

PS165 PTA General Meeting Minutes

November 20th, 2025 at 6:00 pm (Virtually on Zoom)

PTA Meeting Called to Order

- Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm by Ms. Veronica Piedra Leon and was seconded.

PTA officers attending: Ms. Veronica Piedra Leon, Ms. Dorothy LeRay, Ms. Miranda Guerrero, and Mr. Seth Rosner

Other attendees: Ms. Nealy, Ms. Werth, Ms. Luongo and Mr. Key. An online sign in sheet was shared in the chat for family/parent attendees.

• 34 attendees were accounted for at the beginning of the meeting. At points in the virtual meeting there were up to 42 attendees.

Welcome:

- President Veronica Piedra Leon welcomed all the attendees and thanked them for attending.
- November's Agenda was presented.

Reading of October 2025 Meeting Minutes:

- October minutes were read and presented by Dorothy LeRay. Minutes were approved with 24 votes and no objections or abstentions.

Reading of June 2025 Meeting Minutes:

- June minutes were read and presented by Dorothy LeRay. It was explained to the attendees that June minutes were delayed and had to be recreated due to the transfer of hands to the new executive board.
- Minutes were approved with 19 votes and no objections or abstentions.

Treasurer's Report

- Our treasurer, Dorothy LeRay presented the November Treasurer's Report for the period of October 24 to November 18, 2025.
- **Beginning Balance: \$7761.26**
- **Ending Balance: \$4311.31****
- She noted that due to actively receiving more PTA Donations this week in response to our letter, the PTA froze this Treasurer's Report as of the end of day

11/18/25 so it could finalize the Report for the PTA Meeting on November 20. Additional changes/funds received will be reflected in next month's Report.

Recording Secretary Election

- An election was held for our vacant Recording Secretary position. **Wendy Guaman** nominated herself for the position.
- No other nominations were received.
- Wendy gave a quick introduction about herself. Wendy has 2 kids at PS165 and volunteers for school events. She enjoys working with kids and helping out the school community. Wendy is also the School's Title 1 PAC Chair and is part of SLT.
- **Wendy Guaman was voted in with 34 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.**
- **As of this meeting on 11/20/25, Wendy Guaman is the PTA's newly elected Recording Secretary.**

SLT Parent Member Election

- An election was held for the SLT parent position.
- Samantha Yearwood nominated herself.
- **Samantha Yearwood was voted in with 26 yes votes, 0 no votes and 0 abstentions.**

President's Report

- **Website launch: www.pta-ps165.org**
- David LeRay, the parent volunteer who created the website, introduced the website to the attendees and gave a small presentation of how the website works. David was thanked for his role in creating the website.
- One of our goals is to work with the school to link the school's website to the PTA's new website.
- Attendees were informed that the PTA's Monthly Minutes Reports and Treasurer Reports can be found on the PTA website for viewing as well as the volunteer sign up sheet and future events.

Principal's Report:

- Multicultural night took place on 11/19/25 - it was a success.
- Reminder to check the school's Instagram page for recaps from Multicultural Night and other events.
- Our School's Instagram page is: ps165queens
- Soapbox speeches that the kids were working on were mentioned.

- Coffee and conversation - The next meeting will be held on December 12th with Principal Nealy.
- The School's Heat system is working really well, so please dress the kids in layers.
- We are at 68% but we need 100% participation in income participation forms. If we do not meet that goal, we risk losing \$300k for the school which is used for student enrichment. Parents were encouraged to fill this out and reassured it only takes 5 minutes to fill out.

Educator of the Month:

• **Palwasha Ferogh** is the Educator of the Month. Unfortunately, Ms.Ferogh was unable to be present at this month's meeting. We are hoping to congratulate her at December's Meeting.

Students of the Month:

- Students were awarded for **Science** and Core Value Champions were awarded for **Intellectualism**.
- Ms.Werth congratulated all of November's awardees.

November Birthdays:

- November birthdays were celebrated.

Additional Matters:

December:

- Attendees were informed of December's next event which is the Winter Wonderland Shop.
- This will take place 12/08-12/12.
- The Winter Wonderland Shop volunteer sign up sheet is available on the PTA Website and it will be posted on ParentSquare and the PTA's WhatsApp Group.

Topics:

- Per Principal Nealy's suggestion, Ms. Piedra Leon asked if there's anything anyone would like to add to the agenda for December 2025. Attendees were encouraged to reach out via email or in person if they had any topics they would like to be discussed.

Safety/Facilities:

- Principal Nealy informed attendees that Custodial Engineer Mr. Romeo was not able to come to the Safety Meeting on Facilities.

SLT:

- Tahirah Francois-Thomas encouraged attendees to participate in SLT meetings. Parents are able to join meetings as “Listeners”. Listeners do not have a vote on meeting matters as a reminder. Everyone’s voice matters and should be heard.

Safety of school yard:

- A parent raised questions about the safety of the school yard to Principal Nealy. Principal Nealy assured parents that a bungee cord is tied around the gates during recess for the safety of the kids. This is to prevent students leaving and to keep out the public during school use.
- The yard that the school uses for recess and school events belongs to the NYC Parks Department. During school, however, we do have an agreement so that the opening is bungee corded so no outsiders can come in during lunch hours. These hours are from 11am-1:45pm. We have school aides and Dean of Students outside to monitor the children. If there is a school event that requires the use of the yard, the hours can vary.

SLT election question:

- A parent was concerned that it wasn’t clear there was notification that there was an SLT election. They were not aware that a position was open. It was explained that we notified attendees at October’s Meeting and Mr.Key sent out information.

Teacher grants:

- Dorothy LeRay requested the contact information for Teachers and Service Providers so that the PTA could reach out and see what would be beneficial and what was needed most for the PTA to potentially purchase.
- Principal Nealy informed the PTA Executive Board that Teachers, Assistant Teachers and Service Providers are able to request items that they need and the school is fortunate enough to be able to fulfill these requests.
- Principal Nealy agreed to share the contact information so that the PTA Executive Board can reach out.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35pm.