



PS 282 PTO Meeting Agenda

October 19th, 2023 | 6:00 PM

General

- Welcome everyone! Call meeting to order **6:06pm by Tina Robinson (President)**
- Vote to approve last meeting minutes (9/21/23, sent out in newsletter dated 9/24/23 and posted to 282parkslope.org) - **minutes seconded by Maria Reyes and approved by Michael Weinert**

Guest Speaker - Principal Rodriguez

- **Shoutout to the Hispanic Heritage Celebration parade**
- **Support of families in these uncertain times**
 - **NYU Workshops coming for PS282 families about inclusion and anti-racism in our community. Series of 6 workshops for 30 families to participate. This will lead to creating an equity team.**
- **Working on assisting our refugee families that are new to PS282 and families struggling with what is happening in Israel and around.**

Questions from families-

- **Can we bring Freddy from Kid's Orbit back? Your request will be passed along but Principal Rodriguez doesn't have any say in that matter. There was restructuring that happened and Freddy leaving PS282 was part of that.**
- **What are the end of year plans for the 5th graders? On the 14th, there was an Open Schools Night. There is an activities committee planned, lots of spirit days planned, there is always a trip, dance, a ceremony/stepping up. If you'd like to get involved please reach out to Ms. Sidbury, Ms. Collie-Cyrus, Ms. Cardona, or Ms. O.**
- **Flickering lights in the gym. Work order is in and a request for the custodial engineers to expedite that order. Once there is an update on the lights, Principal Rodriguez will let everyone know. On a related note, St. Francis-Xavier play their basketball games at PS282 on the weekends and they have offered to pay for new hoops and backboards - very exciting!**
- **Can students get some sort of sex education in 4th or 5th grade? No but they will get health education. The state of New York has guidelines that need to be followed. Sex education, specifically, starts in 6th grade, however, Biology (learning about our bodies) starts in 5th grade taught typically by guidance counselors, science teachers and P.E. teachers since they are certified. Other topics discussed include nutrition, physical activity, personal health and safety, growth and development, alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse and prevention and the prevention of diseases like Covid.**
- **What are 3 to 5 top priorities of the school for the next few years? I.B. certification, continue to work with the community to teach a more culturally responsible curriculum, grow the school to be able to offer a robust curriculum but not too big where students get and feel lost. Ideal population of our school would 650-700 (enough so they don't try putting a charter school here but small enough so class size doesn't increase)**
- **How did the city-wide budget cuts affect our school's finance situation? Student funding formula is based on "historic trends" and the office of enrollment and central budgeting people use different algorithms to figure out how many students do they think are attending the school. Having once been a K-8 school now a K-5 school impacts this. PS282 was projected and funded for 430 students but we have 540 students, which equates to about \$500,000. If Principal Rodriguez had been approved for that funding back in July when she applied then she could have hired more teachers,**



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- more programs, etc. Principal Rodriguez has reached out to many different places, including Council Woman Shahana Hanif, all of whom are telling Principal Rodriguez to wait.
- **Is Principal Cox's position going to be replaced?** Yes and there have been 4 interviews however they haven't been a "love match." Principal Rodriguez is looking for someone that is going to make a long term commitment to PS282.
 - **Is there an update on Recess supervision?** Administrators have been doing a lot of the recess supervision and lunch duty responsibilities. Principal Rodriguez is in talks with a replacement and will work with the PTO to move that along.
 - **What is the budget for a classroom teacher? Is there oversight, guidelines, etc.?** "I try to give teachers what they need." Principal Rodriguez has asked for grade-wide wishlists that teachers manage on their own.
 - **Who are the counselors at the school and who do they work/engage with?** PS282 has two guidance counselors, Ms. Cardona who typically works with K-2nd grade and MS. O who works with grades 3-5. Counseling is there for Pre-K if needed. Parker the therapeutic/comfort dog is back. Guidance Counselors work with students that have mandated counseling on their I.E.P.'s (Individualized Education Program). Next the counseling and administration (the Care Team) get together and discuss students whose name comes up a lot, or when they go into the classroom they are worried about or who needs support (ex. student who is alone a lot). Those students would get "red flag" counseling which isn't formal counseling.
 - **Is Administration involved in developing behavioral management strategies and planning with teachers?** Yes, when needed. PS282 has a lot of veteran teachers but also a lot of new teachers. Principal Rodriguez is in each classroom everyday or at least every other day and can tell who is struggling. Next steps include, all new teachers get a "buddy" to help navigate PS282 and help with classroom management. Guidance counselors also come into the classroom to offer different strategies to help. Principal Rodriguez pulls all resources from PS282 and around so she can help support teachers.
 - **Lice!** There is a policy on lice and it is on the Department of Education website please check it out. Students with lice cannot attend school. Principal Rodriguez is the designated person who checks the student's head. On a related note, please don't send in your child when sick.
 - **Math extra curricular** - typically any extra curricula are brought on by the PTO or families that are interested in bringing them to the school. Once there is money for it then there are interested teachers that want to bring these types of after school activities/state testing prep to PS282.
 - **Please explain the part time nurse?** PS282 is using a temporary agency for a nurse until a full time nurse is hired. Principal Rodriguez is looking for a nurse that will make a commitment to the school but hasn't found that person yet.

