



# Talented & Gifted School For Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Anand Raghunath  
Nina Reiniger  
Co-Presidents

Jennifer Fiore  
Ilaria Mogno  
Co-Vice Presidents

Rebecca Yoftahie  
Trina Edmundson  
Co-Treasurers

Laura Lampert  
Rasheedah Harris  
Co-Secretaries

## MINUTES FOR TAG PTA MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Meeting Location: TAG Cafeteria

### I. Call to Order

- A. PTA Co-President, Nina Reiniger, called to order the TAG PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 14, at 6:11pm in the cafeteria of the Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars.
- B. Co-Secretary, Rasheedah Harris, made sure parents and TAG teachers signed the attendance sheets. The following people were present: (see attendee list in secretary's binder)
- C. Principal Cesar welcomed new Parent Coordinator Leah Powell. Ms. Powell said she has worked with gifted and talented students for seven years, prepping students to pass the G&T test. She now has her emails up and can stay in communication. Principal Cesar says she can't stay but is leaving 3 pages of notes to hand out. Kindergarten – 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents need to sign up for Parent-Teacher conferences by Wednesday and then signup closes. Lunch is at 10:10, dismissal is at 11:05 and buses will pick up the students who get bussed.

### II. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

- A. Hard copies of the October PTA meeting minutes were distributed.
- B. Deirdre made a motion to approve the October 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes; Jennifer seconds. Minutes approved.
- C. Nina explains that co-President Anand Raghunath can't be here tonight; he is out of state.

### III. Election of Co-VP's

A. Co-President Nina Reiniger explains that last year we learned our PTA was not in compliance. We couldn't have committee chairs voting, they had to be VP's. Schools such as Anderson have multi-VP's and we voted in that model at the last PTA meeting. Each of the positions can have co-VP's. Nominees don't have to be present to be nominated or elected. Responding to Deirdre, Nina said decisions would be by majority, not by percentage. Nancy Pereira confirms that abstentions are not counted. Nancy oversees the signing of attendance for those who haven't signed in yet. All of these positions are for this school year.

#### B. Nominations.

1. VP of Audit. Rasheedah nominates Jennie Lamb. It is uncontested. Nominations are closed. Johnnae Ferguson motions for Jennie Lamb to be VP of Audit. Uncontested. Nancy says, instead, to write down all the nominations, then vote; it will be faster.
2. VP of Budget. Eric Crumb nominates himself and Anando Choudhury. Uncontested. Nominations closed.
3. VP of Communications. Johnnae nominates Pamela Simon and Ming Yee Smith. Uncontested. Nominations closed.
4. VP of Enrichment. Brandee Williams nominates herself. Uncontested. Nominations closed.
5. VP of Family Engagement (formerly Membership). Ilaria Mogno nominates Johnnae Ferguson. Uncontested. Nominations closed.

6. VP of Fundraising. Ilaria nominates Namita Bhat and Anna Pan. Uncontested. Nominations closed. Nina says we have our nominations for our slate. Nancy suggests the nominees stand and introduce themselves. For the sake of time, Rasheedah does the introductions and mentions those who couldn't be here. Nancy says, all parents who accept who accept all of these for the slate, please give a show of hands. For clarification she explains, if you want to include CBO's, you have to put it in the by-laws. Ms. Scott, Y after school Director, is a CBO and does not work for TAG. We need two thirds of the 20 parents for tonight's vote. Teachers can vote, 2/3 is the majority. That is how it is in the Chancellor's regulations. All in favor of accepting the slate of VP's, show of hands. Unanimous in favor.

She says our work is done, have a good evening.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

##### **A. Treasurer's Report**

1. Co-Treasurers Rebecca Yoftahie and Trina Edmondson are not here; handouts are given out; no questions from parents.

##### **B. Budget**

1. Co-VP of Budget Eric Crump said he and Anando are working out a time for a new meeting, nothing new to report. Nina said regarding procedure, if you have something in mind bring it up to the committee.

##### **C. Audit**

1. VP of Audit is not here but she has been finalizing.

##### **D. Communications**

1. VP Pam Simon said the next meeting is December 13<sup>th</sup>. The focus is on the website, contents of the website, aesthetics. She sent out a notice of their design competition. They are changing the logo for the website and more. Specifications are due December 8<sup>th</sup>, flyers are going in backpacks. They will ask for parent's feedback, and are always looking for better ways to increase communications with parents. Nina asked about the survey result, Pam responded that Ilaria was working on that, with Fundraising, to get them summarized.

