



# Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmondson &  
Anand Raghunath

**Co-Presidents**

Tim Oxborough

**Vice President**

John Johnson &  
Rebecca Yoftahie

**Co-Treasurers**

Sara Coates &  
Laura Lampert

**Co-Secretaries**

October 13, 2015

## MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Meeting Time: 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

6:07 pm. Co-President Trina Edmondson calls meeting to order. Catherine Levine seconds.

**Fundraising Committee** – Catherine Levine says we've raised over \$106,000, short of our \$160,000 goal. For iPledge we're short of our \$85,000 goal, at \$77,800. As a result, we're doing an iPledge Relaunch during February. If we don't reach our goal we'd have to choose programs to eliminate. Fairway cards came in and will go out this week. Using them will raise money for TAG, and you will get 5% back. For Valentine Grams, please make sure they're legible when your child fills them out. In March we're planning a dance for all grades. The middle school dance will be separate. In April we're having the Silent Auction, with open bar, unlimited food and desserts and great items to bid on. The Talent Show will be in May, and teachers and faculty are encouraged to join. We're also planning to have our first annual Paint Night. The Carnival will be in June, please look out for info and flyers. We need volunteers for all of our events; it's generally the same volunteers and we need more to be successful.

**Enrichment Committee** – Cathy Powell Manning said that for February there is a theatre performance coming up next Tuesday from middle school. They are performing A Midsummer Night's Dream. The third Debate challenge is coming up this Saturday at Bronx Science. We have only done three events and have achieved Top Team and Top Speaker awards. In Basketball, we won last week and on Saturday the students are playing against Esperanza at P.S. 161 on W. 133<sup>rd</sup> Street between Convent and Amsterdam. In Chess we competed in our first tournament last January, and we're in 7<sup>th</sup> place citywide from our first time out. Tam Phung has a 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade child in chess and his 5<sup>th</sup> grader is a National Chess Champion, she has competed internationally. He is trying an initiative to get more girls involved in chess, and there will be a chess fundraiser in May. For Piano, there is a February 12<sup>th</sup> deadline for the winter/spring semester.

**Communications Committee** – Pamela Simon says she's working on a survey to get parents' feedback. She is delving into the approximately 800 parent emails and focus on sending things to the proper people. She announced that she is still looking for a co-chair. The next meeting will be next week.

**Budget Committee** – Pam says we've started the budget process for next year. At the next Executive Board meeting we'll be going over line items. The next meeting will be February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm that Thursday in the library and Principal Cesar will be there. If you have ideas talk to Enrichment Chairs first, together you can work on bringing your idea from paper to fruition. John Johnson asks about the large volume of emails and Pam says it's a collaboration of emails from new parents and things going forward.

**SLT Report** – Co-President Anand Raghunath explains that the SLT is made up of parents and administrators who meet once a month to go over the CEP – Comprehensive Educational Program. For the mid-year reviews they are assessing where we are in our goals - curriculum and general. Vice Principal Dascal speaks regarding the CEP. Every school must have one, and it is submitted each year. The powers that be say what changes should be and then they are made. Parents

can go to the DOE's portal schools.nyc.gov. It's a public item. Search for TAG, and on the TAG website there you will see a link and many links to public documents. It is based on the Chancellor's 5 pillars of school and parent leadership. The school and SLT creates goals, such as for curricular, supervisory, community outreach, etc.

**Treasurer's Report** – John Johnson explains that the co-treasurer with more the info is away, but some estimates are the following: Bank balance ~ \$139,000. Pay Pal ~ \$5,000. Total funds \$144,000. There is not much capital for the month versus expenses, probably negative \$1,000 to \$2,000. The total funds at the end of the period are \$138,000, less reserves equal about \$124,000. We may have lost a bit on the ski trip, we need full participation.

**Principal's Report** – Mr. Dascal on behalf of Principal Cesar thanks the parents for coming out, saying that what they do wouldn't be possible without your support. Last Tuesday we had the monthly Principal's Meeting and it was held here. The focus of this conference was to focus on what TAG is doing with the Shared Inquiry Process. It is part of the Great Books Program. The principals visited the classrooms. We invited principals to send their teachers to the classrooms to observe. We are off on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> for the Lunar New year, and it is the first time we have off for this day. The second marking period ends the last week of February. March 3<sup>rd</sup> starts the parent / teacher conferences. We are getting ready for state testing in the spring.

**Question and Answer:** A parent asked about remote access to meetings. Tim Oxborough said that they are talking to the technology teacher about the possibilities. Mr. Dascal said it should be allowed, the problem is getting the bandwidth. Maybe we'd be able to upload them to the site and people can access them. Q: Re snow in front of the school entrance. A: Mr. Dascal said he's not sure where this is coming from, as that Monday he came in at 6:30 am and worked with maintenance to clear a path for kids coming off of the bus. The Mayor essentially said cars in school zones didn't have to move! So we had to find a small space to clear a path, which we did and it became doubly challenging. We don't even have designated spaces for the principals of the building. Q: Re Ms. Rivera. A: Mr. Dascal said she is on a temporary leave. She handles the bussing duties in the morning. Mr. Dascal said he's out there in the mornings helping out as much as he can. There haven't been any issues. We're looking into having another School Aide to come in for the rest of the semester. Parent volunteers are doing a great job, not sure about liability with parent volunteers. We'll have to ask the school's legal team. Tim asked how long before we get the answers to the liability question and Mr. Dascal said he would send an email out and discuss it with Principal Cesar tomorrow. Tim asked regarding the new ELA's, how they went and what the results were. Mr. Dascal answered that the ELA in math, rally, and education did the predictive assessment. It gives data teachers can see the standards the students have mastered, and the ones they need to spend time on. They're given these tests twice a year. Parent Q: re SGI (Small Group Instruction). Mr Dascal replied that we have to look at our budget and see if there is money there available.

Trina said that we receive about 100 – 200 emails a day, and she has her screen minimized at work to try to answer them all. Regarding parents lobbying for building space: Principal Cesar is against it because it will take away space. She's not approving the applications they are planning to submit.

Trina moves for parents to read and approve the minutes. Trina moves to revise the date to 1/5/16, John seconds.

6:50 pm Anand moves to adjourn. John seconds. Meeting adjourned.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Laura Lampert, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

**Minutes approved by:**

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President