

**PS 165**  
**PTA General Meeting**  
**Minutes March 25, 2021**  
**Conference Call 5:00pm**

**Call to Order:** Tara called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Rodney motioned to approve February minutes, Manda seconded. February 2021 General Meeting PTA minutes are approved.

**Principal’s Report (from 165 Town Hall)**

Safety at Entry:

- Health screening is the same as before in which you can show on your phone. Even if you are vaccinated, everyone still needs to wear a mask. Went over questions on health screening which are more detailed. <https://healthscreening.schools.nyc/>
- Opt-in period has opened until April 7<sup>th</sup>. <https://www.nycenet.edu/surveys/learningpreference>
- Kindergarten being 5 days a week has started today (March 25<sup>th</sup>). There are 3 in-person kindergarten classes.

Afterschool:

- For YANY (Young Audiences of New York) afterschool, please contact Cesar Pagan at [Cpagan@robertesimon.org](mailto:Cpagan@robertesimon.org).

- The following are links to sign up:

<b>After School</b>	<b>Links</b>
<b>YANY</b>	<a href="https://forms.gle/zpNR9eJ9HHJp3VY19">https://forms.gle/zpNR9eJ9HHJp3VY19</a>
<b>Ballet Hispanico</b>	<a href="https://forms.gle/SJoVybUqmj6hDuqo6">https://forms.gle/SJoVybUqmj6hDuqo6</a>
<b>Neurokidz</b> (SPRING BREAK ONLY from 12pm-1:20pm)	<a href="https://forms.gle/PNxP8Aic945Z1dLaA">https://forms.gle/PNxP8Aic945Z1dLaA</a>
<b>Dual Language Virtual After School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-2 Dance around the World w/Ms.Rodriguez</li> <li>• K-2 Fun Friday w/Ms.Vllaprino</li> <li>• 3-5 Math in Our World: Exploring Math Through Cooking w/Ms.Rosado</li> <li>• 3-5 Debate: Speak Your Mind w/Ms. De la Cruz</li> </ul>	<a href="https://forms.gle/ZAJa21FuUh3KreMZ9">https://forms.gle/ZAJa21FuUh3KreMZ9</a>
<b>Academic Support Virtual After School</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iReady Instructional Program</li> <li>• Grades 3-5 Began on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Offered to ALL 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Beginning April 7<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<a href="https://forms.gle/ceg4bT4ikdK3p5mL9">https://forms.gle/ceg4bT4ikdK3p5mL9</a>
<b>Deadline to register is March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	

### NY State Assessments

- ELA & Math (Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) and Science (Grade 4)
  - Must be administered in-person
  - Testing window to allow for safety
- Virtual After School- Academic Support
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Current Literacy Units
  - Reading: Text Analysis
  - Writing: Writing About Reading
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Problem Solving

### Capital Funding

- PS 165 allocated \$750,000 last year.
- Auditorium Remodel
- Future Project: Playground - \$350,000 allotted, more funding will be required.

### Gifted & Talented

- Deadline to apply is April 9<sup>th</sup>
- All families with children born in 2016 and live in NYC (including families who have temporarily relocated due to the COVID-19 pandemic) can apply to enter the G&T program in fall 2021.
- Students in Pre-K (born in 2016) apply at <https://www.myschools.nyc.gov/enrolment/enroll-grade-by-grade/gifted-and-talented>
- For students currently in Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: offers to G&T programs will be made based on waitlists from 2020.
- This is a one-year fix only for this year. We do not know what it will hold in the future.

### Enrollment

- Pre-K info session tomorrow 2pm-3pm.  
Register: <https://forms.gle/yZjZTqhUcOdK1JkHA>
- Websites for school comments/reviews

School Digger	<a href="https://www.schooldigger.com/go/NY/schools/0007802591/school.aspx">https://www.schooldigger.com/go/NY/schools/0007802591/school.aspx</a>
Great Schools	<a href="https://www.greatschools.org/new-york/new-york/2545-Ps-165-Robert-E-Simon/">https://www.greatschools.org/new-york/new-york/2545-Ps-165-Robert-E-Simon/</a>
Inside schools	<a href="https://insideschools.org/school/03M165">https://insideschools.org/school/03M165</a>

### Graduation and Stepping Up Ceremonies

- The outdoor ceremony will take place in-person by classes under specific guidelines.
- Remote students will be invited to participate.
- PTA volunteers to help decorate the large yard.

