



**Tuesday, February 12, 2019
6:30pm – 8:00pm
PTO Meeting Minutes**

Called to order – 6:45pm

Principal's Address

- Working on achievement gap with a group of parents.
- Working on stem grant with Borough President's office
- Saturday school/ test prep is coming up – gave details.
- New policy - School penalized for each child whose parents opt them out – scored at 0 (instead of not counted)
- Pre-K will be using an empty classroom for a playroom during inclement weather starting after February Break.

Mark Grashow – US ACF

- His organization supports 700 schools across various schools in Africa. Started with a coalition of 50 schools – each school given a single thing to collect (toys, clothes, athletic equipment) – at least 30 boxes. Kids can learn, from a personal perspective, why someone who have to leave their homes what it means to be a refugee
- Looking for a new group to contribute to new deliveries. Asking PS9 to collect 30-60 boxes of one thing and deliver it to the meeting point in Greenpoint Brooklyn
- They have people on the ground doing needs assessment – so that what we collect is actually what they need, not what we think they might need.
- March 2nd there is an event a PS 234 for all the schools that want to participate, will serve Syrian food prepared by Syrian refugees, watch the video – understand better the situation
- They give a choice as to what we'd like to collect – to be determined after March 2nd meeting
- Voted to participate in the drive

School Name Change – Sarah Smith Garnett

- Founded first African American suffrage club in this neighborhood. She was a principal. She was leading the fight on getting more AA educators. 2020 will be 100 year anniversary of women's suffrage.
- We have written approval from the family.
- Questions about how we are engaging the school community. What about the Bergen family? No communication with them so far.
- Concerns that there isn't enough time to engage the broader community
- Need to submit by March 1st and the PTO and SLT have to vote
- Decided not to vote but to hold second meeting in February to conduct further outreach and education

Committees

- **Nomination Committee** – April would be the nominating meeting – May is the voting meeting – June is the introductory meeting – we need a nominating committee formed by the next meeting in March.
- **Achievement Gap (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee)** – there are some groups that are not doing as well as others. Presented to the administration. Suggestions for Rigor. Looked at Elijah Stroud and PS11 for examples. The Committee will continue to investigate and work with the admin. Update at next meeting.

Financials and Fundraising

- January Financial Review – approved
- Update on STEM grant proposal from Borough President's office and Children's Film Festival

Meeting Adjourned 8:05pm