



**Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars
Parent Teacher Association**

Kathy Fernando
Denada Ramnishta
Co-Presidents

Pamela Simon
Mark Levin
Co-Vice Presidents

Johnae Ferguson
Anatoly Garelik
Co-Treasurers

Laura Lampert
Rasheedah Harris
Co-Secretaries

PTA Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 18, 2019

I. Welcome & Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-President, Denada Ramnishta, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, June 18, at 6:20 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 Nomination Committee as well as authorized TAG Administration Staff designated by The Principal, made sure all attendees were verified parent / legal guardians and signed in accordingly.

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Hard copies of the May PTA meeting minutes were distributed.

Deirdre Pace moved to approve the minutes; Nadeige seconds. Minutes approved.

I. Treasurer's Report –

- A. Co-Treasurer Johnae Ferguson stated they are working on the Annual Report And the Treasurer's Report, which was handed out should read “as of 17 June 2019.” The ending balance as of June 17, 2019 is \$278,861.15.

II. Principal's Report –

- A. Principal Cesar greeted the parents and said that today we received the “cut scores” regarding the ELA and Math state tests – 100% of our students passed both!
- B. We received a letter from the State regarding our high recommended school of achievement.
- C. The upper grades in middle school want more enrichments. We have time and space to make a more robust and well-rounded school.

III. Budget Proposal (vote to finalize) –

- A.** Please note floor amendments will only be approved with a 2/3 majority.
- B.** Eric Crump explained that per parliamentary procedure the main motion is the budget slate voted on by the Executive Board. If there are no amendments, we vote it up or down. If we vote it up, it is approved and goes through. If we vote it down, there is no budget for next year. If there are amendments, we move and vote and then back to the slate.
- C.** Co-VP, Sharayfah, referred to the Budget handout the Estimated Available PTA Budget FY 19/20 and the whiteboard, with a budget of \$275,000 for the upcoming 2019/20 year. It was a long, extensive process to work it out, and there were many cuts in the beginning.
- D.** The biggest change was contracted staff. Last year there were two Kindergarten Teacher Assistants (TA's), two 1st grade TA's, one 2nd grade TA and one 3rd grade TA. For next year we decided we wouldn't continue 2nd and 3rd grade TA's. Principal Cesar told us it would have been a better use for middle school activities, which were underfunded.
- E.** We increased PE Recess Support. It was funded at \$15,000 and we increased it to \$22,500.
- F.** We decreased the PTA Meeting Support line (child care for students while we hold meetings), by \$1,000.
- G.** Enrichment programs – we decided it would be best if we funded programs after testing for the students to allow them to take advantage of programs offered after testing time; the In-Curriculum Post-Testing enrichment is \$6,000.
- H.** Debate Club was decreased to \$6,000 from \$8,000.
- I.** We moved the \$500 Field Day line to the Enrichment Committee.
- J.** Math Club decreased from \$1,100 to \$500 (in was higher in the previous year for a specific expense request by program leader.
- K.** We decided the Music Instrument Replace/Repair funding wasn't needed. If and when funding for this is required, it will be requested accordingly.
- L.** Physical Movement was \$10,000 and was moved to the PE Recess Line.
- M.** The In-Curriculum Art Program was originally the Theatre Program; we wanted to encompass other arts to broaden the offerings. Pam Simon said Theatre was after school a year ago, now this is called In-Curriculum but it's to be confirmed/clarified.
- N.** Magazine Subscription in class use was increased to \$3,000 from \$1,500. There was an increase for more funding, due to demand, including by teachers, and it was discussed with Admin. Johnae clarified that there are in-class magazines given to the students for their use. Budget received a request from a teacher, for use of specific magazines in support of her science instruction.

