



PEARLS PTA
Executive Board Meeting
November 18, 2022
6:39 PM – PEARLS Library

Greetings & Call to Order – Joane Lasky, PEARLS PTA Co-President, called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm. There were enough people to have a quorum.

Co-President's Report – Joane Lasky –

- We have had a great October month with so many great events. It has been a busy month and so far it has been going great. Thank you to all volunteers who helped with Hootenanny, Book Fair, Bake sale, Picture Day.
- November is going great, we have Square1Art going, Spirit wear and so far going great
- We have a couple of events coming up and could use some volunteers. Middle School Dance – We need a chair or anyone that can assist. We will cancel Winter Carnival – we have not received any volunteers to help. It would be OK to cancel events if need be as this is not a fundraiser.
- Thank everyone for everyone joining our unit. We won a couple more awards through the state for membership enrollment.
- Jennifer Stern shared that NYS PTA asked us to write a spotlight about our PTA and we are working on this.

Vice Presidents' Reports – Elena Schnorbus, Darlene Pettit – Nothing to report.

Treasurer Report – Jennifer Boyce

Opening balance: \$51,696.64 Income: \$25,327.49 Expenses: \$29,646.47 Balance: \$47,392.66

Approval of Minutes from October 2022 Mtg. - Joane Lasky on behalf of Dahiana Guzman – The minutes were distributed via email before today's meeting. Motion was done to approve the meeting. Minutes were approved 1st by Jennifer Boyce and 2nd by Darlene Pettit

State of the School – Administrator – Mr Sayegh reported the following:

- College Is My Future. Kindergarten students sang a couple of songs and told us what they want to be when they grow up. We have a video, but working on editing it and then we will share it.
- Continuing our SEL- this month is kindness month. Kids have worked on sunflowers, displayed in the Breezeway, kindness tree. They have been saying something kind to someone randomly.



- Holiday Concert – Dec 19 – K-4 during the day, and 5th-8th evening concert on Dec 20. We are still finalizing this.
- PEARLS testing process has begun. We had an informational meeting last night through TEAMS. We have over 120 viewers. Deadline is January 6, it has been extended. We have another informational meeting Nov 29 at 6:30 and another one in Spanish around Dec 14. Testing is up to 8th grade. We need parents to be clear that we are not part of the Yonkers Public Schools balloting process. Parents need to register for PEARLS separately. We really need to get the word out because our enrollment has been decreasing. COVID did not help. We lost about 150 students through COVID. We had less family testing because of COVID restrictions. We currently have 3 classes on each grade level, but we should have 4. We are hoping to rebuild it back, but we need to get the applicants to come. We ask parents to please help get the word out about PEARLS to help with enrollment.

Parent comment: 4th grade is very crowded. Lots of distraction. Mr. Sayegh added that the limit is 30 kids per classroom. The number of students is set by the district.

- We will have a tour every Thursday in December for any grade level. We just ask parents to call us first so we can group them in the right tour group.
- Our new playground is for grades PK-2.
- Work on getting 4th and 5th graders going to the playground. They are just in the big concrete walking around. Also work on getting things for them to use in the big concrete.

Enrichment – Casey Quinn

- Mrs. McCann: 4th-8th grade On site, during school year. Zen Den Studio. \$600
- 8th grade Lab enrichment onsite. STEAM education. Helps students prepare for the NYS Living Environment Regents. \$2,624
- 2nd-6th grades- Special Education students will attend the Westchester Children Museum. Students enjoy STEAM projects. \$635
- Motion to approve above enrichment was done and passed.

Membership – Beatriz Ventura

Our goal is 490 members. We have 452 members.

Book Fair – Denise Gomez on behalf of Dahiana Guzman

Great success, thank you for all the amazing support from families and volunteers. A special thanks to Elena Schnorbus for all your amazing help. We beat the record once again with sales going over \$13,000! We donated: all wish list books for PTA member teachers, \$200 worth of books for ReadAThon, \$1,100 worth of items for Bingo, \$1,300 worth of items for our boutique sales. Almost \$500 for AllForBook donations for children that came to the fair without money



or not enough money to pay for their book. We have about \$2000 left in Scholastic Dollars going to the next fair. Our next fair will be in Spring.

