



PTO General Meeting - March 11 2020

6 board members present:

Co-Presidents: Idesha Fraser and Jenn Morrison, 282pto@gmail.com

VP of Fundraising: Mike Newman, fundraising@282parkslope.org

VP of Outreach: TBD, outreach@282parkslope.org

Recording Secretary: Charlie Paradise, secretary@282parkslope.org

Communications Secretary: Tamika Young, communications@282parkslope.org

Co-Treasurers: Angela Bellisio and Krystina Athas, treasurer@282parkslope.org

6:05 Call to order (Idesha)

- Principal Amy Rodriguez (AR) introduces Superintendent Kamar Samuels

6:05 Superintendent Kamar Samuels

- Vision for the district is AHEAD: Accountable, High expectations, Equity, Access, Diversity
- Bringing in an anti-racist outlook to the district
- National standards - PTA.org/excellence - want to be a school of excellence
 - Be communicative
 - Share power
- Reflections:
 - We have had a lot of loss this year
 - A lot of preparation this year
 - Shifts to 100% remote.
 - Disproportionate numbers of in-person were white and affluent.
 - Remote were disproportionately those in temporary housing or reduced lunch
 - Remote class sizes were high
- Adaptations:
 - Equity of learning
 - Trying to get as many kids in the building as possible
 - Different ways of recording attendance now for in person and remote
- Average attendance is 91.2% (across in person and remote)
- Next steps
 - Continuing to secure devices with appropriate partnerships (including corporate sponsorships)
 - Improvements in special ed compliance
 - Update curriculum and assessment
 - District wide integration initiative
 - Composition: Make up of school and how it reflects district.
 - Culturally responsive and sustaining education: 282 will have someone trained in this program to work with the school

- We will focus on mastery (in collaboration with Mastery Collaborative)
- Most curricula are lacking around cultural responsiveness.
 - We are working on getting all 5th graders to read Ghost Boys and 7th graders to read Stamped
- International Baccalaureate Strategy:
 - As we think about where G&T programs are right now, IB is an inspiring way to do this
 - Goal of 12 schools in the district bring IB schools
- Please come to CDC equity town halls
- Check out district website, and our school based assessments which will help plan the future as we come out of the pandemic

What is IB?

KS:

- It allows us to do what we want and do them well. We talk about transdisciplinary. We talk about science shouldn't be in a silo.
- IB gives us a framework with which to do this.
- It gives the teachers and leaders the professional learning required to do this well
 - More rigorous instruction. Thoughtful questioning.
- Should see more student driven work

AR:

- It's akin to our independent investigation model, where there's a level of student choice and voice
- It's based on the theory of knowledge - how do we know what we know
- This creates a framework for planning in a real world and culturally responsive standpoint
- Over the coming months I will be working with parents and staff on what this means for us

KS:

- What don't people do this? One reason is the cost.
- We have some budget. The costs are upfront so once we have schools on board they can be sustaining.

AR:

- This initiative is not just for gifted students. It's for all students of all abilities.
- IB has done the work of how to make the work accessible to all students

KS:

- The G&T environment in the city is very charged.
- We as a district have to be prepared for whatever eventualities
- As we emerge from the pandemic, we have to be bold for every student in the district
- Once we get our application through the process, we will engage folks
- People don't fear change - people fear loss. If people feel like they will be losing something, then that's where their fear is driven. We need to be prepared to say this is better for your children and all children.

When will this happen

- The application starts in early June
- Can take up to 3 years to become an IB school
- Transition will depend on what the teachers and principal are working on
- Hard to say what you'll see in the first year

AR:

- We have already started doing this work before the IB initiative
- We are planning to pilot the IB unit with several teachers
- Will see more "who am I, what is my relationship with space and time" work coming through
- Teachers have all explored the transdisciplinary themes so were are at a good point of entry

KS:

