

## **NYC iSchool General Parents' Association Meeting Notes**

September 16, 2020

Meeting was led by Lambeth Hochwald, PA President, on Zoom.

**\*Opening.** Lambeth welcomed a large group of parents (82 at one point!) and introduced the goals of the Parents Association for 2020-2021 which are Connection and Community. The PA is working on this in many ways including the newsletter, updating the content on the website, the Facebook page and other initiatives like the Advisory Groups. Please participate in all of these ways to connect.

### **\*Principal's Report.**

1. Ms. Bailey showed slides which will be shared with kids on the first day of school. The first set of slides was the Inclusion Policy and the second set was about Social Media Use.
2. All students will have a Google classroom calendar which will be consistent throughout the quarter.
3. Office hours will be until 2:50 every day.
4. Classes will be live with assignments. Your child cannot miss the live class.
5. There will be a "Senior Buddies Program" where 2 seniors will be assigned to every freshman advisory. Upper grade advisories will connect with the new students.
6. Questions. In response to questions, Ms. Bailey said that students should not bring their own devices, students do not have to sign a release for the social media policy, there will be no lab use, and the custodian feels the ventilation in the building is "good to go."

**\*Treasurer's Report.** Kevin Day, PA treasurer, gave the report and presented the budget by sharing his screen. The PA is funding requests as they come in from the administration and the teachers.

**\*SLT.** Robert Cowan reported. The SLT is made up of students, faculty and staff. We need to elect a new SLT member from the incoming freshman class. The candidates gave a short introduction.

1. Damasa Doyle
2. Frederick Moen
3. Carolyn Gruber
4. Maria-Elena Lopez

(Alison Monk withdrew her bid.)

***Voting will take place at a future date as we do not have a mechanism in place for anonymous voting.***

SLT falls under NY State open meetings law, anyone can come, you don't have to be part of SLT Voting will be done via a survey we'll send out. We plan on meeting with the Black Student Union at our next meeting.

### **\*PA Board Nominees**

If you're interested in being a first year parent of PA (or any year, for that matter), please nominate yourself. Nominees were:

1. Caryn Schlossberg – [caryn.schlossberg@gmail.com](mailto:caryn.schlossberg@gmail.com)
2. Maria Elena Lopez
3. Cathleen Roberts
4. Jennifer Poma

### **\*Spiritwear.** Marija Willen reported.

We can now order iSchool spiritwear!

Marija explained that we used to sell spiritwear in person via a table at events, but no longer possible

Temp solution is a shop at CafePress

Order and delivered directly to you

Can find it on the PA website under resources

Will also post on FB page

Each first year student will get a piece of spiritwear for free, handled by Mr. Lau, more details to come

### **\*9<sup>th</sup> grade report** – Marnie Braverman

**Clubs** – Ms. Leimsider has established that 10 of the clubs from last year will continue this year virtually; she will also be emailing students in the next couple of weeks to see if there are any students who would like to start a new club

Nancy Chinchar (PA member) will organize clubs and help students to get them up and running in this virtual world

The PA Board is able to fund the clubs where needed

Marnie to connect with Alison Monk (new parent) re: her ideas around first-year get-togethers

First-year get-together still on hold

First-year parent Zoom to be scheduled soon

### **\*Advisory** – Gabrielle Ortiz reported.

Schoolwide initiative to create a parent group within your child's advisory

A parent will host via zoom account (either their own or a free one)

Parents will decide how often to meet and take it from there

Opportunity to have connection to other parents within the school, within small group

### **\*Speaker Series** – Celeste Sisson reported.

**October 14:** Courtney Harris - Teen Coach

Remote Learning Support for Teens and Parents

**November** - TBD

**December** - College Support with Kate Beck

**\*Diversity in PA.** Jody Alperin raised the issue of making sure diversity is represented on the PA.

She just wants to make sure we're all aware of it and let everyone know that the board is working on it.

**\*How can 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents connect?**

Our FB page

Your child's advisory group

PA meetings

iSchool Instagram and Twitter accounts

9<sup>th</sup> grade events TK once school year gets off to a start

*We're open to other ideas*