



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmundson &
Anand Raghunath

Co-Presidents

Tim Oxborough

Vice President

John Johnson &
Rebecca Yoftahie

Co-Treasurers

Sara Coates &
Laura Lampert

Co-Secretaries

November 10, 2015

MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Meeting Time: 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

I. Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-President, Anand Raghunath, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 6:06 pm in the cafeteria of the Talented AND Gifted School for Young Scholars.
- B. Co-President, Trina Edmundson, made sure both 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 October 13, 2015 PTA meeting minutes were made available for all attendees.
- B. Sara Coates made the motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Powell-Manning seconded the motion.

III. Treasurer report

- A. Income for the month given by Co-Chair Rebecca. Gives report for TAG Wear and enrichment programs that have been paid for
- B. Rebecca Yoftahie, Co-Treasurer, gives up to date budget to the parents and explains these funds. (Ms. Yoftahie hands out a treasurer's report; it can be found in the Secretary binder).

IV. Committee reports

- A. Fundraising Committee –
 1. Adrienne Shulte, Co-Chair, thanks parents for their support of the Sweet Harvest. Many thanks for donations and participation to parents. Sweet Harvest was a success and monetary goal.
 2. Some upcoming events Picture Day is November 16th. The Book Fair will be held December 8, 9 and 10, with Family Night the evening of the 10th. Holiday Grams will be toward the end of December.
 3. iPledge is underway and we have received many donations. Regarding TAGwear, rubber bracelets for the children to wear will be distributed on Friday, and they will say "iPledge for TAG." Children will wear the bracelets up until the end of December to promote iPledge.
 4. The current TAGwear profit is \$2,713, a rough number as more sales occurred in the morning.
- B. Enrichment Committee –
 1. Kathy Powell-Manning, Co-Chair, mentions piano and it will have Winter and Spring enrollment. Chess - Winter and Spring enrollment scheduled. The group has goals of expanding regular Friday sessions, and it is looking forward to Chess tournaments. New session to start January.
 2. Middle School updates:
 - a) Theatre – It has been a bit of a struggle to get started due to lack of participants. We are hopeful this amazing program will launch successfully.

- b) Debate – A large and lively group. We have parent volunteer Sheri Henry to be our Debate Coach.
 - c) Basketball – We hope to get middle school basketball up and running by December 3rd, and we're in the process of applying for a league
3. Field Day – we are in the process of sending out a survey for parents to get back their feedback.
- C. Membership Committee –
- 1. Kasha Casey, Co-Chair, mentions upcoming events:
 - a) Family night/Book Fair will be December 9th from 4:30 – 6:30
 - b) There are two Cooking Nights planned at a cooking school in Queens. December 5th will be for 4th grade through middle schoolers at a cost of \$20 per student. December 19th will be for kindergarten through 3rd grade at a cost of \$15 per student. Parent asks how many slots are available for the Cooking Night? Ms. Casey responds roughly 25-30 seats.
 - 2. Flyers will be going out shortly. The next Membership meeting will be on December 4th at 8:00 am and there is a lot to be planned for: trips, Family Night, etc. please come and join us.
 - 3. Ms. Ilaria, Co-Chair, urges class parents to reach out if they are having difficulty contacting their class parents.
- D. Budget Report –
- 1. Ms. Pamela Simon, Chair, said that the first meeting of this school year was last week and it was very productive. Information can be checked out on the PTA website, password **scholarparent** (no space). They are re-evaluating to see what parents want for next year. The next meeting will be January 8, 2016 at 6:00 pm.
- E. Communications –
- 1. Ms. Pamela Simon, Chair, mentions that the first meeting of this school year went well. They are revamping the website and will potentially do a survey on what parents want to see on the website. She asked that if parents have any ideas or complaints submit and email regarding how we can filter out information. The next Communications meeting will be December 3rd at 8:00 am. Still urging parents to step up and help with taking over Chair or being Co-Chair.

V. Treasurer's Report

- A. Rebecca Yoftahie and John Johnson explained increases in income. Checks trickled in from corporate matching. Recurrent payments through iPledge, and big change in TAG wear income. TAG wear has brought in almost \$6,000 minus expenses, \$3,000 profit.
- B. Rebecca Yoftahie, Co-Treasurer, gives up to date budget to the parents and explains these funds. (Ms. Yoftahie hands out a treasurer's report; it can be found in the Secretary binder).

VI. Principal's Report

- A. Principal Cesar thanked the PTA and committee chairs for their efforts. She appreciates them and is thankful for them and is here to support them.
- B. Assessments –
 - 1. MOSL – Measures of Student Learning. For K-2, math and science. It is a pre-test of skills they need to know, with multiple choice, extended responses, and a writing component. The post-test will be in May to determine progress. Teacher effectiveness is based on the growth of the program.
 - 2. Rally Assessments – progress monitor. Rally is the company we use and their assessments are very in-line with the state assessment.
- C. Question regarding Spanish proficiency – Principal Cesar responded that The Spanish proficiency exam is in the 8th grade, it is not mandated but it would satisfy the language requirement in high school so the students can take

AP classes.

