

**PTO General Meeting - November 19th 2020**

**7 board members present:**

*Co-Presidents: Idesha Fraser and Jenn Morrison,* [*282pto@gmail.com*](mailto:282pto@gmail.com)

*VP of Fundraising: Mike Newman,* [*fundraising@282parkslope.org*](mailto:fundraising@282parkslope.org)

*VP of Outreach: Maya Boerner,* [*outreach@282parkslope.org*](mailto:outreach@282parkslope.org)

*Recording Secretary: Charlie Paradise,* [*secretary@282parkslope.org*](mailto:secretary@282parkslope.org)

*Communications Secretary: Tamika Young,* [*communications@282parkslope.org*](mailto:communications@282parkslope.org)

*Co-Treasurers: Angela Bellisio and Krystina Athas,* [*treasurer@282parkslope.org*](mailto:treasurer@282parkslope.org)

**6:05 Call to order**

**6:06 Vote to Approve October Minutes**

* Move for approval - Idesha
* Approved, without objection

**6:06 Meet the 2020-2021 PTO Executive Board**

* Board members introduced themselves

**6:08 Update from Principal Amy Rodriguez**

* 457 total students
* 95% attendance rate overall
* 33 people who would like to opt back in to blended learning
* SLT is continuing to work on rigorous instruction and strong community and family ties
* The “situation room” or “test and trace” is made up of DOH, DOB, DOE
* Was on call with individual and test and trace to confirm timeframe and contacts
* Then was provided with letters from the DOE.
* AR was not able to use her own tone or explanation.
* Understand that these had confusion with subject lines, letters, seeing it on mobile screens
* Information is rolled out piecemeal, as there are people constantly assessing what’s going on
* When a report is made, AR needs to get a lot of information
* The more info she can get, the better it is
* She has to check attendance records, rosters etc.
* If more information surfaces, she has to call T&T immediately
* They are thorough - she reported not only which people, but which rooms, how far they were away, how long they were in contact.
* “Contact” is considered within 6 feet for over 30 minutes
* To date, if anyone is reporting even a secondary contact, I advise to stay home so that we are being as conservative as possible.
* If you haven’t got a phone call yet, and your child is in close contact, you will get a call.
* Then someone from DOE situation called to say close classroom, not school
* AR appealed to the superintendent, but advice was to follow DOE guidance.
* DeBlasio said that we may return after Thanksgiving, but AR does not have that information
* AR has been told “temporary indefinite closure”
* Will let people who have opted to go from remote to blended what the plan is, but first priority is the school reopening plan
* **Ms Collie Cyrus:** You will receive a questionnaire after this PTO meeting or tomorrow morning

**6:22 Finance (Angela)**

* Have spent time working out an equitable distribution of COVID funds
* Plan to distribute the funds through the teachers
  + Currently offer each $200
  + Proposed double this to $400
  + This year we would like to buy on behalf of teachers so that they do not have to lay out the money
* 3 line items in budget we would like to change:
  + $8,000 to teachers double to $16,000
  + Propose reallocating the “Community support ($6,000)” and “Virtual education support ($3,000 of $4,000)” line items into the above line
* We have received an anonymous grant to pay for outstanding IT requirements for students who are learning from home
* Move to vote on increasing teachers budget line item:
  + Motion Idisha / Seconded by Jenn
  + Approved without objection
* So far, we have raised funds needed to get us through the year, but these have all been accounted for
* **Krystina:** If we want to have enrichments, we now have to fundraise

**6:36 Fundraising**

* We traditionally raise funds in 3 ways:
  + Direct appeal
  + Events (2 so far this year)
  + “Clip a box” (box tops, Amazon Smile)
* **Clip a box:** 
  + Starting to put together a database of programs that we can participate in - if you know of any, please send them to Mke
* **Events:** 
  + Going to be hard this year. Don’t know what this means now.
  + We are going to try to do things, but unlikely to do movie nights etc
  + Any events are going to be focused on community building rather than raising money
  + Looking to get together in safe ways
* **Direct appeal:**
  + Fall appeal is important
  + Raising money for equality of access, enabling teachers to be as safe as they can, enrichments
  + Enrichments are hard. What can we afford that works for kids from Pre-K to 5th and with remote and blended learning
  + Most communication will be around direct appeals
* Can someone find a few hours to help Mike with fundraising, either formally or informally?
* **Jenn:** We are working on remote picture day.
  + We get a portion of the proceeds.
  + Starting November 23rd
* Also discussing a food and toy drive, but this is changing due to school closure
* **Krystina / Jenn / Charlie:** We have talked at length about Tiny Scientist and music programs, but we cannot afford it.
* Tiny scientist has to provide and ship manipulatives to all kids
* These programs also do not benefit remote kids as much
* Also have to fit around current class schedules
* Open to suggestions!

