

THESE MINUTES ARE PENDING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL ON 10/26/17.

Please send suggestions for revisions to ps187pto@gmail.com.

PS/IS 187 PTO General Meeting Minutes

9/19/17

6:15 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Welcome: Gerry Goss, PTO President

Who is the PTO? You! All parents/guardians of children who attend PS/IS 187 are members of the PTO. What does a PTO do? A PTO works with parents, School Leadership Team (SLT), faculty, administration, Friends of 187, Community Education Council (CEC), and the Presidents' Council to create a vibrant school community. The 2017-18 PTO Executive Board introductions: Gerry Goss, PTO President; Kim Williamson & Ksenia Selemon, co-VPs Elementary School; Ben Delaney & Laurie Gonzalez, co-VPs of Intermediate School; Sara Silver, treasurer; Gwen Kingsberry, communications director; Caroline Muro, recording secretary. Go to <http://www.187pto.org/> to find more information about our PTO.

June Meeting Minutes: A motion was made to approve the June 2017 minutes. A parent member asked to revise a typo—a misspelling of that parent member's last name. During the vote, all were in favor of approving the minutes with revised typo. There were no nay votes or abstentions.

Administration Report: Principal Chory

Ms. Chory introduced herself as principal and as a 187 alum. She emphasized how the school gets better each year because she is fortunate to work in partnership with great staff and parents. Communication is important: be sure to check backpacked notices and PupilPath. See Parent Coordinator Ms. Elton for support with using PupilPath. Ms. Chory introduced staff in attendance: Ms. Crespo, Ms. Daskaris, Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Haughey, Assistant Principal Marrero. Ms. Chory reminded parent body of the communication chain when a parent has a question or problem: talk to the child's teacher first, then the grade advisor (if an IS student), then the parent coordinator, then the assistant principal, then the principal. If a child has a specific emotional need, a parent can seek help from the guidance counselors. Ms. Chory reminded the parent body to talk to their children every day—to ask them questions about what happens in the classroom and at school to keep an open dialogue.

Treasurer's Report: Sara Silver, PTO Treasurer

As of 9/19/17, there is just over \$30K in the PTO bank account. Ms. Silver reviewed the June 2017 Treasurer's Report, highlighting the biggest fundraisers last year, which were the Tree Sale, School-a-Palooza, PTO Dues, and the Cherrydale sale. A copy of the June 2017 treasurer's report was attached to the June minutes reviewed at the beginning of the meeting.

Elementary School Faculty Report: Jessica Mitchell, Grade 4 teacher

Ms. Mitchell thanked parents for sending in all supplies. Units of study have started and the school year has gotten off to a great start.

Elementary School co-Vice Presidents' Report: Kim Williamson & Ksenia Selemon, Co-VPs of Elementary School

Ms. Williamson thanked those who attended the August 30, 2017 Meet-And-Greet event. She also thanked Ms. Chory and staff for helping to make the event a success. Ms. Williamson emphasized that 187 is a place to share, to grow, to become healthier. She noted that the elementary school is focusing on healthier snack choices. Ms. Selemon emphasized volunteerism at all PTO events. She also highlighted a special volunteer opportunity for Class Parent Representatives (CPRs). CPRs are parents who support faculty and other parents in a particular class by emailing details from the teacher to other parents and by helping to organize a myriad of events. They are truly a lifeline for both parents and teachers. Please look out for the CPR sign-up in backpacks, and please consider becoming a CPR.

IS Faculty Report: Bianca Crespo and Tara O'Callaghan, IS faculty members

Ms. Crespo reported: Permission slips, money, and chaperones for field trips are always needed, so please keep an eye out for them. Please volunteer! The Intermediate School is looking to organize Grade Parent Representatives (like how the Elementary School has Class Parent Representatives). IS parents who are interested in becoming Grade Parent Reps should contact Ms. Daskaris. Ms. O'Callaghan reported: The Hurricane Relief Fundraiser Bake Sale raised \$600. Ms. O'Callaghan emphasized to students that their actions can impact the world in small and big days. Thanked parents for their generosity in getting school

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started. High school prep has started. Find many dates of note on the school website: www.187hudsoncliffs.org. IS track team had a successful meet. Track team both in IS and ES has really taken off.

PTO President's Report: Gerry Goss, PTO President

The PTO has many fundraisers. Currently, the PTO is running the PTO Dues drive. Note that parents can now donate electronically. Please see the PTO Dues letter. It was sent out in backpacks and will be resent to encourage participation. Upcoming fundraisers are Cherrydale and Movie Night. Cherrydale is a candy/wrapping paper sale raises about \$7K per year. Mr. Goss encouraged the parent body to ask family and friends to purchase from Cherrydale if possible. The Movie Night will be on October 20. The PTO has decided to show Sing. Picture Day is also coming up. A parent member asked about the change in company. Mr. Goss confirmed that Irvin Simon will once again be our vendor for school pictures—not Stomping Grounds. School-a-Palooza, Tree Sale, and Film Festival were also highlighted as successful fundraisers that also build community. These fundraisers provide many programs (see PTO website for more information: www.187pto.org). Mr. Goss explained voting procedures and encouraged parents to both bring ideas to PTO meetings and to consider spearheading fundraisers and initiatives.