Book of the Month Presentation by Mrs. Laing -

- Book of the Month builds community within PS282 as well as the outside community. Prior years focused on Native American, Hispanic, Italian, African American and Asian heritages as well as Black and Women's history.
- Later in the school year, 5th graders will come into the younger grades classrooms to read that month's book.
- Topics will include: Climate Control and Student Activism.



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- **Goals:** Each month, teachers will be given text to explore that month's topic connected to the I.B. program. For example, climate change and collaboration with Brooklyn Seeds to care for our school's tree.
- Ms. Laing would love parent involvement.
- An email will be sent later this week with more information.

President's Report

- Introduce the PS 282 Exchange - **Reach out to local businesses.** [More information linked here](#)
- Picture Day reminder - **October 27th**
- Caring Closet clothing drive- [Wishlist linked here](#)
 - **New clothes, sweat pants, shirts, notebooks, pencils, pens and backpacks and more**
- **P-EBT cards which started during the pandemic were reloaded. More information in this [link](#)**
- Suggestions for toy drive and Thanksgiving drive charities - **please contact us!**
- **Help Wanted - We are still in need of the following positions:**
 - Greenzone Coordinator
 - Merch Manager(s)

Finance Report

- Update on the PTO's financials, including Cash balance, P&L and Budget
 - **We've raised about \$10,000 since the beginning of the school year and only spent \$9,000. However, we have to start paying for the enrichment classes (Science, Music, Recess Committee, Garden classes and Book of the Month, etc.) that the PTO provides PS 282**
 - **Yearly budget is \$125,000 so we need to raised \$85,000**
 - [Budget linked here](#)
- Overview of "**Corporate Matching**", as a way to increase donations through corporate donors.
 - **Please reach out to your company or organization to see their policy. Email Michael and Mike to help walk you through potential paperwork. treasurer@282parkslope.org**
 - **Giving Tuesday - some companies can triple match your donation**

Fundraising Report

- **Thanks to everyone who helped make Movie Night so successful!**
- Jet's Pizza - **Friday, October 20th**, use code: **Jetsfund23** and Jet's will donate 20% back to the PTO
- Spooktacular - Saturday, October 28th from 10:30-1:00 pm - **We still need about 15 more volunteers so please sign up - [linked here](#)**
- Fall Appeal begins November 1st - **A letter will be sent home with your child**
- Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough Fundraiser coming November 1st-18th. **Direct to home fundraiser so anyone anywhere can make purchases. Leaderboard and prizes for top earners! More details coming soon!**

Outreach Report

- Registration for tours is available on the school website if parents would like to mention to neighbors or friends of school age. **Please share far and wide!**

Upper Grades Report

- Middle school application is **open now**. (Closes December 8.)



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- The **MySchools page (myschools.nyc)** has info about middle schools and lists all open house events, so be sure to check that regularly. 282 will be sending out info as it comes also.

Communications Report

- Staying connected with what's happening:
 - **School emails** which is sent by our school admin
 - **School app**, also managed by school admin. Download it via AppStore or Play store; just search for **PS282**

 - PTO Newsletter
 - Delivered on **Sundays** and periodically throughout the week with some **important reminders**
 - Not receiving it?
 - Signup on the school website (282parkslope.org) or through our Instagram link in bio
 - Contact me (**Maria**) at communications@282parkslope.org
 - Send along first & last name and email address
 - Heard some parents say they haven't received it but are signed up
 - **Check your spam/ junk folders as emails can get routed to those folders**
 - Follow us on Instagram
 - **@ps282parkslope**
 - Like us on Facebook
 - **PS 282 Park Slope School**
- Thank you to some parents who have passed along some important information they wanted to share with our 282 community (like Affordable Connectivity Program)
 - Please feel free reaching out to us with things you'd like us to highlight or mention in the newsletter

Open Forum

- Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions!
 - **From Zoom - big fans of the Book of the Month and the Double Good Popcorn fundraiser**

Zoom attendees:

Talisa Soto - talisa_s@yahoo.com, 4th grader
Lisa Baptiste - zyahnn3300@gmail.com, 3rd grader
Yessenia Munoz - yesseniampt@gmail.com, 5th grader
Idesha Fraser - fraser2fraser@gmail.com, 1st grader
Diane Lupow - dianelupow@gmail.com, 5th grader
Kari Shackelton - kshacks@gmail.com, 3rd grader
Rebecca Benson - r_havekost@hotmail.com, 1st grader



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Kristy Hall - grenkris@aol.com, 1st grader

Tania Chau - tania.list@gmail.com, 1st and 4th graders

Ami Paradise - amihoff@gmail.com, 2nd and 4th graders

Angela Bellisio - abellisio@gmail.com, 3rd and 5th graders

Anne Hunter - anne.s.hunter@gmail.com, 1st grade

Darien Baylouny - dtoriello@gmail.com, pre-ker

Audrey Pitts - apitts411@gmail.com, 4th grader

Also, Vivian Kong, Grace Pen, Adam Salazar, Liz, and Rebecca

Adjourn Meeting

- Thanks for coming, your support is appreciated! **7:07pm**