

# the NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL

The Parent Teacher Association of The Neighborhood School General Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2020

**Type:** Monthly General Meeting

**Time:** 5:30pm

**Notice Provided in Advance:** Yes

**Location:** Zoom call

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:35pm.**
2. **Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the [minutes from the previous meeting](#). Motion seconded. Motion passed and minutes approved.
3. **Presidents' Report:**
  - a. Deep appreciation for the very moving [video](#) the teachers made. Thank you.
  - b. We will need to turn to next year's PTA budget in June and while we don't know the DOE budget, we are anticipating cuts. We invite the TNS community to share priorities so we can use those as we propose a budget.
  - c. We are waiting for DOE guidelines on elections during this time of remote meetings and will discuss that more later.
4. **Special Guest: NY State Senator Brad Hoylman**
  - a. Worked to pass some recent bills (Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccine; Extending the Child's Victims Act, Engaging the Tenant Safe Harbor Act, Addressing Price Gouging)
  - b. Expressed support for school funding and support for teachers generally.
  - c. People who need help or have questions are invited to follow-up directly with his office -- contact Caroline Wekselbaum of Senator Hoylman office at [wekselba@nysenate.gov](mailto:wekselba@nysenate.gov).
5. **Treasurer's Report:**
  - a. [Treasurer's Report](#) posted online.
  - b. We are likely to end the year with only a \$5K deficit, which is impressive given we lost our biggest fundraiser (the auction). It is because of the great work of our fundraising committee (thanks, Matthieu and Olly for your leadership!) and success of early fundraising efforts.
6. **Fundraising Report:**
  - a. Deep appreciation for the amazing TNS community -- we came together to fund the special things that make TNS TNS and it means we have a relatively small deficit now.
  - b. We cancelled the in-person auction, as we shared previously, and we didn't think we could pull off a successful online auction in the context of a COVID-19 outbreak.
  - c. Please remember that many employers have matching donation programs and it isn't too late to ask them to match donations you have made to TNS.
7. **Principal's Report:**

- a. Two deeply loved teachers, Dara and Teddy, are retiring (lots of love shared in the chat!)
- b. We usually have DOE budgets by this point of the year and we don't know when we will get it so we do not know specifics about next year's budget.
- c. June 4 and 9 school will be closed (no online instruction).
- d. DOE is suggesting schools prepare for starting next year either online or a hybrid model, combining online/in-person. There is much to work out about what this means. Dyanthe and others are talking about that.
- e. We are working to develop what remote graduation looks like.
- f. Students will either get an end-of-the-year meeting with their teacher or letters from their teacher in lieu of end-of-the-year narrative reports. Teachers will decide what makes the most sense for their classes.
- g. We are still advocating around our TSI status, and learned that the TSI status may come with additional funding for TNS.

**8. Teachers' Report:**

- a. Teachers are considering the closing year traditions, including graduation, and what ritual we can replicate or modify for the current circumstances. (Thank you teachers for all your work, care, and support! TNS families are grateful for everything you do!!)

**9. Elections:**

- a. DOE Regs require in-person meetings, but the Chancellor has suspended those rules for the current situation. We will be hearing more information about whether/how PTAs can conduct elections remotely soon. Peter is leading the nominating committee. Look for a message to the TNS email list and consider joining the PTA Executive Committee!

**10. Old Business/New Business:**

- a. Recognition of the murder of George Floyd on May 25 and the history of police violence against Black people.

**11. Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm.**