- O. There are some changes to 8th grade. They added in-curriculum Latin last year and everyone was excited. We wanted to increase it to \$19,500 from \$15,000, though Admin asked for \$20,000.
- P. In-curriculum Dance was requested by Admin for a Dance teacher so we added in funding for that; \$19,000.
- Q. Responding to a parent's question, Sharayfah, clarifies that the language for this specific budget line was Latin, but we're calling it "Language" as it would be for whatever Principal Cesar wanted for 1st to 5th grade, though she expressed an interest in keeping Latin. Co-President Kathy Fernando asked Principal Cesar for any comments. Principal Cesar said she wants to continue with Latin because we've had this program for years and it really does help with comprehending complex materials and helps with students' learning.
- R. Responding to a question on where and how does Singapore Math fits into this budget, Sharayfah replied it is under Miscellaneous, held at \$2,000. Eric explained that these are monies the parents have raised that are given back to the school to fund certain things. Some items are cost-sharing so the \$2,000 is only a portion of the cost; the PTA put toward the funding of Singapore Math and Admin pays the remaining.
- S. Responding to a question on what increased percentage is going toward E3 Sports, Family Engagement Co-VP Kate Chechak said the E3 Sports line was increased because this year we allowed our children to utilize the playground, and she thanked Principal Cesar for her support. Kate continued that Principal Cesar had asked for 5 parent volunteers. We used funding from the budget to bring in 3 professionals. We negotiated E3 Sports down from \$5,000/mo to \$2,500/mo, which is quite a feat. This also provides resources for the upper grades. Liz Butler added that on rainy days, E3 Sports will also provide recess support in-doors.
- T. It was clarified that Saturday Basketball is not part of the \$22,500; it is a separate Saturday program. Liz Butler explained that Basketball is still available but at a parent-funded, fully funded by parents (fee-based) program.
- U. A parent asked for more money toward Chess for more students to attend tournaments. Eric asked her to hold amendments until after the vote. Responding to a question of a proposal for Language to go past 5th grade, Eric said sometimes there isn't room in the school schedule.
- V. A parent asked about the reasoning for the 2nd and 3rd grade TA removal, especially as 3rd grade is a testing year, and Rasheedah responded that Principal Cesar is here and can explain further. Kathy said she'd heard from parents that they're interested in having the TAs, therefore there's a proposal accordingly. Principal Cesar responded and said that at the budget meeting she attended in May, it was discussed that there were limited funds and when she was asked where the TA's are needed she told them Kindergarten and 1st grade. We discussed that is where the money is best utilized. Our TAs support skills such as getting dressed for K and 1st gradeers. There is more need for electives for the older grades; it is more effective broadly across the grades than TA's who are not academically impactful. Principal Cesar continued that her position is that electives are more impactful to TAG's Community; the students are more independent when they get to 2nd grade, and the need for a TA is decreased.

She said, if she had to prioritize the allocation of funds, she'd say electives first priority, TA's second. Sharayfah makes a motion and Co-Secretary Laura Lampert seconds to put the budget on the floor.

- W. VOTE:** Co-VP, Pam motions and Co-VP Mark Levin seconds to call the In-Curriculum Art Program "Art Program, which would include for both in-curriculum and after school to give more flexibility on how these monies are spent. All in favor – 46. Opposed – 9. Abstain – 7. That is a 2/3 majority; amendment passes.
- X.** Kathy Fernando proposed an amendment for one 2nd grade TA and one 3rd grade TA; she proposed removing \$18,5000 from E3 Sports and funding those TA's, and to remove \$20,000 from Enrichment Coordinators, and to put \$1,357.40 from the surplus toward those TA's.
- Y.** Principal Cesar responded that she said Kathy could propose it but that doesn't mean she (Principal Cesar) agrees with it. Kathy said she agreed we should keep middle-school electives; this wouldn't take from that. A parent said that last year all of our children passed the State exams, this would take away from other things to pay for people who don't academically support the students. Deirdre Pace said it was a long and hard fight to get that lower ground playground and we need professionals out there; if you approve this proposal your children won't be outside. If your kids participate in paid after school enrichments the cost will go up across the board.
- Z.** Principal said to Kathy that she had thought Kathy was referring to the Saturday basketball programs, not Enrichment Coordinators or E3 Sports. Pam said that the people who served as Enrichment VP's, the movement of the students from one area to another and watching over their safety, take on a monster task. To rely solely on parents is not a sustainable program. Logistically this is not a good idea at all. Mark said if you take away the coordinators, between 1) you're taking money from upper grades and giving it to lower grades and 2) you're taking away the critical Enrichment Coordinators. Kathy replied that it is taking from after school and giving it to in-curriculum. A parent responded that her daughter benefits from Enrichments and also benefited from having another TA; could parents donate more money? Eric said in the interest of time we have to vote now. Kathy said it's easier to hire TA's now than later in the year. Sharaifah said another \$40,000 would be needed to make everyone happy. Ms C stated she's not in agreement with cutting funds from E3 Sports to pay for more TA's in the 2nd and 3rd grade.
- AA.** VOTE ON BUDGET: Kathy proposes to add one each – a 2nd and 3rd grade TA; cut \$20,000 from Enrichment Coordinator line and parents pay the extra in fees, cut \$18,000 from Recess Support, and add \$1,357 from the surplus toward the TA's. All in favor – 42. Opposed – 53. Abstained – 0. Amendment does not carry, amendment fails.
- BB.** VOTE ON BUDGET: Deirdre Pace makes an amendment which Mark Levin seconds, to add \$1,000 to the Chess Team line and reduce the surplus by that amount. Eric confirmed that there is enough money in the surplus, to bring the total budget to \$276,000 from \$275,000. All in favor – 48. Opposed – 5. Abstain – 22. Amendment carries; amendment passes.

