

## February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 PTA Meeting Notes

**Board Members In The Room:** Lauren Fernandes, Francoise Olivas (Co-Presidents), Amy Yip (Treasurer), Heather Milburn (Co-Secretary), Natlie Gabriel (Board Member)

**Approval of January's Notes:** Second Magda Sidiq, Elle (Remy-2<sup>nd</sup> grade Mom)

### School Update: Ms. Scarlato

- **Someone Special:** Over 540 ppl over the two sessions, kids danced, laughed and played.
- **Career Day:** Monday 60 parents came in to share their careers, followed by Gallery Walk to see the kids posters (over 300 parents)
- **St. Nick's:** In full gear for all grades
- **Disney:** Begins weekend after the break, performance in May
- **Chess:** A lot of upcoming tournaments. **NY State** Girls Nationals, Super Nationals (May) Tournament. Chess being brought to K in the classroom. And 2 alumni. Screening of Brooklyn Castle documentary and fundraiser
- **ICE Concerns:** Safety and protocols we have been trained. If you hear any rumors, please reach out to myself, Mrs. Gallo
- **March NCUST ceremony in San Diego**
- **Ms. Lipponer:** Everything officially delivered, GrowNYC someone joining today to help assemble our 4<sup>th</sup> hydroponic machine. Received a aquaponic machine (with fish!)

### Ms. Kara's Updates:

- Big Thank You! Echoing it's been a hectic week for everyone, but teachers, Admin. Planning for months for Career Week. We wanted parents to get into the building, meet teachers in person
- **March 6 No School** for parent teacher conferences. Reports cards will come home with NYC Public School Survey. And child gets "No Homework Pass" once completed. If anyone joined in last 30 days they won't get

### Budget & Finances:

- **190K** Thank you parents for donations, can still donate
- **Spring Gala**
- **Art Teacher**
- **Merch sales doing well**

### Vote on STEAM budget of \$10,000: Lauren Fernandes

- Company that provides different tools for coding, robotics, and more
- The PTA has the the funds
- **Motion to Approve:** Katie Horowitz / Magda Sadiq

- PK teachers requesting music since they do art already in the classroom (right now they have Scribbles)

### **Kids Spring Party & Gala Update:**

- **Theme: Voted on and it's....Luau**
- Fri. March 21<sup>st</sup> is the date of the kids party at Greenpoint Lofts (67 West Street, had here last few years)
- Have a lot of different activities, dancing, DJ
- **Spring Gala:** Separating the evening party, to another date in May (Date TBC; maybe choose a date a night before a no school day)
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- A possible venue is Berry Park, need to inquire further
- Restaurant
- Greenpoint Loft: Check for a date in May, or day
- Parent DJs
- We'll send out a way to vote
- There is a Spring Party group on Parent Square and we'll post about meeting
- **Auction Items:** Parents go out locally to get gift certificates, items
- If every parent can get 1 or 2 donations we could get a ton of items
- Class Baskets: A lot of work for parents
- Donations from kids to count towards points on how many items classes
- Decorations from Oriental Trading

### **Parent Roundtable/Open Floor**

#### **Sports At the School:** Brought up by parent Courtney Bonilla

- After school/intramural, parent (Courtney) would love to see more sports program involvement at PS 31
- Lots of local programs kids a part of
- Ask about other schools
- Parent Katie Horowitz: Ferox had family day, Domino Park Skating to set aside 100 kids at a time PS 31 parents on March 6 for a community day.
- Maybe talk to Brooklyn Bowl for a family day
- Field Trips, \$20 each student funded by PTA
  - Getting buses is also challenging
- Family Event: March 7<sup>th</sup> Bingo Night at Berry Park. Need a few small items to raffle, and some old auction stuff. Table for winners

### **Green Wellness**

- History: We had a grant for eco-schools from oil spill
- We built the hydroponics lab from this grant, started Leaders of Change, green team meetings were happening with core teacher. And then wanted to extend to family's

- Be Time Grant, Mix & Mingle was apart of that, Waste Warriors (students doing classroom inspections (giving a grade) – every classroom has a plant, check garbage is sorted, room lights & smart-board off when away from the room
- Our garden was once raised bed urban garden, put dirt in
- Since covid, garden needs a lot of work. Had a lot of plants but Ms. Lipponer is
- And something to be self-sustaining, cared for by students,
- More sustainable winter shop (got a B-)
- Green Thumb Thursday's for garden stewardship, but parent engagement was low
- But how can we engage more throughout the year
- GrowNYC folks (Colleen & ?): we can have a longer convo on parent engagement
- Have a family adopt the garden for a week. Garden program for the whole school throughout the year (continue planning throughout the winter) Training for parents
- RSVPing to events,, especially the summer. Family sign-up for a week during that timeframe?
- Community Closet: Need signage, 1 good flyer and signage in both English/Spanish, target spring cleaning, coats/sweaters
- **Motion to Approve Purchasing Metal Planters**
  - These planters will be placed in front of the Garden of Happiness. Ms. Lipponer will be selecting sensory plants
  - **Approved-Seconded by:** Magda Sadiq, Cindy Kong
- **Apple tree:** Arborist said it's healthy, can survive, even as it's on Scott Frasier to help steward, our tree fell over but the tree is still surviving showing how life is resilient
- Gratitude/writing notes to local businesses to thank them. stickers of PS 31 business support