



PS17Q Henry David Thoreau Parent Teacher Association

September Meeting Minutes September 24, 2024

Date: September 24, 2024

Location: PS17 auditorium

Time: 6:00pm-7:30pm

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

Executive Board:

Co-Presidents: Samantha Cabrera and Kinara Rosa

Co-Vice President: Jennifer Smith

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, September 24, 2024, in person at PS17Q. With Quorum met, the PTA meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

1. PTA Update

- The Co-Presidents called the meeting to order.
- Co-President Samantha Cabrera welcomed caregivers, and provided an overview of the PTA and introduction to the Executive Board.
- An overview of the agenda was provided including noting that elections would be held; parents were also invited to stay past the formal agenda for a family activity with Kidspire, and pizza.

2. Elections

- PTA
 - i. Vice President Jennifer Smith explained that the PTA had two open positions for this year, Co-Vice President, and Events Committees Chair.
 - ii. Nominations for the Co-Vice President had been solicited in advance, and

no additional names were added from the floor, so Adila Todic was the sole candidate for the Co-Vice President election.

- iii. A description of the Events Committee Chair role was provided, and Lashaana Defrieta nominated herself for the role and was the sole candidate for that position.
- iv. Both candidates stated why they were interested in the roles. Following the election, **Adila Todic was elected as Co-Vice President, and Lashaana Defrieta was elected as Events Committee Chair for 2024-2025.**

- o SLT

- i. Information was shared about the roles and responsibilities of the School Leadership Team; four positions were open for SLT.
- ii. Five individuals nominated themselves to SLT; each provided statements to caregivers present about their interest in the role.
- iii. Following the election, **Carly Hirsch-Wolf, Ivette Loupakis, Stacey Mazurek, and Kara Volkman were elected to the SLT for their term beginning in Fall 2024.**

3. Principal's Report

- o Ms. Heyward welcomed families back to the school.
- o Ms. Heyward provided a comprehensive update about the school and an overview of city data regarding math and ELA performance citywide with comparison to PS17Q.
- o She also provided an overview of all the enrichment activities at the school this year; in addition, she reported that student awards were returning to PS17Q to begin in October.
- o Finally, Ms. Heyward provided other updates to caregivers, including information about uniforms and about usage of the school's primary communication platform, Class Dojo.

4. PTA ByLaws

- o Treasurer Liz Wickeri stated that the bylaws were due for review and amendment to update to ensure that placeholder language is made specific to PS17Q and to update in reference to digital files and remote options for meetings, etc.
- o A one-page overview of the amendments was provided to caregivers and a QR code directing parents to the overview, the detailed track changes amendments, and a copy of the proposed updated bylaws was provided. An additional QR code was provided to solicit feedback.
- o A vote on the bylaw amendments will be held at the October PTA meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

- o The Treasurer presented proposed amendments to the PTA Budget for 2024-2025

that was passed at the June 2024 PTA meeting. Amendments were necessary due to an increase in enrichment costs, as well as a change in planned fundraising activities. A vote on the amendments will be held at the October PTA meeting.

- The Treasurer presented a snapshot of expenses and income to date from the start of the PTA's fiscal year on July 1, 2024.

6. Fundraising Update

- On behalf of the Fundraising Chair, the Treasurer gave an overview of fundraising activities planned for 2024-2025.
- An appeal was made for fall donations for families that are able to give. Families were invited to support the Fall Festival which will take place on October 19, 2024, and it was noted that the PTA is planning a Spring Auction for Spring 2025.
- Families are encouraged to contact the fundraising chair with ideas and to participate in fundraising.

7. 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.
- The Wellness Council is organizing a costume swap for Halloween; costumes can be donated before the Fall Festival and families can select a new one during the event.

8. Class Caregivers

- Vice President Jennifer Smith 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.

The assembled caregivers were invited to participate in the Kidspire activity and eat snacks and Pizza together. The results of the election were announced before the full program was dismissed at 7:15pm. **The next meeting of the PTA will be on October 22, 2024 at 7pm on Zoom.**