

General PTA Meeting

Minutes: November 16th, 6:15 PM

Facilitated by Co-Presidents // Minutes taken by Halley Curtis

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN ENGLISH WITH LIVE SPANISH TRANSLATION

Attendance: Enzo Perazic, Krissy Holmes, Halley Curtis, Anna Azvolinsky, Sorybel, Susan Fulwiler, Gayla Appell, Lolita Wilder, Star Poole, Alena, Ms. Garfinkle, Naveed Hasan, Jordan Yumiceba, Galina Khitrova, Ms. Stathopoulos, Olga Gashinsky, Colin, Saul Robbins, Firuza Muminova, Richard Copin, Natalia Garcia, Olga Afanasyeva, Victoria Fayfman (23 participants)

1. 6:15 pm Call to Order – Co-President (5 min)

- a. Welcome
- b. Attendance in chat: Name, Child's grade
- c. Social Chat Question: What's your favorite thing about Autumn?
- d. Approve meeting minutes from October 20 Meeting (bottom of document). Motion to approve, Susan Fulwiler, seconded, Halley Curtis

2. PTA Recap of activities - Co-Presidents (5 min)

- a. Events:
 - i. **Dad's Day** had a great turnout. Thank you to our PTA Co-Presidents and Debbie for keeping our guests happy, caffeinated, and fed. Thank you to everyone who donated towards our fund matching efforts, we raised over \$300 which will be doubled. **Thank you Lauren, Krissy, & Debbie**
 - ii. **Spooktacular Bake Sale** was so fun! Thank you to our parents and teachers who volunteered and to all our bakers and treat suppliers. The kids had a blast and we raised another \$300 which will be matched! **Thank you Lauren, Krissy, Lamonique, Naveed & Family, Ecaterina, Ms. Ramirez, our teacher volunteers, Ms. Lopez & Ms. Garfinkle for running our craft table, and everyone else who donated treats!**
 - iii. **Costume Donations** were a hit, we had a ton of costumes to give out before our costume parade. Thank you to everyone who contributed! **Thank you to Lauren & Ms. Ramirez & our community and parent coordinator team for distribution**
 - iv. [Link](#) to our October Recap Reel on Instagram **If we missed any shout outs, know that we are so appreciative of everyone's time!**

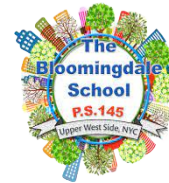
3. Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities, Co-Presidents (10 min)

- a. Lemonade Stand Postponed till Spring
- b. 11/17 Spirit Day - Superheroes
- c. SLT Election
 - i. **Monday, November 20th at 9:15am** on Zoom
 - ii. Reminder to nominate by 11/20 at pta.president@ps145m.org
 - iii. Nominations will also be taken on the floor



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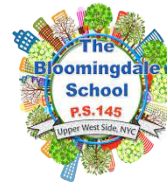


- iv. We would love parents to volunteer from either SDLP or mono-English so all programs are well represented on the SLT
 - d. Holiday Decorating Party
 - i. **Monday, November 27th from 4-6pm** in the atrium
 - ii. Help put up school holiday decorations
 - iii. Hot Cocoa and other treats to be served
 - iv. Holiday craft table for the kids
 - e. School Community Holiday Bazaar
 - i. **Saturday, 12/9 from 12-4pm** in the School Gymnasium
 - ii. Gift making stations, giveaways, refreshments and more
 - iii. Volunteers needed, sign up [LINK](#)
 - iv. Supplies needed, amazon wishlist [LINK](#)
 - f. Staff Holiday Potluck
 - i. School Coordinates a holiday meal for the faculty, and PTA parents help serve
 - ii. Volunteers needed, Please use our [SIGN UP FORM](#)
- 4. **State of the School + Q&A in English & Spanish, School Leadership Team (30 min)**
 - a. Introduction to Star Poole, our new Parent Coordinator! She is a mom of five and already involved in the schools as a contact person for social work outreach.
 - b. As we have so much going on, we have re-instituted the Parent Inquiry Intake form. This allows parents to fill out a form with any questions on the app, and they are reviewed throughout the day in the main office to be addressed. This allows all the outreach staff to focus on current projects as well as manage parent outreach.
 - c. State of the School PowerPoint, available for review
 - d. Mr. DeCastro will also be coming on as an additional Parent Coordinator to help serve with the wide range of needs in our school community. One of his first areas of focus will be an after school program. We have an enrollment that exceeds 500 and the YMCA only offers 100 spots, which is insufficient.
 - e. Dr. Garcia has met with parents who feel that the same emphasis has not been given to the Israeli/Palestinian War as was given to the Ukrainian/Russian War. She wants to clarify that she is an instructional leader, and the kids always come first. At the beginning of the conflict two years ago, there was difficulty between students. The staff is closely monitoring students and there have been no anti Semitic or Islamophobic incidents. Given that the children are stable, the focus of the school is maintaining a happy environment, a safe place for all our kids in the midst of so much upset in the world.
- 5. **Healing Ambassador Update - Saul Robbins (5min)**
 - a. Our First Wellness Program Event will be Wednesday, 11/29 from 5:30 to 7:30 (as a result of the \$30k grant that was received). The speaker will be a yoga and mindfulness instructor who will speak first to the adults and then work with the kids.
 - i. Dinner from 5:30 to 6:30
 - ii. Parent session while kids are entertained until about 6:45
 - iii. Session with the students from 6:45 to 7:30
 - b. Next Monday at drop off, there will be a questionnaire to assess how to best meet the needs of the parent and student population.



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6. Treasurer Report & Fundraising - *Co-President standing in for Co-Treasurers (5 min)*

- a. The taxes are filed, huge thank you to all who worked so hard to get them done
- b. Richard/Enzo - Update on fundraising ideas chosen for 2023/24. We had great feedback from the parent survey with more than 20 new event suggestions, and Richard and Enzo met with Dr. Garcia to select which can happen over the next year.
 - i. 1st event in January, Family Movie Night!
 - ii. Other possible upcoming events include an art gallery, a car wash in the spring, March Madness bracket, a teacher dance contest, a concert (possibly in Fall of 2024)

7. Adjournment

- a. **Next steps: meeting minutes circulated**
- b. How to contact us: pta.president@ps145m.org