



PS29 PTA General Board Meeting Minutes

Scheduled date: 18 Sept 2026

Scheduled time: 8:40 AM

Location: In Person Meeting/School Auditorium

Meeting began at: 8:45 AM

Meeting ended at: 9:45 AM

Present (please check):

School Admin & PS29+ Staff:	PS29 Executive Board	
☒ Dr. Fagin ☒ Janet Cavanagh ☒ Halee Hochman ☒ Dawn Pender ☐ Parent Coordinator ☒ Sarah Smith ☒ PS29+ Staff: ☒ Marie Isner	☒ PTA Co-Presidents: ☒ Kasey Noziska ☒ Kathleen Possantino ☒ PTA Co-Treasurers: ☒ Mariam Furmanau ☒ Elizabeth Germano ☒ PTA Co-VPs Communications ☒ Ali Mooney ☒ Elizabeth Milch	☒ PTA Co-VPs Fundraising: ☒ Jean Burke ☒ Jutta Friedrichs ☐ PTA Co-Secretaries: ☒ S. Rajini Pujari ☐ Constantine Sverdllov ☐ PTA Co-VPs Class Parent: ☒ Alicia Andrews ☐ 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 Board PTA meeting date/time/location: Fall 2026

Co-President Reports

Kasey & Kathleen:

Welcome & PTA Executive Board Remarks:

- Call to Order: Co-President Kathleen welcomed returning families and extended a warm greeting to incoming families.
- Volunteer Opportunities: Kathleen emphasized the critical need for parent engagement, urging families to sign up for upcoming committee roles and volunteer initiatives throughout the academic year.
- Executive Board Introduction: Co-President Kasey formally introduced the members of the current PTA Executive Board.

Fundraising & Budget Overview by Kasey:

- Revenue Sources: Primary funding streams derive from direct parent contributions and local business partnerships/sponsorships, alongside school merchandise sales.
- Resource Allocation: A slide presentation detailed where PTA funds are invested, including:
 - Direct Student Enrichment: Visiting author series, yoga, and student health initiatives (e.g., lice screenings).
 - Staff & Curriculum Support: Teacher professional development, classroom supplies, grade-level program support, and staff appreciation events.
 - Operational & Facility Needs: Essential operating overhead, legal/accounting services, and capital maintenance.

Response to Media Coverage (Gothamist Article):

- The PTA addressed a recent *Gothamist* article that erroneously reported P.S. 29 raised \$3 million.
- The Executive Board sent formal correspondence to the publication clarifying the inaccuracies, providing an itemized breakdown of actual annual receipts, and detailing how funds are responsibly allocated directly into school programming.

Upcoming Events:

- An overview of upcoming Fall community gatherings and fundraising campaigns was presented (full schedule detailed in meeting slides).

Principal Reports:

Presented by Dr. Fagin

- School Community & Vision: Dr. Fagin welcomed families, reaffirming the administration's commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment. Key components of the P.S. 29 approach include student affinity groups, robust arts and academic enrichment, and participation in the PROSE (Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence) program—a collaborative initiative between the NYC Department of Education (DOE), the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and the Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA) that grants pedagogical and structural flexibility.

Capital Construction & Accessibility:

- Project updates will continue to be shared collaboratively with Sarah via school newsletters.
- Structural work is progressing steadily; the contractual completion date is currently targeted for December 2027, with potential turnover extending into Spring 2028.
- The primary objective is modernizing the facility to achieve full ADA accessibility. Post-construction plans include a comprehensive redesign and renovation of the schoolyard.

Personal Device Policy (Smartphones & Smartwatches):

- P.S. 29 enforces strict screen-free policies during the instructional day.
- The school utilizes Yondr pouches (or requires devices to be fully powered off and stowed inside backpacks) to minimize classroom distractions and support student focus.

