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**PS17Q Henry David Thoreau Parent Teacher Association**

**October Meeting Minutes**

**October 22, 2024**

Date: October 22, 2024

Location: Zoom

Time: 7:00 pm- 8:32 pm

Website: <https://www.ps17qpta.com/>

**Executive Board:**

Co-Presidents: Samantha Cabrera and Kinara Rosa

Co-Vice President: Jennifer Smith and Adila Todic

Co-Secretaries: Armenuhi Avanian and Amanda Persaud

Treasurer: Elisabeth Wickeri

**Committee Chairs**

Fundraising Committee Chair: Ryan Patterson

The general monthly meeting for the PTA of PS 17Q was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, on Zoom. With Quorum met, the PTA meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

1. PTA Update
   * The Co-President called the meeting to order.
   * It was noted that the minutes from September 2024 were available online. (<https://www.ps17qpta.com/copy-of-who-we-are>). The Co-vice President asked if there were any questions or comments, and objections to approval; hearing none, the minutes were approved.
   * Co-President Samantha Cabrera welcomed caregivers.
     1. The Fall Festival was a successful event. Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods, baskets to raffle, pumpkins, and for helping out on that day.
     2. We are still collecting candy/party favors for the Trunk or Treat event. We will be partnering with Q300 at Astoria Park parking lot, from 5-7 pm on Friday, October 25th.
     3. There will also be books to give away at the PTA office for kids. They are welcome to come on by during their lunch time on Fridays to pick out a book. We are also collecting more reading books as well.

1. PTA ByLaw Amendments
   * The current Bylaws were updated in 2020; the bylaws direct the PTA to review them for update every three years.
   * The PTA E-Board prepared proposed amendments to the bylaws and these were presented at the September 2024 website and uploaded to the PTA website together with a summary of the amendments, and a feedback form; no feedback or questions were received; caregivers were invited to ask further questions , hearing none, the amendments were put to a vote on a slate with amendments to the 2024-2025 budget (see below).
   * Votes on the bylaws were taken via an online form, the record for which is kept in the PTA digital files; as required by the bylaws, the bylaw amendments were passed with over 2/3 votes of members present voting to approve. **The 2024 bylaws amendments were passed.**
2. 2024-2025 Budget Amendment
   * Proposed amendments to the 2024-2025 budget, which had been passed at the June 2024 PTA meeting, were presented to the PTA during the September 2024 meeting. Amendments were made to account for programmatic changes and changes in the cost of enrichment programs. No feedback or questions had been received as of the October PTA meeting.
   * Caregivers were invited to ask questions about the proposed amendments. Hearing none, the amendments were put to a vote on a slate with the amendments to the PTA bylaws. **The amendments passed and the revised 2024-2025 budget was passed.**
3. Treasurer’s Report
   * The Treasurer presented expenses and income for the PTA from September 23, 2024-October 20, 2024, and gave a rough breakdown of income and expenses for the fall festival, netting the PTA approximately $2,433 towards the fundraising goal.
4. Fundraising Update
   * An overview of fundraising activities planned for 2024-2025 was displayed.
   * Families are encouraged to contact the fundraising chair with ideas and to participate in fundraising.
   * **Four events happening in November:**
5. Astoria Bookshop Fair- November 13th- 15th. Students will be able to shop during their lunch time. Students will shop during lunch. We will also have two parent shopping hours (one in the morning and one after school. Online sales also contribute to the fundraising aspect of the event
6. Read-a-Thon: November 4 - December 4. Students raise money by asking friends and family to make donations based on how much they read. Students also compete for the most minutes read (by individual and by classroom). Prizes for individuals and classrooms.
7. Parents’ Night Out at Gentle Arts : Saturday, November 16. The price is $30 per child (K-5th graders). It includes sports games, pizza party, prizes and more… all while parents have some time to yourselves!
8. Photo Day, on November 19th
   * **Fundraising Events planned for December:**
9. Craft sale - December 10 & 11 - We want to sell more crafts made by the community so start your projects now!
10. Holiday candy grams - will be distributed to classrooms on the Thursday before winter break.
11. Wellness Council
    * Amybeth Whissel provided an overview about the Wellness Council and its activities planned for 2024-2025, and invited caregivers to join the mailing list and to get involved.
    * **Monthly Meeting**-2nd Wednesday of each month via Zoom’
    * The next wellness meeting is on **11/13/24 at 7pm**  - <https://bit.ly/WCMtg2425>
12. Class Caregivers
    * The Co- Vice President made an appeal to caregivers to consider acting as class caregiver to their classes, and provided an overview of how the program facilitates communication and engagement at the school.
    * We have volunteers covering 18 out of 29 classrooms.

1. Principal’s Report
   * Ms. Heyward welcomed families.
   * Ms. Heyward provided the activities that have started for each grade.
   * Ms. Heyward called for a Title 1 volunteer. Information on the role was displayed, and one individual volunteered. **Susan Stewart will be the Title 1 volunteer.**
   * Awards have been given out to Students for math, reading, attendance, and beloved community, and Principal Heyward read the names of all students receiving awards.

The awards for students were announced before the full program was dismissed at 8:32 pm. **The next meeting of the PTA will be on November 26, 2024 at 6pm In Person.**