



Mark Levin

President

Nadeige Sekyiamah

Sandra Alexander

Co-Vice Presidents

Johnae Ferguson

Anatoly Garelik

Co-Treasurers

Rasheedah Harris

Secretary

PTA Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 26, 2019

I. Welcome & Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-VP at Large, Nadeige Sekyiamah, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 26, at 6:08 pm in the auditorium of the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars.

II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Everyone read and reviewed the minutes from September and October meeting. No revisions submitted.

III. Committee Report:

Enrichment. Carly, Co-VP of Enrichment spoke. Latin (in curriculum) will start in January. Everything else is going good, chess, music. After-school is going good, we plan to start registration soon, a survey has gone out to the parents to get feedback on the programs and the scheduling, the next session will be longer from January to May. Next Enrichment meeting coming up and we hope to discuss Field Day.

Fundraising. Steve Leshnower spoke. Picture day happened, that was a success, folks can purchase on-line, the digital version on, we get 30% of the proceeds as a fundraiser. ipledge is going, we are trying to get up the participation tree and discussing the prizes for most participation with administration. we can contribute to ipledge any time, but we'll do a big push to get as much as we can by January. We have the book fair coming up next week and will have a sign-up genius for volunteers to help. This year, students who do not have money to purchase from the book-fair will stay in the classroom. There's a scholastic e-wallet option to purchase on-line for families who do not want to send cash. It's not the only option, but is simply an option. Boxtop campaign will be re-launched so everyone understands what it is and we can get people to start submitting those, more information about boxtops will be communicated school-wide soon. Holiday Grams orders will be sent home and we encourage everyone to support. If children did not receive the labels for the

holiday grams they can get more from Mr. Johnson's office. Dan, Co-VP of Fundraising spoke, and notified us they are reaching out to alums for financial contributions.

Secretary Rasheedah Harris acknowledged the teachers present and asked them to introduce themselves. Ms. Manuel, spanish teacher, Ms. Hamil, social studies and Ms. Bova, 4th grade teacher are present. They are sending the poetry initiative to all grades this year, they are trying something new. First trial will be 4th grade (Ms. Bova's class) and all 5th and 6th grade classes. After the 5 week trial, they will go to 3rd grade and the other 4th grade, then after, they will send them to k-3rd grade.

Communications. Co-VP, Luigi spoke. If you haven't already signed up for the PTA directory, please do so, and speaking to Fundraising initiative for alum, if we know anyone, we can encourage them to sign up.

Budget. Co-VP, Deirdre spoke. the current budget was not printed, but it's on the pta website. 275 is this year's budget, our target this year is \$400 and it's a significant increase, it's all based on what we fundraise. 85% of the fundraising comes from iPledge. if we don't meet our goal, things will get cut, b/c we can't fund them.

Treasurer's Report. Co-VP, Anatoly spoke. One side is the balance sheet, paypal and checking account is 273k is the amount of funds we have available, side by side, it shows the previous month. The other side is the Statement of operation 2 columns, month of October the 2nd is the fiscal year which started in July 1st.

SLT. Rasheedah Harris spoke. Reminded everyone that the SLT has an open door policy and she encourages all to attend. States the CEP really is supposed to be the driving force of our school, where they discuss the curriculum, disciplinary actions, equitable items, family engagement, etc. In the beginning it's settling, creating the board, going over they goals they set forth. Deirdre said they should have a mid-year check in. Next meeting is Dec. 10th. Rasheedah said she'll email them and asked if they will be ready and discuss the mid-year check-in for the next meeting. Deirdre said Administration should draft the goals and the SLT should start to discuss. Rasheedah said they are looking for one more teacher to join the SLT.

Family Engagement, Grants and Audit were not present, check the website for updates.

IV. Guest Speaker, Richard Connolly from American Debate League spoke. Has been with TAG of over 6 years. 2 Tournaments coming up in December. Harvard University has a tournament, he'd like to prepare TAG for. Another one

in White Plains, he'll tell us more about. They have a summer camp in Queens college, they will have one in Brooklyn College and trying to get in another college, it's only \$99 for one week. They will spread the word. They are working with Lexington Academy now, another District 4 school. We hope to maybe have a scrimmage tournament between the 2 district 4 schools. Rasheedah mentioned this is the first year we have our own class and coach for the 5th graders and wanted to get Richard's opinion. he said the elementary tournaments are 5th grade, some schools send 4th grades and some 3rd grade students. Said it's a great way to grow, our TAG children are more than capable. Johnae spoke and said if we could have more representation at the elementary level, it will be great. The topics for elementary is vaccination, immigration for middle school, the next topic will be social media for elementary. there are national topics shared, and they use them and/or revise it slightly. They work with Brooklyn School of Inquiry, and other schools. They are looking to grow TAG's Debate Team. Rasheedah said that is our goal, through competition, Chess, Debate and possibly robotics. We have a Math Team as well, who go out and compete. As parents, a school and building our reputation and name, we'd like to go out more and expose everyone to us. To learn more about American Debate League:

<http://www.americandebateleague.org/>

V. Principal's Report – Mr. Johnson, our Parent Coordinator spoke. Reminded everyone they State of The School Address is coming up, they encourage everyone to submit topics for discussions. Digital Well Being Parent workshop coming up. They attended one district-wide and we invited them to come give a workshop to TAG. We will have part 2 of the Anti-bullying workshop coming up. December calendar has been printed out and emailed out, with lots of dates for things coming up. iPledge forms were distributed and every child should bring one home tomorrow.

VI. Adjournment 7:05pm – Rasheedah Harris motions to adjourn the meeting. Laura Lampert seconds the motion. Meeting is adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Secretary