

# the NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

## The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 2020

**Time:** 8:30am

**Location:** TNS PTA Room

**Type:** Monthly General Meeting

**Notice Provided in Advance:** Yes

### Agenda:

1. **Meeting called to order at 8:39am.**
2. **Introductions:** People present introduced themselves.
3. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the [December 20, 2019 meeting](#). Motion seconded. Motion passed.
4. **Presidents' Report:**
  - a. The Executive Committee is reviewing bylaws and will have recommendations to share in February. Encourage everyone to take a look at bylaws and share feedback. We will share proposed changes in February.
  - b. Budget and Fundraising: More updates later during this meeting but we encourage everyone to keep contributing to our community! Keep up the hard work! We are feeling good about where we are but we need to keep working to support our school.
  - c. Working with STAR Academy: We are continuing in our effort to work on joint activities with STAR Academy. We are considering new ways to bring communities together (maybe a joint movie night) and we are actively involved in jointly supporting the library.
  - d. Lead testing: DOE tested water in the school and it was below the threshold EPA considers dangerous (15 parts per billion). PTA supported additional testing (thanks to Raquel for helping to arrange!). The results of those tests are in: No lead found in the water tested from first floor water sources (which includes the kitchen), but lead was found in 5 taps elsewhere -- a very low amount. The highest amount found was 2.5 parts per billion, which is way below what's allowed by the EPA and considered actionable (e.g., bottled water is allowed to have up to 5 parts per billion). That said, experts say there is no safe level of lead in water. A copy of the technical report was shared with those present (and later [uploaded to the TNS website](#)). Discussion followed, including questions about comparing the DOE reports to this one and how to inform parents (including telling them which taps tested with lead), concerns about causing panic, tips for how to handle lead generally (flush the pipes, let the water run cold) and a

description of what the school already does, and the environmental concerns of bottled water in the classrooms.

**5. Treasurer report:**

- a. Distributed financial statements (reconciled through 2019).
- b. If you have expenses for the school and don't want a reimbursement, we can issue a contribution letter to reflect that donation to the school. If you are looking for a contribution letter and don't see it, email [ptatreasurer@tnsny.org](mailto:ptatreasurer@tnsny.org). (You get one automatically for contributions through PayPal.)
- c. Overall, looking at financial reports, we are on the right track but we still have a very ambitious amount to raise through the auction (please contribute to the auction!)

**6. Fundraising Report:**

- a. We are still working to raise \$25K for the [Kinship Campaign](#) and we have \$17K so far. We appreciate everyone's contributions so far, and we need a little more to get us the rest of the way there. Please spread the word about the campaign -- talk to other parents, ask grandparents -- and if you have donated, check to see if your employer matches.
- b. The other way you can help is to pitch in with our events! We have big targets that help us bring in funds, like the auction. You can help out at Movie night. Lots of ways to contribute.

**7. Principal's Report:**

- a. Because of the potential TSI intervention we are partnered with someone from DOE and that person is aligned with our philosophy. It is going well and she is offering support for our instruction through professional development.
- b. Reminder: Don't send your kid to school if your kid is sick.

**8. Teacher's report:**

- a. Teachers are interested to hear from parents when they are most likely available for class shares. Please reply to a survey you will see from class parents.

**9. Committee Reports**

- a. **Advocacy:** State tests are coming up and we will be holding info sessions on how they might affect the school. We are waiting for news from the state about TSI designation. Position of advocacy -- better to opt. We will be looking for ways to inform parents so they know their rights.
- b. **Arts:** Arts Day coming up January 25!
- c. **Garden:** Paperwhites are growing in classrooms (both TNS and STAR Academy), at the security desk, and in the library. Committee meets last Wednesday of every month.
- d. **Events/Fundraising:** Please start looking for items for auction. All kinds of things welcome -- gear, experiences (restaurant, hotel packages), artisan creations, etc. And there's always room for more volunteers.
- e. **SLT:** Focused on reading in professional development work and incorporated it into the classroom.

10. **Old Business:** Question about the date for grandparents day (and suggestion to rename "special friends day"). Date not set. Speak to Joy if you are interested in becoming involved.

**11. Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.**