

9/21/23

Community Mtg Minutes

Welcome, Cynthia

- Reminder - arrival is at 8:20, don't let your children into the school building before then

Principals Address & budget update, Ms. Joanna

- Two types of funding: tax levy dollars (school does not pay fringe benefits; used for salaries); and "Reimbursable" (PTA, ARPA, CRRSA, Assembly member funds, etc - school does pay fringe benefits)
- Fair student funding: tax levy dollars
 - School receives additional funding for each child who has an IEP or special needs
- Current way that schools are funded is not sufficient
- Biggest portion of budget is salaries
- Teacher salaries at 107 are higher because we have more experienced teachers at the higher end of the pay scale
- Pandemic funding was a three-year commitment from the DOE that will go away next year. This year, that funding is covering our school social worker, Ms. Colleen's salary, which could put her position at risk next year. The pandemic funding is also covering about \$3K for art this year, which is used for supplies.

PTA Budget Vote, Ayca & Aby

- Overview of the PTA budget:
 - Since June, Joanna secured additional DOE funding to help reduce the shortfall
 - PTA budget is \$406K
 - Annual fund line went from \$226K last year to \$210K this year
 - Main drivers of increased PTA spending this year: DOE shortfall, capital improvements to the cafeteria, and the recess coach
- Cynthia called for people to vote to approve the budget
- The 2023-24 budget was approved by majority vote

Parent Coordinator update, Nadia

- Uptick in lice - schoolwide lice check next week, on Thursday, 10/26
- Family mornings are back! 10/26 and 10/27

Afterschool update, Pamela

- Increase in students from last year's daily numbers, but everything is going really well
- Brought in social emotional work this year - Toni Capello, PS 107's school psychologist, is leading social skills classes with kindergartners in small groups
- Started 2nd year working with a Millenium HS club called Homework Helpers. Parents can request 1:1 support via a form that Pamela sent.
- Some specialty classes still have space - Pamela will share what's available

- Monday pick-ups: no teachers working for us, so a tighter staffing day and only one entrance open for pick-up. Could create a bottleneck. Please be patient, and please do not go to the Big Yard to alert your kids to come inside. Let the staff do it

Annual fund update, Nisha

- The PTA raises funds for the school in two ways: through events (like Fall Festival and the Auction), and through a campaign of direct gifts called the Annual Fund.
- This years goal is \$210K, and that entire amount goes toward supplementing PS 107's budget
 - 17% to goal as of today
- Donations vary widely, range from \$10-over \$5K
- Check with your company for matching gift campaigns
- Annual Fund supports art, music, & science teachers, residencies, capitol improvements to the building, extra support in classrooms, classroom the spare clothing closet that got wiped out in the flood, and all kinds of basic supplies that keep classrooms running smoothly
- Give thru Konstella; External link for friends and family or check
- Donations of stock are now available via third party: www.donatestock.com → Type PS107 or go to dedicated link and konstella:
<https://donatestock.com/public-school-107-parent-teacher-association-inc>
- As the holidays approach, we have Giving Tuesday coming up, and we know that, for tax purposes, December is a common time of year for making donations. We'll also have another matching gift opportunity before the end of the calendar year.
- All of your gifts, no matter the size, are very deeply appreciated and needed

Community Outreach update, Jeanne

- CHiPS donations have resumed on Wednesday mornings - please sign up in Konstella to help staff the donations table and/or drive the donations to CHiPS
- PTA Fun Run on 10/28
- Make-up book drive on 11/10 (rained out during Fall Fest)
- Save the date for community get together and clothing swap in the school yard of PS 124

DEI Committee update, Christine

- Co-Chair is Carolyn
- 1st meeting last month
- Focusing on visibility, community, and education (parent-led discussions, etc) this year
- Please join. All are welcome
- Reach out to Christine if interested in helping out with Black History month programming

Green Committee, Kajal Below

- Crystal Barnes, our science teacher, will be PS 107's sustainability coordinator. She attended a training from the DOE this month. She'll build themes into her curriculum
 - December: energy

- Feb: wast
- April: health and wellness
- June: water
- Got an understanding of school's goals, and will need some help to achieve them, particularly:
 - Gardening: living wall in the cafeteria; also reviving the school's garden - Please email Kajal if interested in helping
 - Guest speakers related to the themes above - reach out to Kajal if you know of potential speakers
- Recycling has been an ongoing challenge. Ms. Rinah is having conversations with custodial staff.
 - Reinvigorating 4th and 5th grade Green quads
 - Hoping lunch pals can help the kindergarteners with sorting their waste
 - Please talk to kids at home about their lunch and how to sort their trash vs. recycling
- Events: we're exhausting all of the existing supplies in the PTA closet. Green Committee has guidance on how to purchase/use green supplies for events and class parties

Volunteer needs

- Challenging every caregiver to volunteer at least once this year
- Need help with PTA's social media
- Craft Fair coming up in December - please sign up on Konstella if interested
- Read-a-thon coming up in the new year; will need volunteers to assemble and administer prizes
- Heritage Day in January - need people to lead
- THANK YOU to Lisa and Sarah for organizing Fall Festival

Stoop Crawl, Alyse

- Sold out, but email Alyse if you want to go

Spring Gala & Auction,

- Auction call tonight! Exploring how people can be involved. Any help, big or small, will be appreciated

Second Grade Book Club

- Once a month, will kick off in the next week
- Will meet with kids and parents on a Tuesday morning to discuss the book
- Reach out to Alyse or Nadia if need financial assistance to get the book

Math Magic

- It's coming back!

Powerhouse Book Fair

- Happening next month - Nadia is working on the class schedule

- Volunteers needed