



PS29 PTA General Board Meeting Minutes

Scheduled date: 16th October, 2025
 Scheduled time: 6 PM
 Location: Zoom

Meeting began at: 6 PM
 Meeting ended at: 6:30 PM

Present (please check):

School Admin & PS29+ Staff:	PS29 Executive Board	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Fagin <input type="checkbox"/> Janet Cavanagh <input type="checkbox"/> Halee Hochman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Pender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS29+ Staff: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marie Isner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-Presidents: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mariam Furmanau <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kasey Noziska <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-Treasurers: <input type="checkbox"/> Rachel Moyse <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ben Houge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-VPs Communications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Hoffner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Milch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-VPs Fundraising: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allison Schroeder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jutta Friedrichs <input type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-Secretaries: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Rajini Pujari <input type="checkbox"/> Constantine Sverdlov <input type="checkbox"/> PTA Co-VPs Class Parent: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alicia Andrews <input type="checkbox"/> Dinah Herrity

General PTA Meeting Agenda (please amend the list as needed)

- Approval of Minutes
- Co-Presidents report
- Principal's report
- PS29+ report
- Treasurer's report
- Fundraising report
- Other reports & ad-hoc discussion

Approval of Minutes of the previous meeting

- ☒ Approved
☐ Not Approved

The next general PTA meeting date/time/location: Nov 21st, 2025/ 8:45 pm/ Auditorium





Meeting Notes:

Co-President Reports

Co- President Mariam,

- PTA Exec board greets parents.
- Shares list of upcoming events & holidays at PS29.
 - Thanksgiving break (27th & 28th Nov)
 - Giving Tuesday (Dec 2nd)
 - Open house Volunteer Training (Dec 3rd)
 - Eat pies shop(Dec 7th)
 - December PTA Exec & General in person meeting (changed from zoom meeting)
 - Open house, Lice check , MLK day, Book fair (January schedule)
 - Spelling bee around book fair event
 - Photo day retake, Feb PTA meeting, Winter break & Presidents Day(Feb Schedule)
 - PT conf. & Super Science Saturday (March Schedule)

Co- President Kasey: (Eat, Pie, & Shop Committee head)

- Volunteers Needed: opening for PS29 alumni, encouraging middle schoolers, high schoolers to join
- Asking families to spread the word for volunteering
- Activities for EPS Photo Booth , new photographers, DJ, Celebrity Judges

Principal's Report: Dr Fagin:

Overall School Report:

- Kim van Duzer, last month, had a math workshop, guiding families with homework help(refers to slides) vertical shifts from 1st grade to second grade.
- Mini marathon shout out to Natalie(Committee Head). It was a great new event.
- ,Pet owner meet up on weekend with families of 29
- Comfort dog visits was great and so we want to do more of them , teaches life skills, and overcoming fear of animals, mental health
- K music family morning with Ms. Emma Fitzgerald
- Every Thursday and Friday, creators are to come help work with the newspaper which has been around for 7-8 yrs, inquisitive kids, learning how to interviews , newsroom tour. Tour to MSNBC studio last school year
- Open house for prospective families.
- School Musical, shoutout to Marie and have afterschool hours to help with practice, Tryouts happen in January, rehearsals happen during that time. Enhances skills like ballroom dancing, overcoming stage fear.
- Yoga movement for Pre-K and K (Enrichment programs funded by the PTA)
- 5th grade improv (Enrichment programs funded by the PTA)





Recess Helpers:

- Vice Principal Ms. Dawn - a little plug out, 25 to 35 recess helpers, mostly 2nd and 3rd grade helpers who check in with the kids if they need help and we encourage them by saying "you are professionals".
- Dr. Fagin adds: Builds agency within the children and makes them proud of themselves. Opportunities open up in different grades. Encouraging life skills at an early age

Constructions:

- Improving the building
- They are on schedule.
- Elevator , bathrooms, work is in progress.
- Concrete is being poured during the weekend for elevator shaft
- Aug 2026 everything should be done and may move into September
- Elevator and ramp to be done next school yr, pouring concrete during winterbreak
- Probing through our walls for safety and demolition of the walls as per by laws
- Another entrance near the outer cafeteria, starts during Thanksgiving break
- We lost some spaces because of constructions
- New custodial Engg Juan and Christian in charge of the whole building. (*Christian is introduced to the parents in the Auditorium*)
- Our yard may have a shed & we may get a nice yard after const is over

