

# P.S./I.S. 78Q PTA

## THE ROBERT F. WAGNER, JR. SCHOOL



48-09 Center Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 11109 (ECC)  
46-08 Fifth Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Telephone: (718) 392-5402 - FAX: (718) 392-5434  
Louis Pavone, Principal  
Deana Rombone, Assistant Principal

## **PTA Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2017**

Chaired by: Genevieve Bernier  
Call to order – 7:04PM  
May meeting minutes approved.

### **PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS:**

Ms. Rombone wants to thank everybody for your support. So many great things happening these next couple of weeks. Today was Pre-K Stepping Up Ceremony. Tomorrow two Kindergarten stepping up ceremonies.

June 15<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Senior Trip  
June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten Stepping Up Ceremony  
June 16<sup>th</sup> – Talent Showcase  
June 19<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Prom  
June 20<sup>th</sup> – Junior Ambassadors last trip  
June 21<sup>st</sup> – Middle schoolers going to visit colleges  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Ceremony at 9:30am in Auditorium  
June 26<sup>th</sup> – Eid Al-Fitr - No School  
June 28<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of School 11:30am dismissal

Thank you for everything you've done for us this year. We appreciate your support.

### **PARENT COORDINATOR UPDATES:**

Claudia isn't here today

### **SLT REPORT:**

Nothing new to add. Still going over By-Laws.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Fundraisers: \$86,719 Netted  
List of all Fundraisers we did this year (slides)  
Total Fundraising for this year is \$128,519

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### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

As most of you are aware, we aren't doing elections tonight. What happened was that a grievance was filed and we will have expedited elections on Tuesday, 6/20 at 7pm.

We wanted to highlight something Bree and I are very proud of. We have 2 amazing gardens and we need volunteers to water these gardens weekly during the summer.

There is a lot of controversy surrounding Daily Recess. As you know, we hired Kids Orbit to help us with daily recess. The school administration informed us that we needed to have 7 people in order to do this. It does take an army to move these kids. Last year, kids went out 2-3 times a week on rotating schedule. Total time we have is 45 minutes for both lunch and recess. This year, they go out daily. I understand that some kids rather have more lunch time and some rather have more play time. At ECC we still only have that tiny playground and next year all our kids will not fit there. Right now we currently have 7 school aides paid for by administration. We also have 2 Teacher Assistants paid for by you (PTA funded). We are trying to get more language teachers, we are trying to get grants, we are trying to get our council member to help out with all of this.

We get emails from both sides – some people want recess, some don't. Last 2 couple weeks, we've all gotten many emails. These are the decisions we need to make.

Parent 1: We went from recess to language arts. What are we funding?

Answer: We are talking about anything we can fund and the options. Right now, whether we get recess or anything else, we still need it funded. As of today, we need \$80,000 for Kids Orbit.

We hired 2 TA's, that's funded by PTA. Not to be confused with school aides. We don't know what will happen in September and what numbers we will have.

Parent 2: Since we are talking about recess, most grades had recess every 3 days. Also, if kids wanted to go to library, do they not go to recess?

Answer: Really depends on what grade your children is in and also depends on the circumstances.

Parent 3: Can we get more TA's?

Gen: Lots of schools have TA's per grade, so if we want it we would have to raise more. To me, if we fund 2 TA's but only 2 classes get it, it's not fair for the other classes with equally large classes.

Anastasia: Somebody might feel that recess is more important daily, and some might feel that a TA is more important.

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Gen: We get all sides of it, even surprised that some people don't want recess. I don't care either way if we have recess or if there's a TA in every class. My daughter did fine without it this year.

Parent 4: I heard the children aren't allowed to stay inside if they want to.  
Ms. Rombone: If they choose to do so, they can stay in the cafeteria.

Parent 5: Good to point out that the PTA is here to pay for whatever we vote on, it doesn't have to be just recess.

Bree: We raised \$128,000 so we were able to fund it and it didn't come at the expense of other programs.

Jenn: As of now, we have \$74K and we will have to vote on what we want come September

Parent 4: I've been in the school for 5-6 years and I've been working with the school fundraising from the very beginning. Many parents helped out and previous PTA members did too. Whomever is in PTA next year, we have to make sure we can raise more each year. We have 650 kids and we should raise more. As parents, we've all had friends that have donated doing favors. We have to reach out to friends.

Bree: Gen did thank all the previous PTA's because it led us to this. That's what this community is about.

Gen: I have continuously thanked the previous PTA, there was a big learning curve for this year's PTA. If we want things, we need to raise money.

Parent 5: I wasn't referring to the report or the thank you letter. I just want to say that the earmarking I thought it worked, an idea we should table because it worked.

Parent 6: I'm going to say something that's going to make me look bad. I didn't know how public education works. People here that are saying "why aren't you paying your fair share?" now you know. Public education isn't what it was in the 80's. I didn't get it. Now I feel like I have learned so much. This is big for all of us. We're fully invested and it's cool to have a great school and community. We've seen a lot of people take their kids out to suburbs because they're unhappy here. We have music and things that my friends in other parts of the city don't. We are trying to educate each other. I would like to say that instead of yelling at each other and blaming everybody, we should support each other.

Gen: Just to be clear, we understand that everybody's situation is different. Pay by volunteering, by joining a committee. Don't think you have to pay what everybody else is paying. We're fully committed and if you leave then it doesn't help the school.

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Parent 7: How about building a playground close to the school and it'll be like half a million.  
Bree: We know that the playground in front of ECC took 10 years. Don't know what it'll take for that to build.

Parent 1: One of the things that parents should know is about school budget. As of today, we know if things like language and music and librarian can be funded.

Ms. Mulligan: I'm one of the SLT members, I'm going to disagree with you because school budget is always discussed. I respectfully disagree.

Bree: Hope you have a nice summer. Please come vote on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **STUDENT OF THE MONTH:**

For the month of May – Honoring the value of Citizenship  
Meeting Adjourned at 7:55

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recording Secretary – Lilly Rojas

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
PS/IS78Q PTA Co-President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date