##### **E. Enrichment**

1. VP Brandee Williams said the next meeting is this Friday. Debate, Chess, Piano are sustained. Theatre had to close, we're hoping to relaunch soon. Hip hop and dance are coming. This is the last Saturday of Basketball. Hip hop registration is opening for Y students, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Nina – questions regarding the Sci-Tech kid's science program, are discussed in Principal Cesar's handout. Brandee said we're sending parent surveys to get feedback to continue Basketball. The first issue is space; Admin has been great working with us. The same with the Lorenz Dance school; they are working with us. We will see if we can still supplement the cost and we will bring the information to the Board.

##### **F. Fundraising**

1. Namita said iPledge has brought in ~ \$136,000; still short \$35,000 from the goal of \$170,000 and ask that you please still donate.
2. Picture Day is Friday, December 1, and we are looking for volunteers.
3. The Book Fair is being led by Nina and we are looking for volunteers.
4. The next Fundraising meeting is November 20<sup>th</sup> and we will discuss the Book Fair, iPledge and Fundraising strategy.
5. Holiday Grams are a very time-intensive project. We need donations and help with processing.
6. In response to a question, Namita said this year we're declaring class participation by November's

end but if classes haven't reached 100% we'll let parents know we're continuing. There will be a pizza party for maximum participation.

7. Deirdre asked regarding classes / parents donating time; participation is necessary for SLT. Namita said at the end of the year the information will come in from every committee member and she plans to have an accounting and receipts of time spent. She said she thinks Family Engagement has a plan. Brandee said it would be great if parents could log in onto some kind of central list. Nina said she was concerned about under-representing the time. We could have a separate drive. We could discuss it at a separate Board meeting. Namita said we moved away from asking parents how many hours they were donating. Deirdre said there are goals and then there have to be metrics, of time and parent participation. Eric said that Admin believed the Parent Coordinator should track the information.
8. Box-Tops. Namita said that last year we accepted checks and cash for dress-down days to take the place of Box-Tops submitted but that is not the case for this year. Nina explained that was at the request from Admin for the one coming up but in December we will accept checks.
9. Luigi Kapaj said that on the website the amounts brought in per grade are listed and there is a big drop-off (moving up the grade levels) and asked if it was an historical trend. Namita responded that she thinks it's a historical trend, and Nina said she's seen it in the last three years; it's typically what we see in the higher grades.

#### **G. Membership**

1. Johnae Ferguson the Chair of the Membership committee discussed the upcoming events: Stress management workshops, Ski Trip, Cooking Class, Family Night in conjunction with the Book Fair on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. She discussed the Ski Trip being at a resort that had indoor water park and you may stay overnight to enjoy both.

#### **V. Principal's Report**

Principal C had the New Parent Coordinator, Ms. Powell hand out the Principal's Newsletter. Principal C announced she had to leave, but Ms. Powell would be able to answer all questions appropriately. 1 Parent can this newsletter be emailed out, Ms. Powell responded yes.

- II. Question and Answers:** Parents asked if there was a new tech teacher, the answer was no, they are still searching. 1 Parent asked how do they get in touch with Mrs. Cesar, what is her email address. Ms. Powell provided her email address to everyone for their reference. Parents asked when will Sci-tech start & when will we know. Ms. Powell said she will try to notify us of all updates through the School Newsletter. She encouraged us to read the newsletter handed out. 1 parent said the PTA raised funds for the sci-tech, so the PTA needs to let the parents know what's going on. 1 parent asked if we can have a Sci-tech rep at the next meeting and/or a town hall meeting w/ Mrs. C. These options can be explored for sure was the response. Parent raised the issue of bathrooms still being locked for the children. Another parent discussed silent lunches.

- VI. Adjournment:** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 pm, motioned seconded, Meeting is adjourned.

#### **Minutes submitted by:**

Laura Lampert & Rasheedah Harris, TAG PTA Co-Secretaries

#### **Minutes approved by:**

Nina Reiniger, TAG PTA Co-President

