

NYC iSchool PA Meeting October 14, 2020

Meeting begins

Lambeth Hochwald, President, welcomes everyone

Ms. Bailey's Report

- She asked that we tell the parents to take the survey for feedback, encourage the students to fill out theirs
- they're already planning for Q2
- teachers are also receiving a survey
- standard for teachers, must be live with kids 2x a week at least although gym is 1x a week, Spanish - trying to host class live full time
- club fairs happened last week, so more after school activities happening
- Rob Cowan asks how many students said they'd come in and didn't? overall about 65% remote, 10th grade has most remote (on Friday we had 19), 50 9th graders coming in, about 50 11/12 graders are coming in
- if you know your child is not coming in, tell Ms Leimsider
- trying to avoid having teachers do 2 things at once, teach and monitor kids in the classroom
- 2 subs are doing a lot of work in the building
- are the kids who are hybrid, will they be in the same room all quarter? not necessarily
- is Ms Bailey sitting in on any classes? not yet remotely but yes while she's in the building
- student led conferences, will they consider doing parent teacher conferences instead? not likely since it's the iSchool model yet parents can email teachers and meet with them if desired
- will there be a curriculum night to meet the teachers? no, the teachers union made a deal one of the things given up by the union was this night but certainly feel free to reach out to the teacher directly
- in November will there be live instruction while they're in the building? answer: there are not enough teachers so we will stick with the plan we're using now

SLT Report – Rob Cowan

- first meeting was on Sept 24 before they knew if live instruction was going to happen so much of that meeting was used to discuss what would happen when schools open
- they welcomed their new members
- discussed protocols to choose students to be on SLT
- it's open to first year students
- we now have 8 applications from students
- will vote and choose 2 students next week and they'll go to next meeting
- priorities for this year:
- project that began last year, based on student surveys, found that conservative students felt they were not allowed to express opinions so SLT explored if teachers should express political opinions, greater diversity of opinions in classrooms, the SLT is exploring this

- student gov't isn't a formal structure so SLT is trying to formalize it so it works better, there are no DOE guidelines
- they want to make their work more visible by posting their minutes
- FYI over 20 students attended the meeting
- now that meetings are on zoom, they can be more accessible
- re: parents attending SLT meeting, all parents are invited even if you're not a member, dates posted on the website, SLT is determining best way for parents to join, for now they can email Rob Cowan who will send zoom link

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Day

- we need to vote for approval on the budget Lambeth sent out
- in 2020 we had fundraising goal of \$60k and we did better than that
- since we're unlikely to spend money in the way we did before (due to Covid), Kevin adjusted the budget accordingly
- we added line for Covid online software and supplies - \$12,000
- last year we spent less than originally anticipated
- the PA is also working the annual appeal
- Kevin reminds everyone that employers often provide a matching contribution so don't forget
- Amazon Smile - reminder that you can use this and select NYC iSchool to contribute money

Other

- Lambeth introduces our new board members: Maria Lopez, Carolyn Gruber, Jennifer Poma
- PA gave away spirit wear to 59 first-years who were in school in person and 15 more who were absent are getting them and some support staff got them plus 10th graders who were in attendance in person
- we have a spirit wear store on CafePress
- Advisory groups: to clarify, these are organic groups set up by your student's advisor, the PA is not running these
- Who has not heard from their advisors re: setting up these groups? Eva Diels (Mr Lindo), Amy Soloway (mom of Alioune Ndaw), Rob Cowan

Speaker: Courtney Harris, family coach

- Our next speaker is a first year parent Rachel Schiller who is a psychotherapist, touching on Covid and how it's affecting our kids brains, stress, resilience and growth

Meeting adjourns