Class Size Legislation & School Budgeting:

- While the state default statutory cap reaches up to 32 students per class in certain grades, P.S. 29 maintains significantly lower ratios due to spatial advantages within the building footprint.
- Funding Restrictions: Instructional staff salaries must strictly be funded via DOE Fair Student Funding (FSF) allocations—PTA dollars legally cannot be used to pay core pedagogical salaries. Because employing senior, experienced teachers incurs higher budgetary costs, the school prioritizes its direct DOE budget for staffing while relying on PTA funds to bridge operational, material, and enrichment gaps.

○

Digital Wellness & Technology Framework:

- Early Grades (K–3): Near screen-free instruction prioritizing active, inquiry-based play and hands-on exploration.
- Upper Grades (4–5): Targeted digital device use to ensure state computer-based testing readiness, balanced by intentional screen-free instructional blocks.
- Partnership: Continuing collaboration with Dopamind to guide healthy screen habits and digital wellness strategies for families.

Principal Q&A:

Q: Did P.S. 29 receive dedicated funding this year for state-mandated class size reductions?

A: While several district schools received specific auxiliary funding for class size reduction, P.S. 29 received a less favorable allocation formula from the DOE. Despite administration advocacy, the school absorbed higher instructional staffing costs without full supplemental relief; however, current staffing plans remain stable.

Q: Does the DOE maintain operational control over school PTA funds?

A: No. PTA funds remain independently governed by the PTA Executive Board and general membership bylaws. DOE operational budgets operate strictly based on enrollment and official FSF formula parameters.

Equity Committee: Family Buddy Program

- The P.S. 29 Equity Committee introduced the Family Buddy Program, designed to welcome new families, build cross-grade community connections, and foster inclusion.
- Families interested in joining or serving as a mentor family were invited to scan the provided QR code to enroll.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Mara

- **Fiduciary Responsibility:** The Treasurer noted the PTA's legal and statutory obligations regarding financial transparency and record-keeping.
- **2026–2027 Budget Outlook:**
 - Inflationary pressures have increased vendor contracts, operational supplies, and service costs across all grade levels.
 - Confirmed fully funded cohort field experiences, including the Trout excursion and the 5th Grade Philadelphia trip last school year
 - Reserve Policy: The board maintains a designated reserve cushion to ensure liquidity and fund school initiatives at the opening of each academic year before major annual fall fundraisers wrap up.
 - Targeted Investments: Approved funding for advanced educator training, including specialized online edX credentialing and certifications.
 - Administrative Overhead: The budget accounts for mandated administrative expenses, including an independent certified public accountant (CPA), professional bookkeeping, and general liability insurance.
- **Donation Mechanics:** Families are strongly encouraged to set up recurring monthly donations and leverage corporate matching gift programs to maximize contribution impact.

After-School Program Update

Presented by Marie

- **Staff Professional Development:** Summer prep included comprehensive behavioral management and inclusion training led by Social City for all staff and Kids Club counselors.
- **Behavior Support & De-escalation Protocol:**
 - Standardized boundary scripts are used when addressing safety issues (e.g., "*Hitting is not a safe choice*").
 - Quiet & Reset Spaces: Designated calm-down spaces are established near administrative offices and within quiet cafeteria zones for students needing sensory regulation or time away from group settings.

- Redirection & Restorative Tasks: When children struggle to follow group plans, counselors utilize light restorative tasks (e.g., classroom chores or helping an instructor) to ease transition back into group circles.
- Fall Schedule Logistics:
 - After-school classes officially begin this Tuesday.
 - A detailed logistical email outlining room assignments, dismissal procedures, and daily schedules will be sent to all enrolled families shortly.

School Leadership Team (SLT) Elections

- Announced one open parent seat on the School Leadership Team (SLT).
- Nominated Candidates: Josh Miller and Brittany Slattery
- Voting procedures and candidate profiles are outlined in the meeting presentation deck.
- Voting slips were collected.
- The SLT candidate with the most votes will be announced later in the week.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned.
- Next General Meeting: Friday, October 16, in the P.S. 29 Auditorium.