



## PS11 PTA General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024 | 7:00 pm ET | 151 Participants

**Welcome (Co-President, Seble Tareke-Williams)** – Seble called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 December 20. 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 December financial statements. The cash balance doesn’t always match the net income/loss and Janelle explained the reason which is the difference between the cash and accrual method as required by the DoE. Projections for year-end continue to be an anticipated net loss of about \$429K, and expected ending cash balance remains \$400k. Questions about the financial statements can be directed to [treasurer@ps11bk.org](mailto:treasurer@ps11bk.org).

**Staff Appreciation Lunch and Gifts (Seble Tareke-Williams)** – Seble explained that we do a holiday celebration including lunch and gift cards for the entire staff including custodial staff and crossing guards so that the entire staff receives holiday appreciation in addition to what is collected by classes for their teachers. Seble gave an update on the staff appreciation lunch held on December 21.

### Development Report (Co-Development Chair, Naomi Hightower)

- *Mr. Rand Heart and Soul Award and Raise 11 Sponsor Nameplates:* The plaque for the Mr. Rand Heart and Soul Award and nameplates for Raise 11 sponsors are up next to the auditorium.
- *Raise 11:* Raise 11 will be on Friday, May 17. It has been moved indoors and is an hour longer. Naomi called for volunteers for the Auction Committee. The kick off meeting is Friday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup> at 8.30 am in the auditorium, with a Zoom option on Monday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8.30 pm. Those interested can also email [raise11@ps11bk.org](mailto:raise11@ps11bk.org).
- *Get off your Apps Night and Camp Fair:* Get off your Apps and Screens Night and annual Camp Fair will be on Friday February 9, from 5 to 8 pm. Over 35 camps will be at the Camp Fair. Camps invited to the fair have also donated days that can be auctioned off to raise funds. Families can bid and get some great deals at the auction. Held in parallel will be “Get off your Apps” night. Lesley Washington told the community about

the evening which will include sports, arts, and will end with a family dance party. There will be pizza and snacks and sandwich and salad boxes that can be purchased in advance. Lesley requested everyone to sign up in advance, and to reserve concessions in advance, which will help with planning. She also called for volunteers for the day of the event.

- *Parents Night Out*: Jevon McAlister talked about the Parents Night Out which is being organized by the dads, on Friday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9 pm. The kids can be dropped off/stay back in school and a group of dads will watch and entertain them. They can play basketball, board games, and watch a movie. Pizza will be provided. The cost is \$40/family and there is limited space so families are encouraged to sign up. Kids under first grade can unfortunately not be accepted. A few mom volunteers are requested to help with bathroom breaks.

**Call to Action (Megan Douglass, Seble Tareke-Williams)** – Megan talked about Book Bash which is on April 15-19. It is a great opportunity for our kids to connect with authors. Megan called for volunteers. Additionally, if anyone has connections with authors to invite, please email [megan.e.douglass@gmail.com](mailto:megan.e.douglass@gmail.com).

Seble mentioned that PS 157 has put out a call for support to assist with supplies for more than 150 recent immigrant families that have been added to their school community. Their Amazon wish list is here:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ILRM7YDOPQJJ/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_3](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/ILRM7YDOPQJJ/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_3). Please select delivery to Kourtney Boyd (their Principal).

### **Administration's Report (Principal Hope and Assistant Principal Rand)**

- Mrs. Rand presented some updates about the NYC Reads Initiative. The Administration appreciated the community response to the call for action to contact our elected representatives. However, we have been informed that no schools will receive a waiver. All K-5 schools will be required to implement a pre-approved reading curriculum based on the science of reading (evidence-based approaches). Expeditionary Learning was the curriculum selected by Superintendent Dunn for District 13. PS 11 already uses evidence-based approaches. We will continue to enhance and enrich the students' learning as possible within the new curriculum. All schools are required to implement 1 Expeditionary Learning unit by June 2024, and fully implement by September 2024. The Administration is continuing the conversation with Superintendent Dunn to maintain autonomy to the extent possible within the new curriculum. The Superintendent will be attending PS 11's next SLT meeting on January 31.
- Mrs. Rand also highlighted that COVID-19, RSV and Flu cases are on the rise. She requested families to please test for these if children have symptoms and keep them home if they are sick. She encouraged COVID-19 and Flu vaccines. If children have a fever, it is recommended that they should stay home until 24 hours after the fever clears. If a child tests positive for COVID-19 they should stay home for 5 days, and continue to wear a mask for another 5 days. Doctor's notes should be brought in so the child's absence can be coded as health-related absence. The school nurse can also advise families.

- Families can expect to receive the second period progress reports by Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Reminder to please order pictures. It is also a fundraising initiative.
- NYC Students in Grades K, 1 and 2 have been automatically enrolled in a NYC Save for College Program. More information will be in red folders.
- A parent workshop will be held on January 23 at 6 pm on preparing your child for the NYS Exams. Grade 3 and 4 will take the exams with pen and paper, and grade 5 on their devices.
- Finally, Mrs. Rand requested that families complete the income inquiry form (aka lunch form) if they have not previously done so. This can be done online at:  
<https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>

The floor was then opened for questions. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.