



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars

Parent Teacher Association

Kathy Fernando
Denada Ramnishta
Co-Presidents

Pamela Simon
Mark Levin
Co-Vice Presidents

Johnae Ferguson
James Vasile
Co-Treasurers

Laura Lampert
Rasheedah Harris
Co-Secretaries

PTA Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 16, 2018

I. Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-President, Kathy Fernando, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 16, at 6:18 pm 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. The following people were present: (see attendee list in secretary's binder).

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Hard copies of the September PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Motion to approve the September minutes; minutes approved.

III. Budget – Revised Budget and New Budget Proposal Process

- A. Yuko Yoshida, Budget Co-VP presented the revised Budget. Pamela Simon clarified for parents revised the revised budget is in response to parents' wants in areas identified as needing funding. A parent asked why we are funding an additional TA for 1st Grade. Kathy Fernando stated we discovered and worked with our surplus to fund this additional TA. The Parent stated we needed more of a reason and asked for more information. Another parent asked why the Singapore math money was cut. It was stated fund were moved from various lines to fund other initiatives. A parent asked if the 1st Grade teachers asked for an additional TA. Ms. Cesar stated we have 31 students in each class, the 1st grade teachers are good, but they can use extra hands and the 2nd TA would be helpful. Others schools such as Anderson cap their students at 24 and they have 1 TA in each class. A parent asked if we have a cap on students like Anderson. Ms. Cesar said they do cap their classes but keep in mind, they get extra funding. Ms. Cesar followed up with saying we can't cap, we cannot afford it. She stated Anderson's PTA generates close to a million so they can afford to cap. A parent asked if K is capped at 30. Ms. Cesar stated K classes are 25 students, the parents followed up with one K class has 26 students. Ms. Cesar responded one child is leaving from that class, so they will have 25 students. A motion was made to vote on the proposed new budget. The majority voted in favor, zero opposed, and 3 abstained. The new budget was passed.
- B. The Budget Co-VP distributed the proposed the Budget Request Form and information sheet; it provided a breakdown of the budget proposal process. Denada Ramnishta clarified the process for everyone, Pamela Simon clarified in response to parents' inquiries and James Vasile discussed the importance of this process. A motion was made to vote on this Budget Proposal Process. All voted in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstained. The Budget Proposal Process was passed. Yuko Yoshida said we will post this form as digital form on the internet for convenience.

IV. Treasurer's Report

1. Hard copies of a partial Treasurer's report were handed out. Co-Treasurer, James Vasile, said stated they (the treasurers) are new and were missing some information but would have a complete report by the next PTA meeting. He advised there was not a lot of activity, per the report, and any

questions can be directed to him. Co-Treasurer, Johnae Ferguson, apologized for running out of printouts and asked people to share; parents were advised it will be available online. A parent asked about the PTA losing their 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status. James and Johnae stated the status is pending and the 501(c)(3) status will hopefully be reinstated soon.

II. Committee Reports

A. Family Engagement (FE)

1. Rasheedah Harris spoke on behalf of the FE Co-VP's. A parent stated they were not able to find fellow TAG families at the Apple Picking Event and asked for a better way to all meet up and get to know each other at FE events. Rasheedah Harris notified attendees that Sunday 10/21 is another playdate at Central Park.

B. Audit

1. Deirdre Pace, Audit Co-VP, said they are working on an audit now and are in touch with the various committees to complete this.

B. Communications

1. Rajesh Jayaraman, Communications VP, asks parents to please go to the TAG website and register their email if they're not already receiving the emails.

B. Enrichment

1. Johnae Ferguson advised they will soon issue refunds to those parents who paid for overbooked Enrichment courses. Denada Ramnishta apologized and clarified the families affected were contacted and the hiccups were unfortunate.

A. Grants

1. Makiko Yasuda and Richa Gulatie, Grants Co-VPs, spoke about the grants they were working on, in particular a rooftop garden.
2. After a discussion about the status of the Poor Richard Playground grant, Rasheedah Harris motioned moving the Parks Playground Subcommittee from the Grants committee to Family Engagement committee. In response to a parents' inquiry about the need for this change, Mark Levin clarified that this playground initiative has moved from needing funding (funding has been secured) and is moving into the next phase of completing the renovation. Family Engagement has been working with the local community and elected officials to push this along. A motion was made for this move; the vote was unanimous. The motion to move the Parks Subcommittee from Grants Committee to Family Engagement Committee was passed.

