

December 16, 2021 *

PS/IS 187 PTO
General Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021
** Revised on December 16, 2021*
7:04 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.

Welcome—PTO President Jennifer Bennion and Gwen Kingsberry
Quorum 7:04pm (28 participants)

2021-2022 PTO Executive Board Attendees:

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

November 2021 General Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve: Gerry Goss. 2nd: Gwen Kingsberry. Approved (100%).

Principal's Report

There was no administration report this evening.

Faculty Report:

Mr. Jennings noted that the elder care music project started the first interviews this weekend with at the Isabella Care facility and it is going well so far.

Ms. Nadiene shared that the Saturday food distribution would continue this coming Saturday. She also brought up that Play Study Win would be having an afterschool offering for 6th – 8th grade.

SLT Report:

There was no SLT report this evening.

President's Report (Jen B.):

Parents were encouraged to get involved and volunteer, especially for tree sale. It was noted that the PTO will also need parents to take over Board positions due to several current Board members' term limits and/or children graduating from PS 187 this school year.

Emma Hulse, a parent and a registered dietician and works in public health, and Beth McDonald, a parent who is a clinical registered dietician, are working with Jen and Ms. Emel to re-start the Wellness Committee. They are just starting out and need volunteers and ideas. One parent asked if this would include a push for healthier meals at school eventually, which was confirmed.

Parents were thanked for PTO dues to-date, which will be used for afterschool classes and other offerings.

Art with Ms. Donetta will resume soon. Details to be determined but it will likely be similar to last year, with classes for 3-5th grade, virtual, first come first serve, and approximately 15 students per class. One parent asked if younger kids may be able to participate and it was noted that it may be a possibility if Ms. Donetta is willing.

Meadowfarms fundraiser will end November 29th. So far the PTO raised \$3027 and the PTO receives 40% of the profit. Holiday Tree Sale fundraiser will be December 10th – 12th along with a bake sale. Sign up genius will be coming soon. Friends of 187 Makers Market will be at the Tree Sale on December 12th and will involve artists and vendors of the Hudson View coop; 24 vendors have signed up to sell their wares, which will benefit Friends of 187. Gerry noted that the Tree Sale is usually done on Sunday earlier than 7 pm, usually by the afternoon, and Friday afternoon and all day Saturday are the heaviest times, so there is a need of volunteers and lots of baked goods on those days.

Volunteers and school admin were thanked for making Picture Day a success. Re-take picture day will be on January 13, 2022. Class photos are still postponed. Photo proof forms will be backpacked home in the next couple of weeks with codes and information on how to order photos.

The 9th annual 187 Film festival will take place at United Palace on March 20, 2022 and submissions are due Feb 27th.

Jackie discussed the Diversity newsletter, which started last year. She noted that it requires a long-term commitment from parents and the newsletter topics will start where we left off, so this month will focus on gratitude and happiness. The deadline is Monday the 22nd.

Traci discussed the next Month of Movies will include streaming that will be in tandem with the Diversity initiative, Remember the Titans, Harriet, Soul and Akeelah and the Bee. Worksheets will be sent home with talking points for students.

PTO Garden Committee (Camila O):

Camila thanked volunteers and noted that this Saturday will be the last garden family day. She discussed the new indoor garden; 5th and 6th grade have hydroponic garden stand. Growing lights will be coming soon and 5th - 8th grade will be able to work on the indoor garden. The compost project is starting with the 6th grade and there will need to be a plan and volunteers for the Spring for collecting food scraps and compost turnover.

One parent asked if 2nd graders are able to help. It was noted that the garden committee is mainly working with the science teachers, so all grades will be able to work in the garden.

Treasurer's Report (Traci):

Traci summarized the budget and noted that there is \$546776.36 of funds available. Expenses were \$14770.30. The new expense is the budget that was voted on during the last meeting for ES and IS afterschool. Revenue is \$2448.10; Tree Sale is in the red now because the trees were pre-paid.

It was noted that supplies are still needed for Tree Sale (i.e., Uhaul, gas, tools, blades, wreaths, stands, etc.) and the PTO will be asking for \$2700 to cover the costs.

Gerry explained that trees are more expensive this year and pricing of the trees will be competitive with other tree sellers in the area.

Time to vote:

\$2700.00 for the Tree Sale supplies - Motion to approve: Mr. Jennings. 2nd: Gerry Goss. Approved (100%).

IS Report (Jackie):

Jackie stated that the IS family contact information forms will be sent out after Thanksgiving and parents can decide if they are interested in being a part of team to get information to others and to share contact information. Play Study Win sent out a flyer about Lego league for IS, for signing up. PTO is setting up a Beat the Bomb for IS students for December, along with Friends of 187.

The SHSAT is Dec 2nd. Tips were offered to help, such as helping your child with sleeping and eating habits. Friday is the last day for the canned food drive, but people can contribute up until Monday. Senior sweatshirts are being ordered; tomorrow is last day for forms. Turkey bowl is Wednesday, November 24th at 1pm and parents can attend. November will focus on men's mental health. Ring day will be in January. An IS 187 basketball team has started and try outs are beginning.

ES Report (Dena):

Trivia night will be Friday, January 14, 2022. There will be a game for PreK – 1st grade and a game for 2nd - 4th grade. CPRs were thanked and reminded to keep gathering information and to keep in touch with teachers.

Friends of 187 Report:

There was no Friends of 187 report this evening.

Open Forum:

One parent asked whether there was information on students still waiting to start the after-school program. It was noted that the programs are understaffed. Parents asked if the PTO could help with childcare at the school and it was made clear that the PTO does not oversee NYJTL, PSW or other afterschool/childcare programs. That is under the purview of the school. However, the PTO can help facilitate parents connecting about their needs. It was suggested that the issue be added to the SLT agenda as well. It was also suggested that postings for openings for positions in PSW and NYJTL be circulated in case community members are interested.

Mr. Jennings noted that the school is looking to fill faculty positions, especially for special education positions, and asked parents to spread the word. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony for the soccer pitch this week but the previous soccer coach is no longer with the school so it is unknown what the soccer program will be. It was noted that this would be Jay's last year running the Tree Sale, so it was encouraged that parents come out and show their support and thanks. It was also noted that the PTO monthly meeting is a week early in December, due to the holidays.

Motion to Adjourn: Gerry Goss. 2nd: Gwen Kingsberry

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