HCP – Jenny

Received all class lists from HCPs.

Middle School Dance – Grace Ann

Need:

Middle school dance volunteer needed- Need a chairperson

Ticket sales volunteer

Setup, cleanup volunteers

Chaperones

Boon – Joane Lasky

Raised \$2000. So the school is going to get approximately \$1000. These are all online sales.

Square 1 Art

Order soon to get your items before Christmas.

Spirit Wear- Jennifer Boyce

One of the best Spirit Wear drive ever and we sold 171 items. We will change some of the items for Spring.

School magnets and water bottles

We will sell blue and white magnets and water bottles at the boutique.

Chess- Maria Alvarado

It is running well. Next session starts in January. Need to finalize this.

Halloween Hootenanny – Clara Barragan

Raised \$6,606. \$1,100 in expenses and school earned about \$5,500 for the school. It went really well. People were really happy with the DJ. Some kids and parents wore masks, but they should have not as this scares smaller children and upsets children that wanted to wear masks.

Halloween Bake Sale

Sales were great. Raised \$768. The parade helped to increase the sale. Mr. Sayegh added that we can no longer do bake sales. It goes against the District Rules. We need to go back and encourage healthy snacks, like fruits etc.



Picture Day- Jennifer Stern

Went great. All of the grades went. Pictures are here and will be distributed before the Holiday Break.

ReadATHon – Jennifer Stern

Meeting was held with a couple of teachers, we would like to have more parents join us. Clara added that we need a new Cat and the Hat picture frame. Clara will make a new one and will take pictures. Jan 10th will be the ReadATHon Kick-off.

BOE – Joane Lasky vs Verris Shako

- We are approved for windows
- Superintendent said everyone should try to get Flu and Covid vaccines
- Looking for local venue for school events, like graduation for schools that do not have an auditorium. This way we do not have to use the White Plains Community Center
- Need bus monitors. Issues are occurring in the bus, such as fights, inappropriate language etc. If any issues occurs, we ask parents to please call the school and let us know so we can help address it.

Winter Carnival

Will not happen this year. We will revisit this, next year.

Yearbook – Clara Barragan

Its going great. We will have a yearbook this year.

Indoor recess

Working on getting more items, with fliers and amazon wish list etc. Need the fun zone back.

Multicultural showcase – Clara Barragan

It's looking amazing. Project school wide activities are going great. We currently have a Native American display. There is a PEARLS family, descendants from the Cherokee Tribe, that shared all the items. It was really nice to learn more about them through this Multicultural showcase display. Clara will work to put a video together with everything done for Multicultural, and present it at the end of the year.

DEI meeting

Clara became a member. They are looking to do the following: Family outreach- How to get more families engaged, LGBT outreach, Elderly disabled outreach. Next Monday is the next meeting.



Website/email – Yusuke Tomisawa

I'd been getting requests from parents to join PTA Facebook page but they don't answer the questions. The only way to contact them is through Facebook messenger but 99% of people do not look at their messages.

Health and Safety

- Oct 19 meeting. Safety packets that all teachers have, they use it for the fire drill.
- Are security CPR trained? yes they are
- Discuss pick up in lower gym, because they see people just walking in.
- Safety officer comes at the beginning of day to help with traffic.
- Working to get another crossing guard over by the breeze way.
- Parent who volunteer during school hours– please stay in your area and do not go to child's class which causes disruption.
- Parent shared an idea to alleviate traffic – parents to volunteer to help take kids out of the door so parents do not have to park and get out of the car. Mr. Sayegh added that we would need those volunteers to be available everyday so that the system won't break.

PTA Holiday dinner

Dec 15. Anyone that volunteered this year can attend.

Next meeting will be on January 12th at 6:30 in PEARLS Library

Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm

Meeting notes taken by Elena Schnorbus

Submitted by: Dahiana Guzman