

PS/IS 187 PTO
General Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022
7:05 p.m.- 8:58 p.m.

Welcome—PTO President Jennifer Bennion and Gwen Kingsberry
Quorum (N = 39) 7:05pm

2021-2022 PTO Executive Board Attendees:

Co-Presidents: Gwendolyn Kingsberry & Jennifer Bennion
Treasurer: Traci Schwinn
Recording Secretary: Stephanie Reed
Elementary School co-VP: Dena Wolk
Intermediate School VP: Jacqueline Cruz
Communications Secretary: Ksenia Selemon

Absent: Yessika Murga

December 16, 2021 General Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Ana Berlin
2nd: Chris Jennings
Approved: 39 approvals (100%)

January 7, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Leanne Gonzalez
2nd: Rae Hilliard
Approved: 40 approvals (100%)

Principal's Report

- Ms. Daskaris introduced Mr. Mendez, who oversees the E-sports team and 2 students who are on the E-sports team.
 - Selaire, President of E-sports team, described what the team does. She also brought forward a request for more items: Switches, monitors, games, controllers and joysticks.
 - Franklin went over the budget:
 - Two monitors: \$275.96
 - Nintendo Switch X2: \$599.98
 - Super Smash Bros Ultimate x2: \$59.99
 - 4 Pack Gamecube Controller Bundle: \$50.72
 - Nintendo Switch Pro Controller X2: \$83.46
 - Jackie C. offered to donate a projector.
 - Michael B suggested parents might want to donate Switches.

- Ms. Emel explained that an Instagram Account created by students that was shut down by the DOE and Instagram due to inappropriate and offensive content. The school will work on healthy habits with social media and through the school and home.
- Ms. Marrero noted that Mr. Jennings put on a wonderful E.S. show, virtually.
- Ms. Emel noted that 25 staff members were out at one point in the beginning of the year but things seem stable now. She discussed the fact that Facilities met with the school to get 4 hoops. The quote was \$35000. The school is looking for DOE to pay for some of it, but they are also trying to get funding from Senator Jackson and other community leaders. The student government is petitioning for money too.
 - It was discussed whether two hoops could be restored rather than 4, so it would be more affordable and whether the PTO could help raise funds. Ms. Emel noted that the high price is due to supplies and resources needed, such as one backboard being on the chain link fence, relocating one hoop by the ramp because of safety concerns and reinstalling 3 boards on poles into the ground.
 - Portable hoops were discussed but it was noted that they likely will not last long and it is not easy to move them inside overnight each night. DOE requested the initial removal, so it was discussed parents trying to contact DOE and others about getting them back. It was also noted that two hoops were lost for the soccer pitch, and it was questioned why there is a bid for 4 hoops. Ms. Emel reiterated that all basketball hoops rims were removed from all parks and now one is broken. Traci S. asked if we could ask them to put them back up, but Ms. Emel noted that some of the backboards are in disrepair. Mr. Jennings noted remnants of backboards in the storage shed. Michael B. noted we need to be vocal with the DOE, and Parks Dept., instead of paying for it.
 - Jen B. said the PTO supports the school and will help with petitions and letters. It was decided that restoring hoops would be the priority and we could re-visit temporary hoops at the next meeting.
- Ms. Dakaris noted that PupilPath has had technical difficulties and will be back up soon; teachers are updating grades, but it may take a bit to completely update.

Faculty Report:

- Mr. Doyle proposed adding sensory floor sticker project to add stickers to the second floor to practice movement and practice skills when on students are on breaks.
 - The Sensory Team has been meeting to figure out how best to do this. This floor will help physical, academic and social-emotional skills. The team will work on the sticker creation process, order the stickers, and then put them down.
 - The budget estimate would be: \$2000
 - Mr. Doyle also asked for volunteer parents with graphic design experience and to ask around other school regarding their experience with the sensory floor stickers.

President's Report (Jen and Gwen):

- Jen B. asked parents to get involved with the school and PTO. She noted that February 10th will be picture re-take day and class photos will be postponed until spring 2022.
- Jackie C. discussed DEI updates. The website is being updated with DEI information and a blog so that people can talk about things happening in school and have diversity discussions. Parents should contribute. Calendars will be uploaded. Information on bullying and harassing prevention and parental controls on various devices will be addressed.

- Karima K. and Jackie noted that they are coordinating speakers/performances for Black History Month for the I.S. The PTO will also host a month of movies.
- Michael B. produced a short film with about tips to make a movie for Film Festival and he went to the school and pitched Film Festival to the students. Colin noted that the awards will be different this year, with best picture categories for I.S. and E.S. and a panel of judges selected to review the films. The Audience award will be done electronically. The NAAF award topic is new beginnings. A budget for web hosting, flyers, programs, certificates, a plaque in library, concessions, and miscellaneous supplies will be requested.
- Uptown Stories and, separately, PSW film making classes are going well. It was noted that you can just register for Ms. Donetta's Art classes when the emails come through. Michael asked where students can attend her art classes when they are at NYJTL, and it was discussed that would work if there was a separate workspace and Zoom access at NYJTL. How to sign up for PTO emails was discussed and clarified.
- For EEG grants, there will be a request for an additional \$5300 to provide an additional \$500 for each teacher for supplies for their classrooms instead of \$100. Teachers will be able to fill out Google forms with what they would like and then get reimbursed by PTO so it will be streamlined. If field trips or experience field trips end up happening at some point, the PTO may vote on additional funding, but this will get the grant process started for now.

Treasurer's Report (Traci):

- Funds available: \$83080.61
- Expenses: \$18703.94
- Revenue: \$34154.99
- Budget approved on 6/2021: \$72210.45 (\$18230.83 spent)

Time to vote:

- Sensory floor sticker project: \$2000
 - Motion to approve: Gerry Goss. 2nd: Camila Otero. Approved (100%).
- Film Festival: \$2210.00
 - Motion to approve: Chris Jennings. 2nd: Karen Blundell. Approved (100%).
- E-sports: up to \$1500.00
 - Motion to approve: Gerry Goss. 2nd: Ksenia Selemon. Approved (100%).
 - Total amount was revised up due to initial miscalculations and extra costs (e.g., shipping, etc.)
- EEGs: up to \$5300.00
 - Motion to approve: Gerry Goss. 2nd: Kerri Brown. Approved (100%).

ES VP Report (Dena and Yessika):

- Dena thanked everyone for participating in trivia night.

IS VP Report (Jackie):

- High School applications are open, and the deadline is Tuesday, March 1st.
 - Jackie shared the new guidance from DOE of the application process.
- 5th graders who rank 187 as first will be guaranteed a seat. March 1st deadline as well.

- There is one DOE information session left for 5th graders on January 28th.
- Access Myschools account for more information. PSW along with the PTO is offering I.S. student afterschool classes.
- Ms. Emel said there will be in-person and virtual tours for families interested in attending P.S./I.S. 187.

Open Forum:

- Karima, in response to the Instagram page issue discussed earlier, brought up that parents, students, and the school should come together and have healthy conversations about what is not acceptable and the repercussions that can happen. We need to ensure that students feel safe and that we will not tolerate bullying.
- Michael discussed a PSA about cyberbullying, as a starting point for talking about the issue, that he will share.
- Robyn noted that it is important to think about E.S. too, since the age of exposure gets lower, and parents of younger students need to be aware; they should be part of the conversation to be ready for it.
- Jen has been speaking with the school about the issue so everyone can address it. It was questioned whether there will be a dedicated person who will lead the effort to talk to students and to go to with complaints and/or opportunities to talk about it in Assembly.
- Ms. Emel noted that Mr. Mendez is peer mediator for the I.S. and the point person for conflict between students along with the principals. Teaching students the digital footprint but also how you treat people is important. It was discussed at SLT that, for older students, there will be a roundtable to what they experience and what can be done. Also, an outside group (Morningside) who works with this topic was discussed. The school will share what to look for at home as well.

Motion to Adjourn: Gerry Goss

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.