CC. VOTE ON BUDGET: Kathy proposes, new parent seconds proposal of taking \$20,000 from Enrichment Coordinators to an arts and sports related 1st – 5th grade in-curriculum line. Johnae questions the feasibility of this and Principal Cesar having to change the schedule to implement it. Principal Cesar said she would have to make sure it fits in the schedule. Mostly in the fall and the spring, not to affect those who are testing. All in favor – 50. All opposed – 38. Abstain – 3. Requiring 2/3 majority, the amendment does not pass. Sharayfah reiterated to everyone that we do indeed have a Budget Proposal process, they set forth to avoid situations as such. We can not spend the entire meeting having parents raise their hand and propose budget amendments; in the interest of time, we need to move on.

DD. VOTE ON BUDGET: Eric – All in favor of approving the budget, which includes the \$1,000 Chess addition. All in favor – 55. Opposed – 1. Abstain – 32. Motion passes. Budget approved.

IV. PTA Elections –

1. President – Mark Levin nominates himself and Rebecca Yoftahie for Co-President; Rebecca accepts the nomination.
2. Vice President at Large – Sandra Alexander and Nadeige Sekyiamah are on the slate for Co-Vice Presidents at Large.
3. Recording Secretary – Nomination seconded for Rasheedah Harris; she accepts the nomination.
4. Trina nominates Brandee Williams and Liz Butler for Co-Vice Presidents at Large. They accept.
5. Nadeige reads a statement from Sandra who isn't present.
6. Treasurer – Johnae Ferguson and Anatoly Garelik for Co-Treasurers are on the slate or Co-Treasurers.
7. Vice President of Audit – Lucy Villanueva is on the slate.
8. Vice President of Budget – Deirdre Pace and Kristina Solano for Co-VP's of Budget are on the slate.
9. Vice President of Family Engagement – Kate Chechak and Trina Edmundson are on the slate.
10. VP – Pam nominates and Laura seconds Luigi Kapaj and Marco; as a slate or Co-VPs of Communications, they accept the nomination.
11. Vice President of Fundraising – Kate nominates Valerie and Rosemarie for Fundraising; they decline.
12. Vice President of Grants – James Charrel is nominated; he accepts.
13. Pam makes another request for Fundraising VP's, asking someone to step up. Expresses the importance of the fundraising committee, explains all the discussion o the fufnding and budget and programs will be no longer if we dont raise funds.
14. Brandee Williams and Liz Butler are nominated for Enrichment Co-VP's; they decline.
15. Brandee Williams and Liz Butler are nominated for Fundraising Co-VP's; they decline.
16. **SLT Election**

- i. Nicole Renault nominates herself for the second SLT spot.

V. **VOTE:** Eric moves to vote in favor of all uncontested offices. It passes; he congratulates them.

- i. Ballots are collected and the nomination committee counts all the votes.

B. Sandra and Nadeige are elected as Co-Vice Presidents at Large.

C. Eric says we will reconvene in September to vote for other positions that remain vacant (fundraising and enrichment.).

D. New PTA Executive Board members for 2019 - 2020 School Year are as follows:

- i. Co-President: Mark Levin
- ii. Co-President: Rebecca Yoftahi
- iii. Co-Vice President at Large: Sandra Alexander
- iv. Co-Vice President at Large: Naddeige Sekyiamah
- v. Vice President of Audt: Lacy Villanueva
- vi. Co-Vice President of Budget: Kristina Solano
- vii. Co-Vice President of Budget: Deirdre Pace
- viii. Co-Vice Presidet of Communications: Marco Tomaschett
- ix. Co-Vice Presidet of Communications: Luigi Kapaj
- x. Enrichment - VACANT
- xi. Co-Vice Presidet of Family Engagement: Trina Edmundson
- xii. Co-Vice Presidet of Family Engagement: Kate Chechak
- xiii. Fundraising - VACANT
- xiv. Vice Presidet of Grants: James Charrel
- xv. Co-Treasurer: Johnae Ferguson
- xvi. Co-Treasurer: Anatoly Garelik
- xvii. Secretary: Rasheedah Harris

VI. Adjournment

8:34 pm – Rasheedah Harris 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:
