



Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Trina Edmundson &
Anand Raghunath

Co-Presidents

Jason Gots &
Tim Oxborough

Co-Vice Presidents

John Johnson &
Rebecca Yoftahie

Co-Treasurers

Sara Coates &
Laura Lampert

Co-Secretaries

September 29, 2015

MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Meeting Time: 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

I. Call to order

- A. Trina Edmundson, PTA Co-President, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 at 6:07pm in the cafeteria of the Talented And Gifted School for Young Scholars. Quorum was met.
- B. Co-Presidents, Trina Edmundson and Anand Raghunath, introduce themselves to the parent body.
- C. Ms. 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 & approval of the minutes

- A. Hard copies of the June 2015 PTA meeting minutes were made available for all attendees.
- B. Trina Edmundson made the motion to approve the minutes. Takeisha Ruff seconded the motion.

III. SLT report

- A. Anand Raghunath, PTA Co-President, speaks about two vacancies in the SLT positions. Calls on parents to be a part of it. Offers to help any parent who may have any questions regarding the position.

IV. Committee reports

- A. Enrichment Committee -
 1. Kathy Powell-Manning, Co-Chair, introduces herself and speaks about the enrichment programs that will be launching soon at TAG. Piano and Chess will be the two programs starting soon. Instructors from NY Chess are present and offer to answer any questions parents may have. Chess will launch October 16, 2015. There are two time slots. One is for afterschool Y students and the other is for non- Y students. Ms. Powell-Manning also informs parents that in curriculum Chess will also start on October 16, 2015 for Kindergarten and First Grade students free of charge. The other program is Piano. It too will have different schedules based Y students and non-Y students. Please refer to the PTA website. Details are posted. Debate Club is also soon to launch.
 2. Middle School enrichment programs to launch soon are basketball and theatre. Poetry enrichment in curriculum for 1st graders and 6th graders soon to launch.
 3. Ms. Powell-Manning speaks about TAG's Field Day. Speaks in length about the Day and what the children will be doing. Parents have volunteered to help out with this event.
- B. Fundraising Committee-
 1. Co-Chairs, Catherine Levine and Adrienne Schulte, introduce themselves to the parent body. Ms. Levine announces last year's goal was \$120,000. Actual amount raised was \$134,784.38 in liquid assets and

\$262,200.00 in grants. Total amount raised last year was \$396,984.38. The money raised was able to pay for:

- a. Assistant Teacher for Kindergarten
- b. Assistant Teacher for First Grade (Interviews are currently being conducted)
- c. Lockers for our Middle School Students (Installation date to be October 5th)
- d. Chess in curriculum for K-1st (start date of October 16th)
- e. Singapore Math
- f. Music for K-3rd grade

Ms. Levine informs parents of this year's goal, which is \$160,000. Parent participation is key to make this year's goal possible.

2. Ms. Schulte, Co- Chair of Fundraising, speaks about TAG Wear and the new Sweat Shirts available. Calendar of events is mentioned to parents and again participation in these events is strongly urged to have successful events. (For details please view our website) Co-Chairs begin to speak about our iPledge which is for the month of November. Catherine Martinez, Co-Chair of Grant Committee, is introduced.

C. Grant Committee-

1. Catherine Martinez, Co-Chair, informs parents of the success with this committee. Ms. Martinez confirms the amounts brought in by Grants. \$250,000 in Capital Expenses, this covers Technology expenses. This year we are looking for Music grants, Chess Grants, and Robotics. Ms. Martinez urges parents to contact her for further information and if interested in helping this committee. Ms. Martinez asks for help with Research. It takes time to research avenues for grants and it would be helpful to have a group of researchers who may take on this task. For further information please contact Ms. Catherine Martinez, Co-Chair for Grant Committee. Meetings for Grant committee will be held in the mornings the 4th Tuesday of the month.
2. Ms. Levine, Co-Chair of Fundraising, ends with a request from parents who work for corporations that may do matching or donations, to please contact Fundraising committee for further information and planning of donations.

D. Membership Committee-

1. Ilaria Mogno, Co-Chair of Membership, is new to our PTA board and will be assisted tonight by Co-President, Anand Raghunath. Co-President stresses the importance of class parents. The role of a class parent is imperative to keeping communications open and building community. Please contact Ms. Mogno, Co-Chair of Membership, for further details if you may be interested in this role. Events are coming up, keep checking our website. Next event is October 10th, Apple picking.

