

Nishuane PTA Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2022, 6:30 PM

Via Zoom

Link to meeting recording and chat log:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pj3w4htdkjp721m/AAD8kNENGaYFg5CWtqZm2yAZa?dl=0>

Agenda

- 1) Intro/Welcome
- 2) President's Update – Reggie Valentine
 - a) Nominating Committee – filling 3 openings on PTA Board
 - b) Fundraising
 - c) Parent Appreciation
 - i) Fireball – working with Hillside to plan spring adult event (parents, teachers, and staff invited). Used to be every 3 years, now moving to every 2.
 - ii) Pancake Breakfast – on our radar for the spring
 - d) Membership: 205
 - i) Mr. Mullins was the 200th member – will receive a prize
 - e) Pandemic: Montclair Public Schools Covid-19 Data Dashboard available
- 3) Review last meeting's minutes – Daniel Garcia-Pedrosa
- 4) Principal's Welcome – Frank Sedita
 - a) Thank you to teachers for successfully pivoting to hybrid model on short notice
 - b) Learners have now transitioned back to in-person
 - c) Praise to Nurse Anne Ndungu for her work keeping our community safe, and thank you to families for being open with us about their status and travel plans
 - d) Just wrapped up Kindness and Justice Challenge. Students earn links that teachers display in the classroom. School-wide total of 1,091 links. Culminating in a read-aloud commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 - e) Collecting shoes through Kiwanis Club

- f) Thank you for donations of supplies for indoor recess
 - g) Second cycle of CI/Aesthetics has begun, after short delay due to hybrid schedule
 - h) Met with Social Justice sub-committee of SATp, planning initiatives for February
- 5) Assistant Principal Update - Jazmyn Allen
- a) CI (Creative Information)
 - i) CI parent meeting: 2/15/22 at 6:30pm
 - ii) Registration online 2/16 – 2/25
 - b) Aesthetics (for next year)
 - i) Parent meeting: 4/26/22 at 6:30pm
 - ii) Registration 4/27 – 5/1
 - c) Ms. McGowan: information and links will be in Nishuane News
- 6) Questions
- a) Money was raised over the past 3 years but there have not been major initiatives recently. Can some funds be used to revitalize the playground?
 - i) Jessica: we could vote to redirect funds earmarked for air conditioning, but we are looking to resolve the electrical issues to be able to purchase the air conditioners. Upgrading the playground – need to clarify the roles of PTA and the District
 - b) Need to understand the pace of reinvestment of money raised and approve meaningful projects if possible
 - i) Reggie: between tents, supplies, teacher appreciation, etc. money has been spent. Will look more closely to make sure we're not holding cash
 - c) If air conditioning improvements are on hold indefinitely, are there backup projects being considered?
 - i) Reggie: good idea to rank potential ideas
 - ii) Mr. Sedita: we have several ideas for the school, including playground, student desks, field trips
 - iii) Jessica: also discussing beautification ideas
 - d) Denise Kolenovic: 2nd grade and 1st grade classes has received new furniture in the past. Kindergarten still needs it.
- 7) Teacher Liaison – Marissa May
- a) Thank you for holiday staff luncheon
- 8) Committees and Events – Susan Gardner Zartman

- a) Family Trivia Night with Hillside – this Saturday. RSVP link on PTA website. This month, prizes include Montclair Bread Company, Applegate Farm, and Marcel. Last month was Watchung Booksellers, General Store at the Cornerstone, East Side Mags.
 - b) Planning Family Bingo Night in February
 - c) Working with Hospitality Committee on teacher appreciation for Valentine’s Day
 - d) Figuring out how to make Fireball happen in-person
 - e) OneNish! will coordinate playdates when weather is warmer
 - f) Public Health Committee sent reminders about mental health concerns
 - g) Explorers starting the week of 1/24
- 9) Strategy – Mallory Coleman
- a) Charleston Wrap virtual fundraiser is now open and running through June. Items are shipped directly to home, school gets 40% of profits. Registration information to follow in Nishuane News / backpacks. Free items for signing up your friends.
- 10) Treasurer’s Report – Jessica Liebson
- a) Total in bank \$86,441.45 as of 1/20/22
 - i) Not including \$27k for Winter Explorers
 - ii) There are also expenses that haven’t been paid yet
 - iii) About \$45k of this total is earmarked for air conditioning
 - iv) Some other funds are also already earmarked for certain events, teacher reimbursements (most come in at the end of the year), fish tank cleaning, etc.
 - b) Highlights:
 - i) Holiday Gifts (teachers, paras, staff)
 - ii) Lunch for teachers & staff Dec. 16
 - iii) Explorers
 - iv) OneNish! Brought winter clothes and toys to families
 - v) Games and activities for indoor recess
- 11) Communications – Anita Fee Willis
- a) Nishuane News
 - b) Facebook groups
 - i) Nishuane PTA
 - ii) Parents & Caregivers at Nishuane Elementary School
 - c) PTA Website: www.nishuanepta.org

- d) School Website: <https://nishuane.montclair.k12.nj.us>
- e) Class Partner Emails

12) Ms. Allen

- a) Working with Art teachers on creating a mural
- b) Other ideas for beautification / general wish list
- c)

13) Approval of last meeting's minutes

14) Q&A

- a) Question from Ms. Allen on who buys food for the fish. In the past, Mr. O'Connor has purchased the fish food. Ms. Kolenovic will talk to Mr. O'Connor and get back to Jessica.
- b) Ms. Kyle and Ms. Lane's class: Ms. Lane is not returning this year from maternity leave. Ms. Kyle will continue through the end of the year.

15) Adjourn

- a) Next meeting is February 17, 2022.