



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, March 19, 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:

- Farewell to a 2nd grade TA who accepted a substitute paraprofessional role at another school which is a great opportunity for her though means given how late we are in the year it will not be possible to get a replacement
- Next Thursday, March 28th at 5:45pm, there will be a town hall to discuss the NY State ELA testing that is coming up in April
 - A. Review changes for 3rd thru 8th grade testing and any impact on kids such as new mandate that all 5th and 8th grade testing will be digital
 - B. ELA paper tests for grades 3, 4, 6 & 7th will be on April 11-12 with make-ups the following week
 - C. Computer based testing for 5th and 8th grades will take place on April 16-17
- K thru 5th grade adopting a new HMH Literacy Program
 - D. D4 held a town hall on new literacy program last night, with all districts asked to adopt
 - E. Teachers receiving training on new program
- March 29th and April 1st schools closed for Easter holiday weekend
- Spring Break week of April 22nd with return to school on May 1st
- State math exams starting shortly after Spring Break
- A number of field trips approaching, with 8th grade scheduled to attend a Mets game at Citi Field
- Field Day coming up in May
- Afterschool programs going strong, including Basketball Skills Program where Dascal joined in a Free Throw Contest
- Next week on March 25th report cards distributed
- Weather unpredictable this time of year so emphasized to parents the importance of sending kids to school in proper attire for the weather
- March 26th is a final re-take picture day for 8th graders

- April 3rd is day that middle school offers are released (TAG ensures every kid turns one in even if staying at TAG)
- March 27th is day that Kindergarten offers are released
- 1st through 3rd grade application process ongoing
- Open house at TAG on April 4th for new K families with offers and those in 1st thru 3rd considering applying
- K Spring Show Date is April 18th at 8:30am and 1st Grade Play on April 9th
- 8th Grade High School offers out:
 - F. SHSAT offers consistent with prior years, with ~67% of TAG students who took SHSAT getting offers to Specialized High Schools
 - G. 3 students got offers to LaGuardia
 - H. A couple other performing arts high schools
 - I. Bard, Beacon
 - J. NE Prep Schools including Exeter
 - K. Will compile list to circulate (only have information on offers vs full visibility on acceptances)
 - L. Met with 8th Graders on March 8th to emphasize need to stay focused post high school offers, with 40% of the school year remaining, Regents testing to come, etc.
- TAG Latin Jazz Ensemble made annual trip to play at Lehman College and Mr. Faulkner pleased with the strong performance
- Shout out to the Grants team with all they have done for TAG and how heavily TAG relies on funding from grants and PTA in light of the fact that TAG is not a Title #1 school
- Addressed a question about a technology grant, with an update that are awaiting delivery for items that were ordered, including a 3D printer

III. Approval of February Minutes 6:38pm

IV. Treasury Report (See Appendix) 6:40pm

Treasurer presented monthly Report:

- Raised ~\$136k so far for current school year, in line with last year at this time
- ~\$8k for iPledge this month and \$22 for GotSneakers, with an announcement for another sneaker drive and awarding a dressdown day for sneakers brought in before Spring Break
- Recent expenses include taxes, spring Creative Writing, afterschool science program, etc.
- \$439.3k current Chase Account balance
- Continuing to look into ability to move any funds into an interest bearing savings account

V. Committee Updates 6:44pm

A. Budget

- Budget Vote on Notebooks for 5th/6th Grade (Ms. Marchelos) Career & Occupational Studies Students (\$250) – **APPROVED 6:46pm**

B. Fundraising

- March 26th is a final re-take picture day for 8th graders
- Gala Call to Action Push extended to March 31st to earn participation in Gala support toward winning a class pizza party
- Gala save the date for May 18th with info coming soon on how to purchase tickets

C. Enrichment

- Robotics coding at capacity and started 2 weeks ago with a need for more parent volunteers to help with transition logistics
- Chess continues to win competitions
- Debate going strong
- Creative Writing spring session in full swing
- Recognize both Girls Who Code and Robotics at max capacity for younger grades and while can't add another class for this semester, will look into additional options for the fall and/or further STEM opportunities for younger grades
- Important reminder to parents that it's not just about adding new classes as available space is an ongoing challenge given shared school space and need for more parent volunteers to support logistics

D. Family Engagement

- Looking for parent volunteers to help plan Kalahari trip planned for June 6-7, with a block of rooms available for TAG families at \$275/night
- Block party May 4th

E. Grants

- Working on grants and always welcome additional help
- A project based learning grant
- Applied for 2 grants over break for new speaker PA system and new bell system
- Previously awarded an HVAC grant, with funds still to be received

F. Communications

- Helping fundraising to get word out about Gala and welcome any pitching in by parents

VI. New Business

7:08pm

A. Nominating Committee

- Group of individuals who promote and run elections for PTA E-Board and SLT at June PTA General Meeting

B. By-law amendments

- As part of an ongoing review process every couple years, looking to make some changes that would be helpful to discuss ahead of bringing them to a vote at a General Meeting
- Will schedule another meeting to discuss at an evening time to see if that helps draw participation

C. Field Day T-Shirts

- Save the date for May 21 (K/1st), May 22 (2nd/3rd), May 23 (4th/5th) and May 24 (MS)
- Info coming soon on ways to help
- Kids asking about T-Shirts that used to provide in the past but got complicated with team colors, etc. so looking into possibility of providing simple T-Shirts to all students or another commemorative item
- Have a \$5k total field day budget to work with so may work within this

D. Other Topics

- Rasheedah discussed potential idea of "comment boxes" to provide kids an opportunity for greater feedback to Admin
- Mentioned state of the district meeting on March 20th if interested in attending alongside PTA President

VII. Adjournment

7:27pm

APPENDIX: Treasury Report

REVENUE:

Source of Revenue	Since February 8, 204	Fiscal Year To Date
iPledge	\$8,261.81	\$103,616.18
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	\$22.00	\$62.00
Picture Day	\$0.00	\$1,912.73
TOTAL		\$136,215.65

EXPENSES:

Amount Budgeted	Amount Spent Since February 8, 2024	Amount Spent To-Date	Amount Remaining
\$430,450	\$7,473.20	\$188,273.71	\$242,176

ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$439,334.72