

TAOTS PTO

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Library – 8:30 a.m

- I. Call to order 8:36 a.m. by Co-Presidents Leslie Tulumello and Sandy Chum-Wu.
- II. **Prior Meeting Minutes:** September 22, 2016 meeting minutes were read by Leslie Tulumello and were approved.
- III. **President's Report:** (Leslie Tulumello)
 - Announced that vacant position of SLT parent member was filled by Elena Walsh and PTO Corresponding Secretary was filled by Elaine Fridlin at Expedited Election on October 7, 2016.
 - CEC Meeting update – STEAM initiative was the topic. Upcoming important District 20 Town Hall meeting on October 25, 2016 with Chancellor Carmen Farina at P.S. 204. All were urged to attend.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report**
 - Presentation of amended budget for 2016-2017 term by Leslie Tulumello. It was explained that to come up with a more conservative budget, an analysis was done by taking a 3-year average of the income/expenses and items were adjusted accordingly. Budget was approved with 29 votes in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 not in favor.
 - Presentation of September 30, 2016 Financial Report by Irina Furmanskaya. Explained that reporting has changed to month end reporting.
 - Question arose regarding difference between Direct Appeal and Dues. Co-presidents stated that a notice with full explanation is forthcoming. It was explained that Direct Appeal is at a suggested amount of \$250...these funds are a direct donation to the school. The bulk of this has historically been used to help provide an additional Teacher's Assistant to the school.
 - September 30, 2016 Financial Report was approved with 30 votes in favor, 0 not in favor, and 0 absentions.
- V. There was a discussion regarding there not being a Halloween Party on non-school hours this year due to past issues with capacity. Instead, this year students will have parties in their classrooms during school hours and will enjoy the PTO sponsored Pumpkin Patch. Melissa Appelbaum said that teachers and

Class Parents liked the idea. Sandy Chum explained that the PTO Board heard that there was disappointment about the change and that we will work to possibly have a Winter or Spring Festival in lieu of the Halloween Party.

- VI. **Principal's Report:** presented by Melissa Appelbaum, Parent Coordinator
- Urged members to represent the school at the October 25th CEC Meeting with Chancellor Carmen Farina.
 - Federation (FIAO) afterschool began. It was explained that this program is provided due to a grant and therefore there is a cap on funding and subsequently on number of participants.
 - Band Federation – It was explained that there was some confusion. Mr. Dubin held an evening meeting recently however, only 4 parents attended. Ms. Appelbaum suggested reaching out to Mr. Dubin directly with any questions.
 - Project SMARTS afterschool – Ms. Appelbaum explained that there is no cap on number of participants in this program. If you applied, then you were accepted.
- VII. **Fundraising:** presented by Leslie Tulumello
- Special thanks for two very generous Corporate Match donations secured by families: \$1,000 by the Leung family (Lily Leung – Grade 1) and \$1,500 by the DeNicola family.
 - Special thanks to Janice Huang for all her hard work rolling out Picture Day and Yankee Candle.
 - Lovable Labels fundraiser is ongoing throughout the year. Samples were presented and it was explained that samples will be kept in the PTO office for anyone who would like to see them.
 - Melissa Appelbaum presented that there are discounted tickets for groups of 10 or more available for Nets and Islanders tickets at the Barclays center.
 - Yankee Candle fundraiser: is running currently through November 4, 2016. We are aiming to reach our goal of \$7,000 in sales to be used toward Field Trip Sponsorship. Janice Huang explained that items may be ordered online and that such orders should include the child's name so they may receive their prize and also noted that items sold give us a 40% return on sales.
 - Election Day Bake Sale: will be on November 8, 2016. We are aiming for an income of \$1,200. The polls will be open from 7a.m. – 9 p.m. A flyer has gone out with a request for volunteers and items needed. There will be drop off times at arrival and dismissal. For non-perishable items: Thursday, November 3rd, Friday, November 4th, Monday, November 5th. Perishable items will be collected on Monday, November 5th. Items brought in throughout the day may be brought to the main office and Melissa Appelbaum will get it to the PTO. Elena Walsh who has led this

event previously offered to meet with the PTO to discuss some possible pitfalls.

- Thanksgiving Pie Sale was proposed by Leslie Tulumello. It was explained that pies from Bay Ridge bakery, Paneantico will be sold in a variety of sizes for \$12 and \$15. Online purchasing will be an option. There will also be an option to purchase a pie for a staff member. There will be some expanded flavor options from past years. The order time window will be posted. The Thanksgiving Pie Sale was approved by a vote of 29 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.
- Box Tops: presented by Philip Sum. Members were encouraged to clip labels to earn money for the school. First due date is October 28, 2016.
- Picture Day will be Monday, October 24, 2016. Forms should be returned by Friday, October 21, 2016 or Monday, October 24, 2016. Volunteer sheet is online. Volunteers should meet in the Gym.
- Raffles for \$35 Class Act Photographers voucher was held for members who attended the meeting. Winners were: Michelle Okabayashi, Elena Walsh, Lorraine Scott, Stephanie Lee
- Pumpkin Patch: Sandy Chum explained that there will be a Pumpkin Patch set up for the four recess shifts. Students will pick pumpkins and get goodie bags. A parent who is a professional photographer has volunteered to take professional class pictures that day. Volunteers are needed.

VIII. **Halloween**: Melissa Appelbaum explained that there will be a parade around the perimeter of the school at 9:00 am . Parents are welcome to attend. Parents who do not want their children to participate may send in a letter explaining so. Those students will remain in the building with a staff member.

IX. **Scholastic Book Fair**: will be open during PTC.

X. Leslie Tulumello proposed a purchase of 50 books for an estimated cost of \$600. Ms. Sportella-Giusto, as a principal of a Blue Ribbon school, will be presenting at a conference in Florida in November to discuss the school's best practices. She would like to present the attendees of this conference with the children's book, "What Do You Do With An Idea". The PTO will attempt to contact the publisher and request a donation from them before making the purchase. The expenditure was approved by a vote of 30 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstentions. Adrienne Temporino offered to donate the cost of these books to the extent they are not discounted or donated by the publisher. Many thanks to the Temporino family for offering.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.