive Board approved.

B. Eric Crump motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Co-Secretary Laura Lampert seconded the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Laura Lampert, TAG PTA Co-Secretary (dictation, re-typed and submitted via email)
Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretary (reviewed, revised and finalized via email)

Minutes approved in September 2017 by new appointees:

Anand Raghunath & Nina Reinger, TAG PTA Co-Presidents