E. Communication Committee-

1. Ms. Pamela Simon, Chair of Communications, urges a parent or two to please step up and take over this committee. It is a vital part of the PTA to keep parents updated. It is the liaison between the committees and parents. First meeting will be on October 29th at 8:00am in the library.

F. Budget Committee-

1. Ms. Pamela Simon, Chair of Committee, tells parents to view budget sheet handed out. Main goal of the Budget is to figure out what our school needs and how can we best budget for it. Ms. Simon continues to go line by line and mentions items that we are spending on and items where we may be saving on (Budget sheet can be found in the Secretary binder).
2. Ms. Simon tells the parent body a change in our previously approved budget is in order. The projected expense for middle school lockers had to be increased due to a change in the budget of Administration.

Originally this expense was to be a cost sharing one between PTA and Administration, but over the summer TAG Administration was no longer able to assist with the cost due to their own budget restrictions. Ms. Simon proposes to take a vote for the proposed new budget to be approved. Parents begin to question costs of the budget. Parents ask if we can pay for more Assistant Teachers, Ms. Simon mentions yes, of course we can, but we have to raise the funds for it first. A vote is taken to approve the new proposed budget and it is unanimously approved, 0 Abstain, 0 Opposed.

V. Treasurer's report-

- A. Rebecca Yoftahie, Co-Treasurer, gives up to date budget to the parents and explains these funds have already been allocated for this year's costs. (Ms. Yoftahie hands out a treasurer's report; it can be found in the Secretary binder).

VI. Principal's report-

- A. Principal Cesar welcomes new parent attendees. Principal Cesar mentions her nomination of Ms. Jennifer Cosme to Assistant Principal, IA. She will be working with Teacher and Curriculum development. Ms. Cosme speaks and expresses her gratitude in joining the administration.
- B. Principal Cesar informs parents of how intense the first 11 days of school have been. MOSL testing takes place in the beginning of the school year and then at the end. Progress made is attributed to teacher progress. Test scores in Math and ELA give teachers their score based on pre-test to post-test. Then there are the writing assessments. In preparation for state tests. iReady test given 3 times a year. It gives data on how our students are doing. Helps to close any gaps for students to better prepare for the state tests. April 2015 state test scores reflect:
85% Level 3 and Level 4 in ELA and 95% Level 3 and Level 4 in Math. Ranked 6th in the state. Printed scores will be sent out in October.
- C. Junior Great Books Inquiry Based Discussions (K-8th) – It promotes discussion that are crucial to how students can speak, listen and debate. Program has been in place for 4 years and students are quite good at it. It has been influential in raising our test scores.
- D. Principal Cesar mentions Upcoming Important Dates:
October 7th, 8th and 9th Field days, October 12th School is closed, October 13th Writing Clinics will commence, October 14th Candy Fundraising Expo due, November 3rd Election Day- No School - Holiday Y camp will be in session, November 5th ½ Day- Parent Teacher Conferences- 11am Dismissal and the Y program will **not** be in session. By Appointment for K-5th and first come, first serve for 6th – 8th grade.

VII. Question & Answer period

- A. Parent asks about the student teacher program. Principal Cesar responds it is a program with Hunter College. They must be finger printed first and sometimes it causes the delay on them coming in. Not every teacher will have one. Student teachers are given to Master teachers. Principal Cesar mentions tours coming up and to please support them. Please contact Ms. Bruno for further information on tours.
- B. Parent asks about their concern over recess. Principal Cesar confirms students can run and enjoy recess, but it is a form of structured recess to avoid injuries.
- C. Parent asks about not being able to schedule any medical appointments, travel plans, etc during testing/assessment periods. Principal Cesar responds that is not her policy. Assessments will continue, but by no means should it impede on the student's personal family needs.
- D. Co-President, Anand, answers question about turnaround time for PEP teacher to begin by saying we are in the process of interviewing candidates now and hope to have one soon.
- E. Parent asks Ms. Cesar about the possibility of Day and Evening parent conferences. Principal Cesar responds

it is not. The conferences are mandated by DOE. Only Cluster and Science teachers may be scheduled for morning appointments.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Trina Edmundson, Co-President, motioned to adjourn the meeting at 07:10pm. Nadia Jarrett-Lyageh seconded the motion.

Minutes submitted by:

Sara Coates, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President