- D. Latin started in grades 2 – 8. We contracted with someone who teaches in the Lab School and is a college professor.
- E. TAG Spelling Bee is November 19th.
- F. Conferences – We are moving toward appointments for the entire school. Student lead based conferences is an effective way for students to learn public speaking in explaining to parents what they need to do. We are working to give students more time to speak.
- G. Term I report cards will be distributed the week of December 21st.
- H. Update regarding scaffolding – They are replacing and retiling the roof. If the weather is good maybe they will finish by May 2016.
- I. Ms. Bruno will send out a language support email and the school will put it in the students’ backpacks. There will be tours for grades 3 – 5, and there was a tour for middle school parents.

VII. Question and Answer

- A. Q: Kasha, parent, asks if recognition ceremonies have been scheduled. A: Principal Cesar says yes, we will send the information out by Friday.
- B. Q: A parent asks when the middle schoolers can start to use the lockers. A: Principal Cesar says the ship date of locks is the next day, and we have them assigned by number. There are specific times for students to go to lockers. They had an assembly with the students regarding the Chancellor’s regulations and what they can and can’t keep in them, what times, etc.
- C. Q: Sara Coates, parent, asks how many are sharing and Principal Cesar said none. There are lockers for students from the 6th grade and up. There will be combination locks plus a key in case they forget the combination and Administration has the master key.
- D. Q: A parent asks about last year’s proficiency rate being better than now. A: Principal Cesar responds that she believes that is incorrect and someone will send the results. Rebecca Yoftahie, parent, adds that she thinks it was from when they switched to Common Core and there was a dip but then it came back up.
- E. Q: A parent asks if they can volunteer time in class. Principal Cesar responded that the DOE doesn’t allow it in your own child’s class, but you can volunteer in others. You have to take a Learning Leaders course. Ms. Edmundson, Co-President, clarifies that Principal Cesar has to approve it and Anand Raghunauth, Co-President, explains Learning Leaders.
- F. Q: Ingrid asks regarding those such as her who did it last year; would it continue or do they need to re-certify? A: Kasha, Co-Chair Membership, says that for Learning Leaders you do a course and they do a background check. You get re-certified the following year without having to do another course. She added that it is \$1,000 that we budget for, a small number of people take the course and a smaller number of people pick up their badges from Ms. Bruno’s office. Ingrid asks if the teachers know there are certified Learning Leaders available and Principal Cesar replied that she hasn’t had requests. Many classes have paras and are reluctant to have a third body in the class.
- G. Q: John Johnson – Catherine Martinez prepared a very good flyer regarding rallying for an upgrade to the playground, does it go through Communications? A – Ms. Edmundson, Co-President, said that the flyer was approved by Principal Cesar and it will go out. Principal Cesar said that we do need an upgrade to the playground.

VIII. SLT Report and Election –

- A. Anand Raghunauth, Co-President, said there are three mandatory positions, and asked for interested parents to

raise their hands, he then invites them to speak about why they think they would be good for the position. 1) Sherry Henry, new TAG Debate coach, her son is in kindergarten. 2) Eric Crump, kindergarten parent. 3) Deirdre, 2nd grade parent. 4) Ingrid Kolberg, 1st grade parent. 5) Julianne Mitchell, 7th grade parent.

B. Anand calls each name and for a show of hands.

1. Sheri Henry in favor 23, 0 against, 0 abstain
2. Eric Crump in favor 23, 0 against, 0 abstain
3. Deidree Pace in favor 23, 0 against, 0 abstain
4. Ingrid Kullbergendz in favor 23, 0 against, 0 abstain
5. Jundy-Ann Mitchell in favor 23, 0 against, 0 abstain

All 5 are voted in. The first SLT meeting will be November 17th at 5:45 pm.

C. Q – New parent asks what SLT is. A – Mr. Anand, Co –President, explains that it is the School Leadership Team, of administration, teachers and parents. They discuss comprehensive education policy, how administration engages in certain programs.

D. Q – Ingrid asks about Jupiter – should we ask the teachers if they are using it in class? A – Mr. Anand, Co-President, says yes and to ask Ms. Bruno for the password.

E. Ms. Trina Edmundson, Co-President, says that December 8th at 8:15am is the first morning PTA meeting. It is a pilot to engage the parents who are generally unable to attend the evening PTA meetings.

IX. Adjournment –

A. 7:00 pm, Ms. Trina Edmundson, Co-President, moves to adjourn the meeting. Anand Raghunauth, Co-President, seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.