II. Fundraising

- A. Kathy Fernando spoke on behalf of fundraising. She discussed iPledge and the drive to get as many donations as we can. Kathy Fernando stated, in response to a parent that the 501(c)(3) status would help push donations, after status is back. A parent asked if the BoxTop money goes to TAG or TAG's PTA. It was clarified that the BoxTops collected gets submitted to the BoxTop Corporation and TAG's PTA receives a check for those. However when parents pay cash for dress down days, last year we paid the cash directly to TAG the school, not the PTA. Ms. Cesar responded that she uses the money for various initiatives such as pizza parties, etc with the money collected last year from the dress down payments.

- B. Johnae Ferguson said we need to vote on a fundraising calendar that displays projected expenses and an overall goal. Other parents stated the Fundraising VP's need projections next to each line of every initiative listed on their fundraising calendar; that is what the parents are to vote on. Another parent asked how much did we raise last year; \$280,000 was the answer. Ms. Cesar said Picture Day should be on a Monday; in her years of experience, she noticed families prefer this. Denada Ramnishta and Kathy Fernando encouraged parents to please attend these various committee meetings.

III. SLT Report

- A. Pamela Simon greeted parents and said they had their first meeting 2 weeks ago. They selected a Chair, and a Secretary.
- B. The planning for a Food Drive is also underway.

IV. Principal's Report

A. Opening of School

1. Principal Cesar introduced Ms. Deleon (5th Grade Social Studies and Language Arts) and Ms. Ruiz (4th grade lab and 5th & 6th Grade Science). Ms. Deleon told everyone about Ms. Lake and how she is in charge of the Student Body Election. Ms. Lake told us the children are learning about elections, campaigning, etc. They went out to the community to promote the upcoming elections. They are learning about the constitution and revolution. Ms. Ruiz explained more about the project the children were working on. They learned about high power lines and the danger they pose. Ms. Lake said follow her on twitter = @mslake5 said maybe we can put our students on the agenda for the next general PTA meeting.
2. Principal Cesar said 4th - 8th grade recently received their state tests scores. She gave 4th and 5th grade theirs and 6th, 7th and 8th Grade test scores will be mailed home. She discussed the *Coffee & Tea with Ms. C* event where the presenter discussed the state test scores, and TAG's trajectory, growth percentile, etc.
3. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on Thursday November 15th. Reports cards will go home November 14th. For the Parent/Teacher Conference they will give out the Progress Report, it is not the report card.
4. Ms. Cesar reminded everyone it's time to register other children to take the G&T exam, the deadline was approaching.
5. MOSL was discussed and Ms. Cesar stated it is mandatory. A parent discussed the hardship of the writing work and said the writing changed. A parent said they are concerned with a past 5th grade issue concerning a soft lockdown. The issue was a 5th grader had a knife in the classroom, and it was discovered by other students; the knife was confiscated and they had a soft-lockdown but that was the extent of the situation. The parent said parents should know what happened and a better communication process should be in place. Ms. Cesar explained they can do a better job of notifying the parents quicker, but they cannot divulge the specifics of the cause of the soft-lockdown. Ms. Cesar said the lockdowns and drills are practiced throughout the year and they will soon have a meeting notifying parents about the process or their drills. Ms. Cesar advised the children are used to these drills and they are fine. Ms. Cesar said if it would be satisfactory to all the parents, going forward she will send an email to parents with a one sentence saying there was a lockdown, etc. Parents agreed that would be satisfactory.

6. In response to a parent's question, Ms. Cesar stated K-6 has technology class. 7th and 8th Grade have laptop carts in their classroom. A parent asked if the laptops break, do they fix them or replace them; Ms. Cesar said they replace them. A parent stated the middle school tech lab is outdated. Ms. Cesar advised the older kids tech lab is fully functional.

A. **Fundraising - continued:** Olga Lakhina, Fundraising Co-VP, arrived at the end of the meeting. She stated they need to have more fundraising events. She asked if we can vote on the calendar so they can proceed with their fundraising. A parent said the projected numbers are not noted on the calendar thus can't be voted on. The various initiatives on the calendar were discussed in order to piece together projected expenses for certain upcoming events so that parents could vote on them during the meeting. A motion was made to approve the projects expenses for fundraising initiatives such as picture day (\$0 expense), ongoing fundraising such as amazon, box tops, etc (\$0 expense). and an iPledge party (\$450 expense) and a bake sale (\$200 expense). The majority voted in favor. The projected fundraising expenses were approved. Fundraising agreed to have a full calendar next general PTA meeting.

II. Adjournment

1. 8:00 pm – motioned to adjourn the meeting. A parent seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Pamela Simon, TAG PTA Co-Vice President At Large