



Tuesday, March 19, 2019
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
PTO Meeting Minutes

Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:38 p.m.
- Review of the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

Principal's Address

- Principal D'Avilar spoke about the idea of phasing out PS9's Gifted & Talented program and phasing in an integrated co-teaching (ICT) model, where all students learn in two-teacher classrooms where they work in groups. The group work allows teachers to accommodate the needs of students with different learning styles and speeds.
- The ratio for ICT is 28 kids/2 teachers per class. Students with special learning needs (with Individualized Education Programs or IEPs) typically represent 40% of the class.
- PS9's dual-language program would also follow an ICT model.
- Principal D'Avilar noted that the latest research shows that when the G&T population is integrated with the general population, everyone does better.
- An ICT model means an increase in state funding, however "de-tracking" does take a lot of resources, both monetary resources and teacher training and support.
- The G&T phase out would take a number of years and would not affect students currently in the program.

Mike Danza, local philanthropist

- Mr. Danza spoke about including PS9 in his efforts to create a pipeline of science and technology students for the City University of New York (CUNY) system.
- The idea is for PS9 to serve as a main feeder school for District 13's Dock Street School for STEAM Studies middle school, as well as the new STEAM Center in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
- The STEAM Center offers hands-on training to juniors and seniors who want to pursue careers in computer science, design and engineering, culinary arts, construction technology, and film and media. The students split their time between their home high school and the center.
- Mr. Danza purchased a number of 3D printers, one of which he's donated to PS9.

PTO Officer Nominations

- An event on Sunday April 14th will include an effort to educate parents on PTO election.
- The PTO nominating committee needs three people but can move forward with two.
- Officer nominations will be made at the April meeting.
- The vote will take place at the May meeting.

Budget/Finance Review

- The PTO's target budget is \$130,000, we're currently at \$101,855.
- As of the end of February, direct appeal parent donations stand at roughly \$83,000.
- The funding for merchandise is depleted.
- A motion is made to increase the budget inside the fiscal year by \$1,000 to replenish merchandise fund. Approved.
- February budget approved.
- The vote on next year's budget will take place in May

EDI committee

- The committee has been focused on two issues: integration and the achievement gap.
- There is a movement in NYC to move away from a model with a separate G&T track.
- The committee would like to propose phasing out PS9's G&T program.
- A sheet with information on school demographics was passed out.
- The committee will host a series of round table discussions.
- An EDI subcommittee has also been looking shorter-term solutions for addressing the achievement gap, including how we might use PTO funds.
- We could pay for teacher's aides or paras at \$30,000 each. The PTO is allowed to raise money for school aides but not for teachers. This expense would be on top of the regular PTO budget.
- If we add PTO-funded academic intervention programs, we would have to do additional fundraising or make cuts to other PTO-funded school programs.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:05 pm.