**6:47 Outreach (Maya)**

* Want to get parents and kid videos by December 4th (saying they love 282)
  + Will need parents to sign a release
* Trying to make a virtual tour, but cannot get into the building…
* **Idisha:** Was hoping to get a videographer for a virtual tour
* Adam Salazar volunteered to shoot this and edit
* **Jenn:** Video would live on school site
* AR has access to the building
* First virtual tour is December 16th
  + This will be a Zoom meeting, with intro video, word from AR, then video

**6:54 Appeal for class parents (Idisha)**

* Class parents are the bridge between parents who may not be getting e-mails and the PTO
* If your class doesn’t have a parent, please consider volunteering
* Grants are not so active, but if you have an interest please go to [tiny.cc/282Grants](https://tiny.cc/282Grants)

**6:56 Communications (Tamika)**

* Look at all the usual channels
* Please contact the Communications Secretary at communications@282parkslope.org if having issues receiving the PTO newsletter
* Reminder to check your Spam/Junk Folders periodically as soon emails randomly filter to these locations
* Like us on Facebook - [Park Slope School PS/MS 282](https://www.facebook.com/282ParkSlope/?__tn__=kC-R&eid=ARAHE3YeEHlENQkmR9qZPqYfH5irP7U2aZc9JZq3KqdTTMrgBNVFNGrZXRxwFtelvoHGLKB9ld4rhfdy&hc_ref=ARSkKQAr-TQcc8FMCvMwo1EKbRWpX1SnS-49AUVYX_Y2pujFm0jkmEoGwrMUAe-ehkE&__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARAmWChI02mz4e5UN_eqACZevNlLRNivpjTKKW1ROB_bd7ofQVfmvuBJC-B0LWevscy7wxudcC2tr7RG4f81oNuLSo5jBVRcFQYbyxkKslwqxSNLsJQwKwtxwIu7NGywP6tUQekgjJwyIsi21t1L8YLZVqCsi2Q34De0KXROo-WhJ-5FvKIS1l04LFw3QmVK2cLJ5CGeURWRyGjNaVjuGdHfZlTKDYch-VkikYF9BD1kzxxenKSbNeFG0iw_XQYZ8xF4HaW5r5TcpOXlDzt1fJ42YHPhiwm5kkKGa1a_JBAUWGgd1XUggh6vDcowcH2ZfeCWpSpXNBr_zdMupyEZBapw0gwzsztfBGF6r9uLJxu-Pd6lhVZVBOoB4W8W-BqH5KRUm1kpJtVwF-eeZNbEFGVqrchwraiHQ5s972GoZB8rbS0)
* Follow us on Instagram - @ps282parkslope
* We’re looking to engage, so please spread the word

**6:57 Green zone (Tracey)**

* New coordinator named Yodana
* We still need volunteer parents - you don’t need garden experience to help out
* Had a lot of apple days
* Had 36 sessions with Brooklyn Seeds
* Need help cleaning up and building out gardens. Can always use extra hands.
* There is a calendar if teachers want to use the garden
* Hoping to add a “little free library” onto the garden fence
* Hoping for more classes, but no more budget
  + EB will have to discuss and then vote in the next meeting
* They have a wishlist if you want to help out
* [ps282greenzone@gmail.com](mailto:ps282greenzone@gmail.com)

**7:02 Ms Collie-Cyrus (282 parent coordinator)**

* Thank you to everyone! The last weeks have been humbling.

**Questions:**

* What is percentage remote?
  + 285/467 students are remote.
* How are you doing?
  + OK. We’re all working on it together.
* Since the start of the year, we haven’t done much teacher appreciation. Is there a way to help?
  + You can do a virtual museum tour, but instead of making the suggested donation to the Bronx Zoo or Grand Canyon, you can donate to the PTO
  + **AR:** The most impact you can have is to record your kids saying something to the teacher. Hearing this “virtual love note” will mean a lot. They are working hard, pushing to try new things.
  + **SCC:** The teachers don’t want to leave. They want to be in the building, teaching kids. If the class parents could put together a video for each teacher… Then everyone can see what 282 community is all about
  + SCC is the only person who doesn’t go into the classrooms. :(

**7:10 Meeting adjourned**

[**DROPBOX LINK FOR SOCIAL USE**](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5l156qj7rg7jszj/2020-11-19%20PTO%20meeting%20minutes.pdf?dl=0)