



# 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**

January 5, 2016

## MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2016

Meeting Time: 5:45 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

### I. Call to Order

6:05 pm. Co-President Anand Raghunath calls meeting to order. Tim Oxborough seconds. A motion to approve the last meeting's minutes is made and seconded. Minutes are approved.

Anand says that the next Budget meeting will be in February, and the Budget priorities will be for the next school year.

**Fundraising Committee** – Catherine Levine says that the goal for iPledge is \$85,000 and we're just under \$75,000. Participation is at just over 30%. Upcoming events include the Talent Show auditions at the end of January, Valentine Grams in February. In response to a question she guesstimated the budget to be between \$90,000 and \$95,000.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rebecca Yoftahie and John Johnson speak. They are able to transfer funds from Pay Pal for iPledge. TAGwear sales are up. Holiday Grams brought in around \$4,000. The Book Sale was a success, brought in about \$8,000. Amazon, about \$1,000. The ski trip is coming up January 30<sup>th</sup>. Revenue is around \$35,000. Expenses – TAGwear, the contribution for the debate team, Pay Pal fees, chess registration of students competing. Music – Ms. Revi's compensation. The Cooking With TAG event. Family Night odds and ends, and the theatre group installment payment one of two. The gross is \$67,000.

**Principal's Report** – Principal Cesar welcomes everyone back to school and wishes everyone a happy and healthy New year.

I. January – the Harvard Enrich program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

II. Spelling Bee – 1<sup>st</sup> place Samara Cummins, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mikail Akbar, 3<sup>rd</sup> place Rizwan Kazi. For district level 1<sup>st</sup> place Rizwan Kazi, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Mikail Akbar.

III. ELA/Math State Test in April 2016. Practice exams in January. Ms. Helene Blount, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher spoke about reading strategies which have been applied. Skills introduced by teachers are enhanced. Underlining, text space information. Ms. Ruis said that for math she works on multi-step problems. It's also good to practice i-Ready at home. Tim asks about results being that there were challenges last year, and Principal Cesar responds that there is a new company but they didn't have the opportunity to change it. The test will be more rigorous, we're training to do that more effectively. Ms. Blount said that i-Ready, Rally, Encourage New York will give sample questions from previous years.

IV. The building received \$800,000 to renovate Poor Richard's Park. There will be a meeting in the auditorium on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Ms. Blount commended the PTA.

Principal Cesar said that Catherine Martinez is our top grant-writer. Co-President Trina Edmundson also commended Principal Cesar who attended the meeting with the Manhattan Borough President. Anand received an email that the Manhattan Borough President is offering \$1 million toward gardens in urban settings, maybe we could get more plant life in our garden area. He clarifies that middle school children can use the park and input on the design. Asked where to find materials for state testing, he said we can gather that information and get it out through class parents.

**Question & Answer Period:** Q: What is Wacky Tacky Day? Principal Cesar said it's a middle school initiative. Every January we have them do Spirit Week, we thought to spread it out to every Friday. Regarding Junior Great Books – It is ambiguous, there is no right answer. On January 26<sup>th</sup> we're hosting all of the principals in District 4, showing how to do the process, engage kids. Anand asks Principal Cesar about New York talking about changing common core standards. Principal Cesar said we like it because it forces you to up the ante. There's political back and forth, but she doesn't think the common core standards will go away. We're looking to get more rigorous and more advanced.

6:35 pm Anand moves to adjourn. Trina seconds. Meeting adjourned.

**Minutes submitted by:**

Laura Lampert, TAG PTA Co-Secretary

**Minutes approved by:**

Trina Edmundson, TAG PTA Co-President