



PS11 PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2023 | 7:00 pm ET | 147 Participants

Welcome (Co-President, Hope Lesane) – Hope called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting (Recording Secretary, Richa Naujoks) – Richa read the highlights of the minutes of the last meeting that was held on November 15. The minutes were made available on the screen and were also posted on the website. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report (Treasurer, Janelle Benjamin) – Janelle read the highlights of the November financial statements. Projections for year-end continue to be an anticipated net loss of about \$483K, and expected ending cash balance remains \$400k. Questions about the financial statements can be directed to treasurer@ps11bk.org.

Approval of New Savings Account (Treasurer, Janelle Benjamin and Recording Secretary, Richa Naujoks) – Janelle highlighted the benefits of keeping excess cash in a savings account to get the benefits of a higher interest rate. Richa summarized the process for approval of new accounts under the Chancellor’s Regulations. The resolutions having been approved by the Executive Board, Richa summarized the resolutions being presented to the general membership. The resolutions attached as Appendix A were approved.

Development Report (Co-Development Chair, Naomi Hightower)

- *Giving Tuesday*: Giving Tuesday generated \$44,483 from 195 families.
- *David Yurman Shopping Fundraiser*: Marissa Procope gave a report on the David Yurman shopping event December 7. Almost \$10,000 was raised for the PTA, with the store donating 10% of net profits of the entire day to the PTA.
- *Toy Drive*: Over 250 gifts were collected in the toy drive. Hope also shared a message of thanks from the Deputy Commissioner, NYC HRA Special Services.
- *Partners in Parenting Workshop*: The School Wellness Council is organizing an in-person workshop at the school on Thursday, January 4, targeted to Dads. “No Dad is an Island: Fathers as Parenting Partners”.

Administration’s Report (Principal Hope and Assistant Principal Rand)

- As previously discussed in a Town Hall meeting on December 14, Mrs. Rand talked about the NYC Reads initiative supported by Mayor Adams and Chancellor Banks with a

goal of increasing the number of NYC public schools students testing at or above proficiency levels. The initiative will require all K-5 schools to follow one of three pre-approved reading curricula. The new program will be approved in 15 community school districts in 2023-2024, with all districts adopting it the following year. Each school in a district will be required to follow a single curriculum chosen for the district. The district 13 superintendent is making a decision in December.

PS 11 completely agrees with the goal of the NYC Reads initiative. However, the initiative does not take into account current reading levels, or other factors that may be relevant at a school level.

PS 11 does not subscribe to a specific curriculum but has historically designed its own curriculum. The curriculum created by PS 11 has been effective, as shown by several data points, including standardized test scores. The NYC average is currently in the 50th percentile, while PS 11 kids are nearly in the 90th percentile for reading at or above proficiency levels (i.e., level 3 or 4). As an example, one factor highlighted by the new curricula is phonics, since many schools had moved away from teaching phonics, whereas PS 11 never did. In addition to loss of autonomy, there is also a concern that funds earmarked for the curriculum and implementation of the new reading program will have to be spent on the uniform program rather than on where the school finds the best use to support our students' learning.

SLT member, Kara Benton-Smith and Hope summarized the call to action. PS 11 currently has a waiver from the NYC Reads curriculum for this year, and would like the waiver to be extended. The PS 11 community can email and call our elected representatives to ask that the waiver be extended. Draft emails, or talking points if families would rather call, and a list of elected representatives we can contact, will be sent via email, and included in the red folders. Families are encouraged to please make a concentrated push during the holiday week to email and/or call the elected officials.

- Mrs. Rand also talked about the success of Sprit Week.
- Holiday reading packets will be sent home. Additionally electronic resources like Reading Eggs and i-ready are available.
- Mrs. Rand and Ms. Hope then wished families happy holidays!

The floor was then opened for questions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Appendix A - Resolutions

RESOLVED, that the P.S. 11 PTA Association, Inc. (the "Association") hereby adopts a policy on establishment of Savings Accounts, Money Market Accounts, and Certificates of Deposit ("CDs"), in the form attached as Exhibit A hereto (the "Policy");

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in view of the Association having sufficient cash reserves in accordance with the Policy, the Association is authorized to establish in its name a money market account or six (6)-month certificate of deposit, in the principal amount of \$250,000 (the "Account") with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. (the "Bank");

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Co-Presidents and Treasurer are each authorized to establish the Account on terms and conditions as agreed upon with the Bank, and sign any and all documents in connection with the Account;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Co-Presidents and Treasurer are each authorized to transfer funds from the Association's primary checking account to the Account in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, and to transfer funds from the Account to the Association's primary checking account, in the case of a CD whether upon maturity of the Account or at any time prior thereto if permitted by the Bank;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the authority hereby conferred shall remain in force until revoked by the executive board or the general membership of the Association, and written notice of such revocation shall have been received by the Bank;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Bank's standard form of resolutions that may be necessary or desirable for the establishment of the Account, be and are hereby adopted, provided that said form does not vary in substance from the terms of the foregoing resolutions; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Recording Secretary is authorized to certify as to the continuing authority of these resolutions, the persons authorized to sign on behalf of the Association, and the adoption of the above Bank's standard form of resolutions, provided that said form does not vary in substance from the terms of the foregoing resolutions.

Exhibit A

Policy on Establishment of Savings Accounts, Money Market Account, and CDs

In an effort to maximize revenue for the benefit of the PS11 Parent Teacher Association, the Executive Board shall have the right but not the obligation to invest a portion of its available cash in a FDIC-insured savings account, money market account, or certificate of deposit (CD). Investments in CDs shall be limited to up to six (6) months and a projected cash reserve of a minimum of \$100,000 shall be available during the entire term of the CD. Establishment of new CD investments, money market accounts, or savings accounts must be approved by the PTA Executive Board and general body membership. The primary checking account must be used for all transactions, including deposits and withdrawals. Approvals are also required for transfer of funds to CD investments, but not for transfer to money market accounts or savings accounts that can be generally fully released on any standard business day. The amount and maturity date of each CD shall be included in monthly financial reporting.