Class size reduction:

- PS29 adhering to the law of reducing the class size.
- For 1st & 2nd Grade we are have complied to the new law.
- We are hoping K, 3rd Grade and 4th grade will have reduced class size next year
- We can still add kids who move into the zone.
- We spoke with SLT how it would work.
- We need more Early childhood teachers
- We need to add a new section to 2nd grade
- 3rd grade - usually 27 kids - we are trying to add new classroom
- Smaller number of kids changes the ICT class and so we need to add more ICT classrooms
- That would inturn require more specialty teachers,
- We got funded for 6 new teachers this year.
- We want 6 more new teachers next year.
- A huge shift on moving rooms and organizing who goes to which section
- Challenge is space and trying to fit in all new rooms

Q: Would 6 classroom get 100% compliance?

A: Yes 200% compliance





Q: What are the speciality teachers and what subject do they cover?

A:

- Its hard to assess the speciality to splitting a classroom
- If there are more classes then all teachers need to fit in all of that periods
- Music and art, we want to give same experience to them
- Science - classroom teacher can also teach science
- Trying use collaborations like dance to for movement
- Language- its hard to come by language teacher, its more for immersive programs

Dawn - science is so robust, that we have classes both in the science room and outside in the garden. But more sections in each grade means more classes and we need to cater to schedule of the teacher who already have a full week.

Fundraising Report: Allison & Jutta

- We need \$196k to support our school for all the enrichment programs.
- We need \$850 per child and its tax deductible.
- Corporate matching , we can send emails and get in touch with your employers
- We get donations, check or cash or employer matching
- We are up 20% this year of fundraising
- The giving Tuesday our goal is to collect \$100k
- Joining PTA insta will spread the word.

Q: How are spacing the fundraising efforts & what did you last year to get funds?

A:

- We have a smaller school size compared to last year.
- Giving Tuesday was increased this year from last year by \$75k.
- If we hit the 100K we have a gap time to fulfill for next year.
- We collected enough, although short of the goal.
- We can do donation matching out of state families and businesses. We can send special letter to grandparents for donations.

Q: Roughly what percentage of families from the school Donate?

A: For 700 kids, it was 40 to 50% and it's not just money but the volunteering and parent involvement in different committees and school functioning also helps. Double matching of funds is possible. And we thank you, all families, for being there.





PS29+ Report: Marie Isner

- Winter semester courses lottery this school year is open.
- The lottery is open until Dec 1st.
- The results will be shared on Dec, 12th.
- Fall current courses will be until 19th Dec.
- We will be sharing an email about course performances with family soon..
- Winter courses start Jan 5th.
- Changes to Kids club numbers can be accommodated.
- The parent portal is always updated with any changes that take effect.
- Drop out of courses will become easy
- We look forward to feedback from children in courses. This will help us make sure if the courses are working well for the kids.

Treasurer's Report: Ben Houge

- Rachel is out in UK, so I will be presenting the slides today(Refers to budget slide)
- Comparing budgets from last years and we have raised 20% of what are goal needs for funds
- +\$25k donation from corporate matching
- Mariam: Movie night became a hit because of Raffle (mentions credits to Zack the committee head)
Block party super science are other ways to make money.

Other reports & ad-hoc discussion

Budget Amendment Vote:

- With by-laws we need funds to hire more aides.
- We are asking \$25k for this year from the reserve which needs to be released for the 2 aides and hence we need to vote today.
- We need aides who support & help during lunch and recess. They help during the regular school days with delivering, moving things around in the school apart from the dedicated time.
- We are asking after school aides to become full-time and retain them with us.
- It's only this year and once we round up the budget, we will have more clarity.

Q : Do they have postings about the aides for jobs?

- We have school aides who are DOE employees and vetted by the DOE
- One school aide is on leave, there is usually 4 but we are down to 3
- 10 am to 2 pm is the duration they come and help





- These aides are salaried from DOE
- We hired Fred before he became a DOE employee
- We are not sure if Ms.Colon will return.
- We are supplementing for the absence
- Dawn(speaks) - we look into afterschool aides because they know the routine and the kids
- Marire recommended the new aides for the school
- We have more classrooms so we need more help to improve class experience

Vote Tally for Approval:

Total No: of Votes: 28

Votes for Approval: 100%

Hence, motion approved to release funds from PTA reserve to hire 2 new aides for the school.

Final statement(Mariam Speaks):

- Dec 18th next PTA in person meeting