Allocation of funds:

Motion to allocate funds raised at October 2017 Movie Night towards Education Enhancement Grants (EEGs)

Motion seconded.

Motion passed; all in favor; no nay votes or abstentions.

Mr. Goss invited parent members Michael Bridenstine and Jay Douglas to talk about School-a-Palooza--187's parent-teacher variety show--a great school event that raised about \$15K last year. They encouraged parents and faculty to share their talents with the school on stage. They revealed that the 2017 School-a-Palooza title will be *It Goes to 11* (think: *Spinal Tap*), honoring the 11th year of the show. Their goal is to increase this number to \$20K. To this end, Mr. Douglas asked for help in garnering more corporate sponsors for the playbill. Mr. Douglas and Mr. Bridenstine requested \$7K from the PTO for pre-production costs. They anticipate spending less than this, and they have never spent more than \$5,500.

Allocation of funds:

Motion to allocate \$7K towards School-a-Palooza pre-production costs.

Motion seconded.

Motion passed; all in favor; no nay votes or abstentions.

Mr. Goss highlighted ways to get involved in all fundraisers and upcoming important dates. See websites for dates.

SLT Report: Johanna Garcia, SLT Chair

Ms. Garcia explained the function of the School Leadership Team (SLT) and introduced members present: faculty member, Ms. Mitchell, and parent members, Ms. Joy Waitkus, Ms. Leanne Singer, Mr. Gerry Goss. The primary function of the SLT is to devise and actualize the CEP (Comprehensive Educational Plan). They discuss educational goals and the best way to achieve success. All parents are invited to sit in on SLT meetings. See the website for meeting dates/times.

Presidents' Council Report: Johanna Garcia, Co-president of Presidents' Council for District 6

Ms. Garcia explained the Presidents' Council's function. It is usually comprised of all of the PTA/PTO presidents in the district. Some PTO presidents designate alternate parent members to represent their schools. The Presidents' Council act like a PTO to the Superintendent of our district. The council is currently working on simplifying the high school application process.

After School Program Representatives: JP LaCour of ACDP & Keila Ayala of NYJTL

Mr. LaCour reported on exciting things that will be happening in the 6-8 program. There are six new instructors, and there will be art programming such as drama and improvisation. There will be a role playing games class, chess and more. Mr. LaCour introduced Grenny Hiraldo, new site director for ACDP email GrennyH@hotmail.com and ACDP's drama instructor. He reminded parents that ACDP provided free after school for grades 6-8 through a DYCD grant.

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Friends of 187: Debby Nabavian, Co-president of Friends of 187

Ms. Nabavian emphasized that the 187 community is special because of relationships with faculty and parents. Because of idiosyncrasies and history, Friends of 187 is a separate entity from the PTO, but we work together to achieve great things for our kids. There is not arts programming in the elementary school except for funding for programming provided by Friends of 187. The PTO does many, many things. Friends does one thing: fundraising to support programming for two programs per grade during the school day. These programs reach every student in every grade. See friendsof187.org for more information. There is a new way this year to provide feedback about the programming. Friends of 187 hosts a party/auction fundraiser in March. Please get involved!

Community Education Council (CEC): Johanna Garcia

Ms. Garcia encouraged attendance at the next CEC meeting at which the superintendent will report on his plans for the district. The meeting will be held at PS 48, at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, 9/26. Additionally, at this meeting, Emily Kim, formerly a top lawyer at Success Academy, will present her application to put a Zeta charter school in District 6. Ms. Garcia urged that parents be there to give testimony that objects to Ms. Kim's application, to make parent voices heard, and to oppose the DeVos/Trump initiative to privatize public schools.

Open Forum:

Parent member Joe Sherpa, who is active in School-a-Palooza production, thanked parent body for all their support during his illness. He talked about the strengths of the school and about high quality education at 187. He had a question for ACDP—about after school childcare, wondering how ACDP after-school program cancelled fee-for-service in the elementary school two weeks before school started. Mr. Goss verified that NYJTL was currently the only on-site option for after school care in grades K-5. Mr. LaCour of ACDP responded with an apology for the late notice of cancellation of programming. Another parent member questioned: How did ACDP know that there wouldn't be enough 2017-18 participating families in July, before fall sign-ups? This same parent member stressed the great hardship of being left without after school care two weeks before school started. Mr. LaCour said he had to discuss with administration. Parent members explained to the general body the ongoing problems they have had with ACDP as an after-school provider. Ms. Johanna Garcia suggested writing a letter to DYCD to complain about the program. Ms. Keila Ayala of NYJTL—explained why she cannot accept more students now, but she told parents that she would keep parents updated about the waiting list. The after-school discussion was cut short because the meeting ran overtime.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.