



Talented and Gifted School for Young Scholars Parent Teacher Association

Rasheedah Harris

President

Anat Carmy-Weichman
& Olga Lakhina

Co-VPs At Large

Liz Butler

Treasurer

Elizabeth Mattiace &
Christy Silvester

Recording Secretary

MEETING INFO - TAG PTA GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

AGENDA

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| I. Call to Order/President's Welcome | 6:03pm |
| II. Administration Update | 6:05pm |

Mr. Dascal spoke on behalf of the TAG Administration Team and discussed the following:

- Reminder of one-on-one admin communication time set aside for parents weekly
 - A. Mondays 3:30-4:30pm Be with Ms. B
 - B. Tuesdays 4-5pm TAG Time! With Mr. Dascal that is on first come first serve basis, with Mr. Dascal talking to parents individually after entering them from waiting room; however, Mr. Dascal was unable to hold this particular Tuesday as he had a Principal's Conference
- Dr. Cosme reported that computer based testing day 1 went well for 5th grade and 8th grade and no technology issues with students trained ahead of time on how to use and day 2 will take place tomorrow, including a typed essay portion (students get scratch paper for notes)
 - C. In 2026 all grades will be mandated for computer based testing
 - D. Next year 4th and 6th grades mandated and discussions taking place at TAG to determine if should broaden to grades beyond mandate
- Calendar reminders
 - E. Spring Break and Passover week of April 22nd with return to school on May 1st
 - F. A few days after break paper Math exams held
 - G. Then grade 5 takes computer based Math
 - H. 8th Grade takes Math Regents vs state test
 - I. 5th Grade takes a NY science exam May 15th (last test)
 - J. End of year K-2nd Acadian assessment and 3rd thru 8th grade iReady assessment
 - K. K-2nd also participate in year end performance tests for reading and math
 - L. Spring concerts, with 7th and 8th on May 17th, 5th and 6th on May 31st and 2nd thru 4th TBD
 - M. Thurs May 18th is D4 science fair invention convention taking place in the TAG building with some TAG students participating
 - N. This Friday is final middle school co-ed basketball session, with volleyball starting after Spring Break

- Ms. Terzi out on maternity leave for remainder of year and her replacement Ms. Hu is holding an in-person Meet Ms. Hu opportunity on Monday, May 6th in Room 119 right after 8:15am arrival
- Thursday May 9th will be an evening Teacher conferences event where parents will have an opportunity to hear from the teachers for their students' next grade on what to expect for the 2024-2025 school year and there will be multiple times held by each teacher (no sign ups)
- Addressed question on impact of 2nd Ave Subway construction and will be meeting with Foreman to better understand details of upcoming 3 year construction plans but would not expect any loud disruptive construction to be taking place during school hours
- Addressed question on in-curriculum debate and confirmed it will be starting post May testing for 5th and 6th graders and also confirmed ability to start in-curriculum chess post testing
- Relayed that have been exploring option for Field Day to be held in school yard on a day that Esparanza is not in school
- Announced summer rising placements will be out on April 17th on myschools accounts
- Addressed question on new HVAC system and confirmed that 6 new AC units were being installed in the auditorium and should be fully operational before the 8th, K & 5th graduation/moving up ceremonies
- Addressed question about the technology grant, with an update that received 3D printer and now determining where to put it and which grades to use, etc.
- Addressed question on whether possible to have an info session for 7th grade families on HS process, with feedback that a session will take place in September with Ms. Y and it provides plenty of time for families to prepare
- Addressed question on whether there is any safety update following the incident reviewed at Town Hall, with Mr. Dascal reviewing all the protocols conducted when these type of events occur and how students should realize the consequences of their actions and confirming in a multitude of sentiments that safety is a top priority for the school and that ultimately it's the NYPD that determines if a school is safe as the school does not have that expertise
 - O. Mr. Dascal has been at the school for 13 years and there is nothing he takes more serious than safety
 - P. Will continue to work with students and faculty to make sure nothing like this ever happens again
 - Q. Attendance was 94.6% yesterday
 - R. Reminded parents about Dr. Kristy's survey
 - S. Addressed a question on future communication if something like this happens again and explained that any communication must go through legal and there is limited information that can be provided in these circumstances (there are pre-vetted letters not that different than what Mr. Dascal sent out) but should be able to expedite in future

III. Approval of March Minutes **6:57pm**

IV. Treasury Report (See Appendix) **6:59pm**

Treasurer presented monthly Report:

- Raised ~\$138k so far for current school year
- Recent expenses include chess, instrument repair, paid for college/career notebooks, few more misc items for Ms. B, senior sweatshirts
- \$435.2k current balance, with \$250k now in Live Oak FDIC insured interest bearing account at 4% APR

V. Committee Updates

7:02pm

A. Budget

B. Fundraising

- Gala May 18th and Auction live until May 18th – please share link with network
- Circulated sign up genius, with need for volunteers at Gala and for desert and wine sourcing
- Book fair on May 28th & 29th
- Got Sneakers reminder to turn in by Friday for dressdown day on April 19th

C. Enrichment

- Planning for in-curriculum chess and debate after state testing
- BDL brought in for debate

D. Family Engagement

- Block party May 4th with plans for uniform swap, face painting, etc.
- Please consider helping with this event

E. Grants

- Reviewed a few different upcoming grants, including Toshiba and TD
- Ms. Tang offering to help with teach communication to determine STEM needs
- Ms. Tang brought up potential need on playground equipment and resource support, with further work to be done by PTA to determine where needs may be

F. Communications

- Referenced picture gallery for prior Galas can be accessed online
- Next communications meeting on April 29th

VI. New Business

7:25pm

A. Nominating Committee

- Group of individuals who promote and run elections for PTA E-Board and SLT at June PTA General Meeting
- Please reach out if interested in participating in this small but impactful position

B. Budget

- Starting with last year's budget and encouraged Dascal, teachers, parents to reach out with any budget proposals for next year
- Ms. Tang raised need to coordinate on purchasing of planners (between Admin & PTA)
- Raised question on making process more efficient for teachers to request funds from Admin and/or PTA
- An ongoing project of PTA to make sure funds properly accessible to teachers

C. By-law amendments

- Summarized proposed changes to remove VP at Large, Budget (make it a committee), Audit and change Communications to IT Support, require creation of subcommittees for events
- Discussed amongst group and did not reach conclusive view on how to best change and optimize PTA functioning so remains an ongoing project

D. Other Topics

- Discussed field day and a parent to look into use of bathrooms at rec center

VII. Adjournment

8:05pm

APPENDIX: Treasury Report

REVENUE:

Source of Revenue	Since March 13, 2024	Fiscal Year To Date
iPledge	\$1,693.83	\$105,310.00
Gala	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00
Book Fair	\$0.00	\$3,226.24
Grants	\$0.00	\$27,160.63
Tag Wear	\$0.00	\$237.87
BoxTops	\$0.00	\$0.00
Got Sneakers	\$0.00	\$62.00
Picture Day	\$0.00	\$1,912.73
TOTAL		\$137,909.47

EXPENSES:

Amount Budgeted	Amount Spent Since March 13, 2024	Amount Spent To-Date	Amount Remaining
\$430,450	\$5,679.97	\$193,953.68	\$236,496

ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$435,211.92