



Minutes of the January 22, 2019 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m.
- Review of the December 11, 2018 meeting minutes. Minutes approved with minor changes. Carol Clouse will make corrections and resubmit for the February meeting.

Principal's Address (Enrichment Presentation)

- Principal D'Avilar gave an overview of the enrichment programs provided at PS9, what each one offers, and the age groups attending. Some of the highlights were:
 - **Brain Power:** A new school-wide program that teaches children how the brain works and helps them with anger and behavior management. School and student leaders have been chosen to help teach other students. The administration also plans to hold workshops for parents.
 - **Playworks:** Coach Marquis and the team organize activities to keep students moving before school and during recess. This program is for all grades.
 - **Guggenheim Learning through Art:** An artist residency program that sends teaching artists into the city's public schools, where they collaborate with classroom teachers on art projects integrated into the school curriculum (3rd-5th grade).
 - **Dancing Classrooms:** Students learn dance steps and build team spirit (5th grade).
 - **Trout in the Classroom:** Students learn about conservation and ecosystem connectivity by raising fish from eggs to fingerlings (4th grade).
 - **Marquis Studios:** Arts residencies taught by a staff of teaching artists in various mediums, such as visual arts, music and dance. Programming this year includes musical theater for 1st-3rd graders.
 - **Noel Pointer Foundation String Music Instruction:** This year 3rd-5th graders are learning the violin. The plan is to add the 2nd grade next year. This program is partly funded with proceeds from the PTO's Silent Auction.
 - **Omni Learn:** A school-wide STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program whose instructors teach students through fun and challenging hands-on experiments. This program has also benefited from PTO funding.

PS9 Name Change

- The deadline to submit paperwork for the name change is March 1.
- Last year, PS9 voted to remove the name Teunis Bergan from our school. The PTO began the process to change the name to the Shirly Chisholm School. We reached out to get the family's permission, which is required, but the family declined to give their permission.



- The proposal is now to change the name to honor Sarah Smith Garnet. The first African-American woman principal in New York and the founder of the first African-American women's suffrage club.
- The Smith-Garnet family supports the idea.
- The PTO will hold a Town Hall on Feb. 13th to get the broader school community involved.

Budget/Finance Review

- A \$10k budget gap has been narrowed to \$5k. Finance committee members will speak to Principal D'Avilar about how to close the remaining gap.
- The Direct Appeal campaign brought in \$68K. Other recent events have also done well, including Pancakes and Portraits, which brought in \$2,200.
- Budget approved without changes.

Events/Fundraising

- Upcoming events include STEAM night on Jan. 29, a Valentine's Day dance, and Jazz Night in March.
- Mark Grashow, a graduate of PS9, is collecting donations for Syrian refugees. He can present to classrooms on how the PS9 community can help.

Miscellaneous Discussion

- There was some discussion of teachers withholding recess as a consequence for poor behavior. This is not a method supported by the school's administration, but it's still happening.
- It's time for the PTO Nominating Committee to get underway. Someone has to serve as the committee chair. This person needs to be selected by next month.

Meeting concluded at 7:55 pm