



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, November 20, 2018

I. Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-Vice President At Large, Mark Levin called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 20, at 6:06 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.

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

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

III. Treasurer's Report

1. A hard a copy of the Treasurer's Report was handed out. James Vasile said this is based off the bank account activity. Any questions email treasurer@tagscholarspta.org

IV. Vice-President At Large – Mark Levin spoke about our 501c3 status. Notified the room that the status is still pending, we are keeping tabs on it and will notify everyone as soon as we get word, a lot of your companies may match your donations, so please find out if they do, and stay tuned for the tax exempt status update.

V. Committee Reports

A. Family Engagement

1. Kate Chechak, Co-VP of Family Engagement spoke. Discussed the upcoming Snack & Paint event, play dates and next meeting.

B. Audit

1. Not in attendance, it was mentioned they are working on a soft audit with fundraising and treasury of the PayPal Account.

B. Communications

1. Nothing to report

B. Enrichment

1. Sheri Simmons, Co-VP of Enrichment discussed the enrichment programs and upcoming Field Day.

- A. **Grants** - Co-VPs Makiko Yasuda spoke for Grants. Discussed receiving funding for the lower yard and finishing up that area. We received 1.1 million to do all the work. They are following up to check on the status of this and the completion plans.

B. **Fundraising** - Ami Artz, Fundraising VP made sure everyone had a fundraising calendar. Question about the fundraising calendar, why is the tab for the book fair so high. Ami said that's the costs. Is that the same amount as the past year? Answer was yes. Ami mentioned the expenses are more \$3,500 – 4k for TAG wear; they must adjust that amount on the fundraising calendar. A parent said events are inside our schools only, based on experience with other PTAs, we should reach out to the community more. Can we go outside the school more and not only fundraise internally? Ami said we can discuss these options for the future. Parent said TAG Community members are giving a lot and are tapped out. Parent mentioned another in her neighborhood, sells Christmas trees and they generate a \$18k profit. She's not sure what their expense are, etc. but it does raise a lot of money and they sell to outside community members, not just the parents in the school. She mentioned having a movie night in the school, where we would invite the outside community members for support, that's another way to generate funds and allow other community members to participate.

VI. Principal's Report – Assistant Principal

- A. Mr. Dascal spoke in place of Mrs. Cesar, about the chorus performance and thanks the PTA for contributing funds to this program and to the music and the arts. It's partially subsidized by the PTA. Ms. Lee did a great job thanks to the generosity of the parents and Ms C's belief in the arts. They improved academic programs in arts and science. Thanks you all for your support.
- B. December 10th is the end of the marking period. Report cards will go home in the middle of the week before the winter break and the 2nd marking period will begin December 11th. Report cards for middle school will be mailed to their homes, because they don't always make it home with the students. We try to go outside in the winter as much as possible. Temperature shouldn't be an obstacle, so always send your children dressed appropriately.
- C. A parent asked a question in regards to 9 months ago Dalton School donated 60 iPads to TAG. What's the update of those iPads? Mr. D said they are here, they received them but they are waiting for their tech guy to get them set up. He said he's sure the tech guy is working on this. Parent says 9 months is a long time and she's happy to donate her time to help figure out the status. Mr. D said he's going to text the tech person right away. He said he will text right now (on the spot) so he does not forget. Parent said she can help. Mr. D said he will text and will let us know the status. Parent said a K parent asked for tablets and the iPads donated could've been used.
- D. Update on the K TA. Mr. D explained there was a glitch in the system with the TA that they are ready to hire and start. A system has this person already entered and will not allow TAG to over-ride and or add this person in as a TA, therefore he cannot start working as a TA at TAG until this is fixed.
- E. A parent mentioned the Parent Teacher Conference (PTC) sign-up process for cluster teachers is not a good process. The parent said there's no time limit for the parents and cluster teachers, parents sign their names up on the lists and leave and come back and the list is long, the wait time for all these parents is long and it's very unorganized and parents end up leaving in frustration without ever meeting w/ the cluster teachers. Mr. D said there is supposed to be a time limit and some teachers adhere to it and others do not. He asked us to keep in mind that the cluster teachers are seeing parents for over 600 students. The parent said the chairs outside the classroom are good but it's not enough, to attempt to see more than one cluster teacher it's not feasible at all. The parents asked if there was a solution and requested to try and find a better process. Not all parents realized they could see the cluster teachers in the morning, during school hours. That should've been promoted better. The idea is good. Mr. Dascal said it's been an ongoing issue, they are trying to figure out the best way to deal with this.

- F. A parent asked if we are planning anything for Ms. Blount. She announced to the room that Ms. Blount was a 3rd grade teacher who has been at TAG for a very long time (she believes 30 years), and she retired in June and the families didn't have a chance to say good-bye, good luck and thank her. Families really want to see her again and honor her and thank her. Mr. Dascal said things have been mentioned and ideas are being discussed. The parent asked if we all can help or if the PTA can help in anyway, to please let us know how we can help, we'd really like to make this happen.

VII. SLT Report

- A. James Stark, SLT's Chair explained what the SLT was, how it's mandated for all schools to have. He explained how it's compiled, who it consists of (parents, school administration {principal, teachers, etc.}, CBO member), etc. He discussed the CEP, and notified the room that SEL (social emotional learning) is our main focus and it's a big push in our district and we are working on ways to implement this in our curriculum. Every school must have a CEP and they will be assessed by the DOE on their CEP and how they are effectively making it work for the school. A parent asked how do we get the information about our CEP. It was stated that there will be a SLT binder in Mr. Johnson's (the parent coordinator's) office, where parents can view the current CEP, the SLT's ByLaws, minutes, etc. Another parent notified the room that she took a District 4 Parent Workshop about Social Emotional Learning and methods to manage. She passed around material that was given out at that workshop and introduced the room to The Mood Meter and the RULER method. She told parents that they can google the RULER method and read about it, in order to know what the administration is trained on and discussing and training other staff on the RULER method. It will be introduced (if not already) to the children, and implemented. A parent asked if we can learn more and understand so we can help with what the children are learning, etc. It was said that the school is working on this. Teachers are also focusing on PBL (Project Based Learning) and they will be observed and assed on this PBL. All SLT meetings are open to the public and we encourage families to attend and be knowledgeable and active with this process of the CEP.

VIII. Adjournment

1. 7:30 pm – motioned to adjourn the meeting. A parent seconded the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Mark Levin, TAG PTA Co-Vice President At Large