Talent Unlimited High School PTA Meeting

September 23, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:05. President made introductions and introduced the

executive board. Welcomed all parents to building.

**New Business**

Starting 9/28 all visitors must be vaccinated including parents, workers, etc.

That includes performances.

PTA president will send email with upcoming PTA dates through June.

Every third Thursday usually. Next meeting 10/21. Meetings will be conducted in hybrid fashion. But if you want to come in person, we will be announcing three or four events that will be mostly in person. Fun, social events. Themed gatherings. Asked parents for specific interests. Feel free to email her with feedback and questions.

Treasurer read treasurer’s report. Working off budget from last year. Current total is $12,491.70. A printer to produce posters and programs is our largest purchase. Income is largely based on fundraisers and donations. We request $100 from each family for the year, but will take whatever families can contribute. We also have an Amazon account. Sign up for Amazon Smile account. (See Treasurer’s Report for full account.)

Parent asked if PTA is non-profit. President said yes.

President continued to speak about hospitality and that PTA provides food for children after school before performances, etc. “We really ask parents to donate water, or other items to support this effort. Especially around holiday season, we need to make sure the students are well taken care of at shows. Students perform several evenings in a row, so we need parents to support our efforts.”

Principal spoke about new printer. Large expense because it handles playbills, posters, etc. “It is very important for us as a performing arts school to have professional materials. We have the funding to make the purchase, but have to go through DOE protocols to acquire.”

President asked if parents have skills or resources to please reach out to PTA. Some parents donate money. Some volunteer at performances. We need volunteers and other help.

President continued to encourage families to get involved in their specific dept. “We all come from different boroughs. We all have many things we are juggling. But we want to build a tradition of underclassmen parents being the point person to volunteer at shows. As a parent that has been involved since freshman year, I see the same faces again and again. Parents want to be involved. What we need are sheer numbers of people to help with logistics.” Performance calendar was sent out. If parents can volunteer for upcoming shows, we need their help.

Much will be sent out in email. President will send a Google survey to determine what would entice families to come in person.

Parent (virtual) asked question regarding how to volunteer. Sarah said she will reach out to her.

PTA President spoke about our social media accounts and the TU website.

Another parent asked question if emails had been sent by PTA. Sarah said she had only sent one. She will try to send as few as possible. But will communicate through social media, website.

Parent asked about school calendar. Principal responded that his weekly emails always include calendars. Parent asked about if we had events such as dances. Principal said that we do. Parent then asked about volunteering and Sarah said she will reach out to her. Another parent spoke about loving the school.

Parent spoke about donations; Sarah responded that we would like to receive $100 per family, but any amount is appreciated. “We need your financial help.” There will be a donor link in the email she is sending soon.

As performances come, audience and visitors must be vaccinated. Let everyone know that they must be vaccinated to attend shows. This will be strictly enforced.

Principal introduced Marty Bell. Large structure is planned to be built across the street. Construction and congestion will impact school. Structure will take away our light. We [Talent Unlimited] do not support this project.

Mr. Bell spoke about the building. The floor of building is larger than the Empire State Building. Developers are asking for variances. The entire community is united in opposing this. Every elected official is opposed, except the mayor. Community Board voted unanimously against it. Developers have a two-pronged attack. Thirty years ago, residential zoning was put in. This building does not fit within these parameters.

Mr. Bell continued to speak about adverse impacts that they [developers] claim they will mitigate: “You can’t mitigate loss of light.” Permanent twilight in the immediate area. Five years of construction. It’s a mid-block tower. Steel girders will be swung out over school. School in shadow all day; park will be in shadow in the afternoon. Traffic will be worse. 2,700 people will come to the site every day. Zoning code: Community board rejected. Borough President objected. Anti-union charges. City planning approved it. Mayor DeBlasio is supporting project. Boston developer is behind it. Community and our complex have always worked well together.

Mr. Bell asked parents to write to their council person. Suggested students create a petition asking why they aren’t “precious school children.”Principal said he will send more information in his email tomorrow. Mr. Bell said he will have another rally.

President said PTA emails will come from Ms. Sanchez.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47

Twenty-eight people attended virtually; Eleven people attended in person.