

PS 165
PTA General Meeting
Minutes December 17, 2020
Conference Call 6:00pm

Call to Order: Tara called to order at 5:45pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Rodney motioned to approve November minutes, Manda seconded. November 2020 General Meeting PTA minutes are approved.

Principal's Report (from 165 Town Hall)

- Closures and Quarantines
 - Building will be closed on December 18 for Covid exposure.
 - Anyone who is required to quarantine was contacted by the DOE situation room and was sent an email.
 - All students will do remote learning.

- Holiday Travel and Health Screen
 - Please check the quarantine guidelines if you leave NY state.
 - Students may need to quarantine if they visit a location on the list as indicated by the health screen. Parents should inform the teacher and administration.
 - Please read the health screen carefully each time you fill it out as the questions and requirements change frequently.

- 12:1:1 Self-Contained Classes
 - Beginning in January, our K-2 and 3-5 Self Contained 12:1:1 classes will be in person for 5 days a week as recommended by the DOE.
 - The 12:1:1 classes are our most restrictive special education classes.
 - Budgetary constraints will guide the school's ability to open up 5 days a week for other classes.

- Specials Classes
 - Specials Classes (Art, Music, Phys Ed, Comp Sci) are our coverages for teacher lunches.
 - Art will be only remote for the remainder of the school year
 - Lessons will be posted on Google Classroom

- Optional live sessions will be offered. Ms. Lisa will post when those sessions will be and parents can have their children attend then for live instruction.
 - Students are graded on all Specials and should complete their assignments.
- NY Hall of Science
 - Partnership with NY Hall of Science
 - January – Virtual Experiments for each class
 - YANY after school: Wow, Science!
- Family Income Financial Form
 - All Families: Please complete the Family Income Financial Form
 - Completion of form affects school funding. The school’s budget is heavily reliant on having this form filled out by all families. 165 is a Title 1 school and this form will continue that designation, which is vital for 165 funding.
 - The form can be completed on the website:
 - <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>
 - Questions: Email Yadira Brenes parentcoordinator@robertesimon.org
- Stay Connected
 - www.ps165nyc.org
 - PS165 Facebook Group
 - PTA WhatsApp Covid-19 Group – email pta@ps165nyc.org
- Q&A
 - Do 12:1:1 students need to come in 5 days or can they stay blended?
 - The school can’t force students to come in, just recommend it per DOE guidelines. This can be worked out between admin, teacher, and parent.
 - There is a lot of remote work being pushed onto students, especially younger ones and parents need help - what can they do?
 - Parents should be in contact with their student’s teachers right away to discuss these issues and organize methods to help their children.
 - Is school closed tomorrow? What about Monday?
 - Yes tomorrow. Acting as though open on Monday, but it is up to the Situation Room. Monitor your email.
 - If you are quarantined, are you absent?

- No, once you are quarantined, you are fully remote until the quarantine is over.
- Is testing being done weekly?
 - Yes. All students attending school must have consent forms in. Otherwise they must go fully remote.
- If someone in your house tests positive, what happens?
 - The student must also be quarantined from school. Test and trace will be in touch to give you a timeline. Please read the health screen form in full every day.
- Are there students who have not submitted consent forms still attending school?
 - No.
- If a child is tested at school, will we hear a report?
 - The school does not have that information. Parents should look online at the account for their student which is detailed on the paperwork that went home when they were tested.
- Who should we speak with if we need help with Middle School paperwork?
 - Speak with Ms. Brenes or Mr. Ortiz, the guidance counselor. The school has shared everything the DOE has provided on applying.

Treasury Report

- Please see attached spreadsheet.
- Received donations of \$10,878.81.
- Balance on Hand 11/30/20 - \$65,302.68

President's Report

- Newsletter: If you would like to stay connected and up-to-date and don't already receive the PTA Newsletter, please sign-up here: <https://bit.ly/ps165pta>
(Please double check your spam folder!)
- The NYCDOE is excited to announce the nomination period for the 9th annual Big Apple Awards. Please consider nominating excellent educators from PS165 using the

nomination form by January 10: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/vision-and-mission/big-apple-awards>

- Anyone can nominate a teacher.
- Teachers are notified of their nomination and it is a big boost. PS 165 teachers have been very close to winning in the past.

- *Get Through COVID Shutdown* Fundraiser
 - Tuesday Nov 15 - Jan 5th Don't forget to check and see if your employer has a matching fund program to boost the power of your donation
 - Friends of PS 165 Robert E. Simon is a 501 c 3 tax-exempt org. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.
 - Please contact Luca or Paula.
 - Thanks to corporate matching, we have raised \$12,000 so far this school year.

- Kindergarten Application Period Open
 - If you are in Pre-K, still need to apply for K.
 - Dec 10, 2020 to Jan 19, 2021, children born in 2016 can apply to K for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Virtual Elementary Admission Event
 - Learn about 3-K, pre-K, and Kindergarten admissions
 - Register for just one event.
 - If you are a parent of a student and want to help promote the school, please get in touch with Ms. Scanlon with ideas for videos, etc.

School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

- Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from 2:30pm to 4:00pm.
 - Ms. Stone is waiting for clarification on having non-member parents attend. If they can, a zoom link will be provided to silently attend and observe the meeting.

- SLT Minutes will be made available for publication on school website after they are approved at the following month's SLT meeting.

- Implementation of myOn virtual library for student to access while at home – waiting for guidance on how this will be done. Padlet is being broadcast to every student as well.

- Attendance is currently not a CEP goal.

- Workshops on Math and Reading are being organized for the coming months.

Building Safety Council

- Last meeting was December 8.
- Please remember to sign media consent forms for all virtual school events. These allow the students to participate in things like holiday concerts. If you want to sign and haven't yet, speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Brenes.
- Construction continues six days a week after school hours and on weekends. If school is shutdown (non covid case-related... construction may continue during closure).
- An extensive stone reconstruction project was added and the construction timeline is now expected to be completed by Feb 2022.
- Teachers Union - no current concerns to report.

Next PTA General Meeting is Thursday, January 28, after the Town Hall.

Adjournment – 6:10pm.