### Q&A

- Q: Will the test be too advanced for their child?

- A: It will be what your child's level should be at the time it's given. They have old versions of the test that they can practice on and it will consist of critical thinking questions. Ask your child's teacher or you can visit online to practice with older versions of the state test.
- Q: Are there plans to bring back more grades for 5 days after Kindergarten has had their schedules set up?
  - A: We're looking at budget, staffing and other variables that come into play before we make a decision like we did with kindergarten. It's also contingent upon parents filling out the learning preferences survey. It will give us who and how many students will be back in the building and we can move forward from there. April 7<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for opting in if you want your child back in school.
- Q: I have heard that students at P.S. 145 and P.S. 75 are using their playgrounds and we do not. Will that change?
  - A: That is against CDC guidelines. The safety of our students is the most important. They'll be going outside for gym class. There is no recess in the lunch cafeteria like there used to be. We have applied for access to play outside during recess.
- Q: My child's remote classes are all in English (guardian of a dual language student). If I put them back in person, will she have the same classes or different teachers, how will that work?
  - A: Fully remote students are assigned to different teachers from in-person teachers. It also depends on their program. If your child is in dual language and you opt-in, they'll be going into a dual language class in-person because there is space. Teachers will stay fully remote unless DOE changes anything.
- Q: Can the new opt-in students choose their cohort?
  - A: The spaces are very limited. Opt-in will have your students assigned to different teachers from the one they've had for remote learning. At the moment, you cannot choose a cohort for your child due to space but still reach out to Ms. Brenes (our parent coordinator) and we will do our best to fulfill those requests.

### **Treasury Report**

- Please see attached spreadsheet.
- Total Income in Feb: \$3813.96
- Total Expense in Feb: \$1,177.14
- Balance on Hand 2/28/21 - \$68,095.02 (Current Balance as of 3/4/2021 is \$69,107.57)

### **President's Report**

- Plexi-glass have been set up in the classrooms.
- Culture committee is open to all who are interested.

- Picture day is to take place in May. There will be an option for students who are remote. (Date to be determined)
- Teacher appreciation week will also take place from May 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Castellano spoke about the diverse books that are coming in and will be distributed to all classes.
- Fun run- Guardians and their children can sign up and receive their own bibs. This helps to raise money for our school. Virtual 1 mile/5K/10K outdoor event, run or walk. (From May 1<sup>st</sup>- May 31<sup>st</sup>)
- Please make sure to leave reviews online to help our school. Former reviews are outdated.
- Family resource highlight, parent university [www.parentu.schools.nyc](http://www.parentu.schools.nyc)
- CEC voting meeting at March 26 at 6:30pm for District 3. The actual voting will take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>.

### **School Leadership Team (SLT) Report**

- SLT planning STEM & Literacy night (both virtual events)
- Next SLT meeting April 12<sup>th</sup>
- If parents want to silently observe the meeting you may do so by filling out the Google form by 11am the morning of the meeting for a zoom link at <https://www.ps165nyc.org/slt>
- Parent volunteers can be part of the planning committee for both or either event.
- STEM night will be held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm (Planning meeting 4/8 at 4:30pm)  
Volunteer signup sheet:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tfBj1gzSKFQG-A\\_Gx4VD87Xfi48bVvjRpOAKG4EZ6EY/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tfBj1gzSKFQG-A_Gx4VD87Xfi48bVvjRpOAKG4EZ6EY/edit#gid=0)
- Literacy night will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 4pm (Planning meeting 4/6 at 4:45pm)  
Volunteer signup sheet:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17IV2MZEELr52X7o9lqg89PHoxUnS68hEsxF7Uhz6H08/edit#gid=611742473>

### **Building Safety Council**

- Hot meals have been offered since 3/9/21.
- Emergency drills continue.
- For trash issue on 108<sup>th</sup> and 109<sup>th</sup> streets, contact 311.
- Construction continues six days a week afterschool hours and weekends.
- Playground is expected to be completed by end of the school year 2022

Next PTA General Meeting is Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, after the Town Hall.

**Adjournment** – 6:30pm.