

October 14, 2020 Virtual PTA Meeting -via google 6pm

Ms. Perez and Mr. Keijzer will lead the meeting and answer questions from parents

Beth Kufeld and Becky Burgoon co PTA Presidents welcomed parents and new families.

Per email sent last week, there will be a Special Election for PTA Executive Board positions on October 28th. All positions on the board are open and there is one position for the SLT. Please email the PTA if you are interested running.

This meeting was supposed to include a discussion lead by **Annie Howell** about a study group formed to focus on racism in America and to have our community reflect on it. They read a book called Raising White Kids and Annie recommend it for all parents. Many white people have a slim education on race and this book does a great job explaining. It is a quick read, geared towards younger children. In the future they will hold a one-hour meeting in which they will explore podcasts, TV show books, etc. that are meaningful for us as parents and that will help trickle knowledge down to our children. She hopes everyone will attend.

Kadir Karaby– PTA Treasurer

PTA approved budget of \$45,000 for current school year. We are experiencing financial difficulty this year due to pandemic. We have raised \$17,000 year to date. Every dollar you contribute helps. There is a payment plan if you can't pay in a lump sum. We are receiving donations of \$20-100 per month or one-time payments. One family contributed \$3,000. We need to have everyone participate. Last year less than 50% participated. Same time last year, we raised \$27,000- still \$10,000 short. Companies that have matching gift programs, please contact HR if your company has this. Major expense for Baruch is - \$20,000 for software programs: Pupilpath, Naviance and Newsela. This year there are also other expenses due to pandemic. PTA will be sending email for Amazon "wish list" for things teachers requested or other items the schools needs.

Also attending the meeting was **Vivian Orlin, Manhattan High School Superintendent**. She supervises 47 High Schools in Manhattan, mostly in District 2. She has worked with our Principal for a long time. She commended Alicia on all the time spent trying to come up with a model that best suits Baruch. She noted how Alicia revised models over the summer and then had teachers approved for medical accommodations and then had to revise again. Had to re access everything with new constraints. Because our principal has high expectations for students, she believes it is the perfect final model.

Mr. Keijzer and Ms. Perez Katz: New Model for School Program

After our Town Hall just last week, this is a shift they didn't see coming. Currently students see teachers once a week in order to create a Hybrid program. Some class remote only -PE ART Spanish 9, 10 and electives. Advisory kept as our central focus. 12:30-1:20 depending on grade. It is the glue to hold students together for social emotional growth. 57% have opted for remote as of today. They were finding that there were many concerns about live instruction. Last week there was a pod with only one person. Are we providing robust instruction to students? Remote live streaming – sound quality did not allow for teacher/student interaction.

New Model

All students would receive daily synchronous instruction for 4-5 periods a day. This more than quadruples what they are currently receiving. Teachers can focus on teaching consistent classes, and if school were to close, we would have a seamless transition. All students will have the same LIVE instruction. Students can opt to remain coming into school but will be doing classes on a computer. When students are not in class, teachers will be available in the building for office hours and small group supports. There will be some time for the students to socialize.

Why Aren't we Live Streaming Our Classes?

We proposed having students join pods remotely, so they could live stream classes in the building but there were challenges:

- All students in the building would need to have headphones and laptops, as the sound quality does not permit students to engage in discussion without them for those at home to equally participate
- Live streaming a class is voluntary by teacher, so we would need to have full buy-in from staff
- All students would follow the three-group rotation, so they would continue to have only 30 minutes to one hour daily in the afternoon of synchronous instruction.
- Because of attrition, we have had to close 2 pods as it is and have rooms where there are only 2 students and 2 teachers.

FAQ

How will we balance workload/screen time with asynchronous work?

Families have expressed concerns about the amount of work students must complete online. In this new model, students would be required to attend class, and then all other time would be to complete assigned work. They will no longer have asynchronous work and the 3pm deadline would be moot.

How large are the online classes? Students would attend classes of 34 online.

How will we know when to attend class? Students and families will be able to view all their classes on Pupilpath. They will be attending Zoom sessions every day. It will be more like a regular school day schedule.

Parents expressed concern over the desire for students to attend school with their peers. Want Baruch to explore livestream or other methods to continue to have in school classes before switching the model.

Ms. Perez Katz stated we value community and student and parents' input. They are navigating a lot and teachers wanted to explore this new program. School is a different environment. We built model to keep kids in school. But most are choosing to go remote. They had 50 kids in our building with 450 sitting at home.

Contact Mr. Keijzer if you are having problems getting onto Pupilpath. Attendance will be taken through Pupilpath.

Has curriculum been changed to adjust to this year of teaching? Adjustments due to later start but not compromised.

Many parents asked why they couldn't live stream classes? Baruch didn't think Live stream could be done in all classes. They would need to spend a lot more time on this and time is passing. Students would still not have live instruction every day. It would only be 1-2 times a week. For this new model, students will meet 4-5 days a week with each teacher.

Can Baruch Change to 2 cohorts so children that want to be in building will have more time? They will consider this and will constantly be evaluating program.