- Any more questions, please e-mail and copy Lorrie Ayers-Hutchinson

6:31 Shanise Cardona

- New SLT chair for 282
- What they do:
 - Student achievement
 - School based decision making
 - Making schools more collaborative
- 10 members: 5 parents and 5 staff
 - 2 year terms
- At next PTO meeting will find out what seats are available
 - This information will be delivered using as many ways as possible
- 3 main people on the SLT are Principal, PTO president, UFT chair
- Decision making:
 - Must use census based decision making
 - All members are able to voice opinions and concerns
 - What we are doing
- Helping principal make a plan
 - Rigorous instruction (from multiple perspectives)
 - Strong family and community ties
- Meet first Tuesday of every month at 4pm
- Want more parents to join meetings
- Next meeting is Tuesday April 6th at 4pm
- We want the PTO and SLT to work together, including principal, staff and families. It's a collaboration.
- Coming together and relying on our own experiences and knowledge is the only thing that's going to bring us forward

Idesha:

- Any parents want to be on the nominating committee, please be in touch
- We want to have as many families involved as possible

6:40 Financial report (Angela)

- Budget highlights:
 - This past quarter we made \$237.28 from Amazon Smile. It's better to shop small, but if you are using Amazon please shop with smile to support our school
 - We received a \$2500 anonymous grant
 - Teacher grants continue to be our primary expense. But only 20 teachers have applied for a grant. Please remind your teacher the PTO would like to reimburse them \$400 for education expenses.
- Amended budget:
 - Last month we voted to amend the budget to fund enrichments (ArtYard and GreenZone)

6:43 ArtYard (Krystina)

- ArtYard Program has started on Wednesdays
- Attendance is great. We need some more 3,4,5th grade students
- Follow-up discussion with ArtYard Manager tomorrow around having a live instruction recap so that kids who don't attend at the time can take part

Idesha:

- Signup each week! List opens at 3pm on Sundays.

6:46 Vote to Approve February Minutes (Idesha)

- Move for approval - Angela, Jenn

6:46 Fundraising (Jenn)

- Read a Thon
 - Begins on March 15th, for 10 days
 - You do not have to raise money
 - All info was sent out via PTO newsletter and school newsletter
- St. Patrick's Day bingo
 - Virtual bingo - it's fun! Good response from valentines day.
 - With prizes!
 - Free to enter
 - RSVP to 282pto@gmail.com for a bingo card

6:49 Outreach Report (Idesha)

- Pre-K school tours update
 - Thanks to everyone who's taken part
 - Session 1 & 2 - Complete
 - Session 3: Wednesday, March 24th - 9:30 AM EST (Final Pre-K tour/info session)
- Class Parents Outreach
 - If you would like to sign up to be a class parent, please fill out [this form](#)
- Grants - tiny.cc/282Grants
- Introductions to PTO executive board (see top of minutes for details and contact info)

6:52 Communications Report (Tamika)

- We have weekly newsletters which are a combination of school info and community info
- If there's anything you'd like to see added, please let us know
- Working closely with Miss Collie-Cyrus to coordinate communication
 - Want to highlight not only community things, but also the work the school is working on, such as Black history month
- Lots of ways for us to stay connected, so if you are not receiving communications, please reach out to communications@282parkslope.org
- Newsletter comes out every Sunday - please subscribe to receive updates and information
- 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
- Follow us on Instagram - [@ps282parkslope](#)
- NY DOE FACE emails - you can sign up via your NY Schools Account

6:54 Parent Coordinator's Corner

- The new blue and white form is how communications are going to happen in future - very focused from now on

6:55 Open forum

- Can ArtYard signup live in Google Classroom (Jacinta Mathis)
 - AR says that it can if PTO sends info
 - AR trying to align comms not only in newsletters but also in Google classrooms
- How do I get more info from PTO (Shanise Cordona)
 - Newsletter is main distribution (Jenn)
 - E-mail communications@282parkslope.org to be added
 - You need to opt in
- What is Midori and friends?
 - It was a grant that was given (AR)
 - We have two workshops - 5 sessions - for grades K-2
 - It's jazz exploration
 - Grant only covers 25 students and it was a very fast turnaround
 - There is a new format to the weekly e-mails.
 - The K-2 is in session. There will be a 3-5 and there will be a 6th session at the end.
- Only half of all families have signed up for the NYCSA account (Lorrie Ayers Hutchinson)
 - This is the new DOE system (AR).
 - This is a new initiative by the DOE so that families have quick access to report cards etc.
- Can we get more outdoors time? (Angela)
 - Gym teachers have been getting kids outside this week (AR)
 - Teachers may need reminding that they can go out
- If you want to run for any position, please reach out! (Jenn)

7:04 Adjourn Meeting