

PS 165
PTA General Meeting
Minutes November 19, 2020
Conference Call 6:00pm

Call to Order: Tara called to order at 5:49pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Rodney motioned to approve February and October minutes, Heather seconded. February and October 2020 General Meeting PTA minutes are approved.

Principal's Report (from 165 Town Hall)

- Temporary School Closure
 - DOE System-Wide Closure – Schools were not able to provide advance notice because they learned about the closure when parents did.
 - Learning/Education is still happening remotely.
 - All students are fully remote; blended students will follow their in-person schedule; teachers should have sent out links.
 - Date of return has not been determined yet. The school will inform parents as soon as any information is available.
 - Meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) are still available. Door near the cafeteria is open for distribution.

- Holiday Travel
 - Please check the quarantine guidelines if you leave NY state.
 - Students may need to quarantine if they visit a location on the list as indicated by the health screen. Parents should inform the teacher and administration.
 - Please read the health screen carefully each time you fill it out as the questions and requirements change frequently.

- Students Returning – Blended Learning
 - 30 Students in Pre-K to 5th opted to return to in-person
 - The cohorts do not need to change because there was enough space to integrate these students into existing blended classes.
 - Class changes will take place tentatively from Nov 30 to Dec 7, regardless of whether the school system is still fully remote.
 - Each returning student will get an individual plan emailed to them soon.
 - Please fill out the emergency contact form for returning students.

- Masks
 - Masks must be worn at all times in the school.
 - The PTA has purchased PS 165 branded face masks for all students and staff. The blended cohorts have received their masks; remote students will get theirs soon.
 - CDC Mask Recommendations: Homemade, Surgical, Dust, and N95 without vents are all acceptable. Masks that have Vents are NOT RECOMMENDED because they let air out. Please send all students with masks that do not have vents. Please visit www.cdc.gov for more information.

- Communication
 - PS165 mass email for info (please do not reply to this email if you need to get in touch with the school, reach out to the parent coordinator or your child's teacher).
 - Phone blasts
 - Classroom Teachers
 - Questions: Email Yadira Brenes parentcoordinator@robertesimon.org
 - Please complete the Emergency Contact Form

- Family Income Form
 - All Families: Please complete the Family Income Financial Form
 - Completion of form affects school funding. The school's budget is heavily reliant on having this form filled out by all families. 165 is a Title 1 school and this form will continue that designation, which is vital for 165 funding.

- Leader In Me
 - We continue to be a Leader In Me school – 165 is the first one in Manhattan.
 - Students have leadership period once a week.
 - 7 Habits Activities & Leadership Portfolios.
 - Student Lighthouse Team – Grades 2-5 After School 2x/month.

- Afterschool Music
 - Philharmonic has partnered with YANI for virtual afterschool programs on classical music.
 - Please contact Cesar Pagan for more information if you are interested.

- Stay Connected
 - www.ps165nyc.org
 - PS165 Facebook Group
 - PTA WhatsApp Covid-19 Group – email pta@ps165nyc.org

- Next Town Hall Thursday, December 17
- Q&A
 - What will be the new class sizes after new blended students come in? What is the max class size?
 - Max class size is 12; not that many kids have chosen to return.
 - A parent received an email about someone with Covid at the school before the city-wide closing. Please clarify?
 - The letter sent home to parents said it was the co-located school, meaning Mott Hall. If it had been case at 165, it would have said that specifically.
 - If a class has multiple teachers, how will students be placed with them?
 - Students are in one classroom all day with their teachers, with Specials teachers visiting those rooms. Now that we are fully remote, the students will have their in-person teacher teaching them primarily, with remote teachers helping. Specials Teachers will assign work remotely and may do some live instruction.
 - For students switching into blended learning, will there be a new supply list?
 - Teachers will reach out to those families to let them know.
 - Covid restrictions and testing will resume once students return to school.

Treasury Report

- Please see attached spreadsheet.
- PTA has a smaller budget this year, as we know we won't have as many in-person expenditures. We are trying to save what is possible to be ready to help the school out. This is why fundraising is more important than ever.

President's Report

- Newsletter: If you would like to stay connected and up-to-date and don't already receive the PTA Newsletter, please sign-up here: <https://bit.ly/ps165pta>
(Please double check your spam folder!)
- Thanks to our supportive PS165 community, we have been able to help our school during these challenging times by providing supplies, including...

- Free PS165 logo facemasks for each student, teachers and staff.
- Amplifiers for each teacher.
- Helping to cover costs of supplies for teachers due to city budget cuts.
- Fundraising – the PTA has three planned for the year (Paula):
 - Gift Catalog - online shopping (with prizes!) Nov 12-30th. Register Online today!
 - Go to <https://meadowfarms.com/> & click REGISTER
 - Enter School ID # MF1802198
 - Follow on screen directions to build and share your online store. This year's online catalog has over 2,000 items. All items will be shipped to your home.
 - 40% of sales return to the PTA/School!
 - *Get Through COVID Shutdown* Fundraiser/ Facebook Giving Tuesday Nov 15 - Jan 5th; chance to have donations matched by Facebook Tues Dec 1st Facebook Fundraising Page
 - Last year we raised nearly \$10,000!
 - You can start donating now; please share the link with your family and friends. Every dollar comes back to the school, there are no fees removed.
- Holiday Shop Coming in December!
 - Fundraising Committee is exploring online shops for students to be able to shop for their families at similar prices to when the shop was in the school.
- Please volunteer for the Committee!
- D3 Cafe
 - Chat with District 3 Superintendent Christine Loughlin
 - Monday Nov 25 from 4-5
 - Please see flyer on PTA's Facebook page
- PTA is working on how to get the new 165 branded masks to fully remote students.
- PTA is looking to set up a virtual movie watch night for students.

School Leadership Team (SLT) Report

- The purpose of the SLT is to ensure the school's education plan is being met. The school sets goals for percentage increases in reading, writing, math, and the SLT makes sure are all being met. Teachers, Parents, and the Principal come up with activities like book fairs and stem nights to support those goals.
- First meeting with new members was primarily an orientation session.
- Continuing Parent Representatives:
 - Ann Marie Pendleton

- Mary Margaret Gilliam
- New Parent Representatives:
 - Nildania Perez
 - Monica Soto
 - Rodney Mendez
- SLT meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from 2:30pm - 4:00pm
- Please contact teacher chair: Sara Stone at [sstone@robertesimon.org](mailto:ssstone@robertesimon.org) for zoom link if you would like to silently attend and observe a meeting.

Building Safety Council

- Construction continues six days a week after school hours and on weekends. Now that the schools are remote, the crews will start earlier until students return.
- Goal is still to finish by end of Summer 2021.
- All other school related activities (drills, afterschool) are not relevant during temporary school closure.
- Teachers Union - no current concerns to report.
- Next virtual meeting TBD due to school closure.

Thank you to Principal Castellano, Ms. Scanlon, and all the teachers for all your help and great work!

Next PTA General Meeting is Thursday, December 17, after the Town Hall.

Adjournment – 6:25pm.