

# Shaw Avenue General PTA Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:34pm

**Meeting End Time:** 8:30pm

Meeting called by President **Angela Worrell-Laurent**

Board Members: **Reginald Mackey** VP of Communications/Information Technology, **Marcia Mangal** VP of Fundraising /Finance **Audrey Osmani** Treasurer(Not Present), **Sandra Proto** Recording Secretary, **Ana Alvarez** Programming Chair, **Andrea Abrahams** Parent Student Body Chair(Not Present), **Oneka Chan** Delegate to Council, **Leeann Pollard** Delegate to Council, **Ms. Correale (Mrs. Zeltser substitute)**Teacher Delegate.

7:34pm **Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance**

**Angela** welcomed and Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting this morning.

**Approval of last meeting's minutes**

The minutes were approved by Oneka Chan and Sharon Ramnauth.

**District Report- 2016 District Budget Presentation**

*(Dr. Stirling and Lisa Ruthoske, Assistant Superintendent for Business)*

-**Dr. Stirling** informed everyone that the **Curriculum & Instruction Budget Presentation** is online [\(click here\)](#).

-**Dr. Stirling** went into great detail about how the District is maintaining all of the programs (enrichment, Summer Pre-K, Quest, Quest for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will continue), teaching and

Administrative staffing throughout the District. How they are maintaining the classroom sizes **(Lower grades=25 students maximum per class/Upper grades=28 students maximum per class)**. Also, **Dr. Strling** said that Health Education, Social Studies, and Special Education (there is an increase in the need for Special Educational services) programs are being updated and how the Strategic Plan is continuing (ie. Ipads were distributed to all the 4<sup>th</sup> graders and they will be distributed 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the near future). All of the District 30 school buildings are being maintained. Overall, District 30 is ensuring all students receive comprehensive education.

-**Lisa Rutkoske** briefly spoke about the minor increase in Expenditures (1.0%) partially due to the increase need for Special Educational services. **Lisa** did say that the Retirement System expenditures went down due to the low number of Retirees in the District this year. **Lisa** said that for 2 years the District did not ask for the community to contribute but this year, they are asking for the community to collectively contribute **\$100,000.00 (which is \$11.00 per household and an increase of 0.4% in the school taxes)**. **Lisa** emphasized that the school can ask for **1.95%** but they have other resources that they can draw from with the community's approval. She said they receive \$90,000.00 in State Aid and they have Reserves (Savings Accounts) to supplement the budget.

You can read the **Budget Overview** ([click here](#)).

## **Principal's Report- Nutrition Update & State Tests**

*(Dr. Wilson and Mr. Colarossi)*

**-Dr. Wilson** presented a brief follow-up on the Nutrition discussion from the last meeting. **Dr. Wilson** that *the Safari Nutrition Character* will be visiting Shaw and talking to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Also, HS students will be coming in May to discuss Nutrition to the upper classes.

**-Mr. Colarossi** discussed the different changes that will occur this year with the tests. He said that the students will not be timed and that they can continue taking the test as long as they are productive. **Mr. Colarossi** also, said that there will be fewer questions on the test. Coming soon, there will be more teacher involvement in designing the test and the change in the company that created the test (from Pearson to Questar).

**-Mr. Colarossi** emphasized that the test importance is not that much. He said it is a part of the picture and not the whole picture when it comes to students advancement in education.

### **Questions**

**Sharon Ramnauth** asked Dr. Stirling about the progress of the new Principal search. Dr. Stirling said that they are continuing in the process and they are looking for the community's input into the criteria of the best candidate. He said that there is a survey online [\(click here\)](#) and also, Lisa Rutkoske handed out hard copies.

## **Announcements/ Events**

- **Early Dismissal- March 16<sup>th</sup> & March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- **Parent Teacher Conferences 3/16 & 3/17**  
Wed. 12:30-4:15pm Thurs. 12:30-2:30
- **PARP International Night March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
-“Read Under the Sea” theme.  
**Under Water World Contest** due March 16<sup>th</sup>.  
We invite the whole school to participate. Food from all cultures, entertainment, etc.
- **Easter Recess- 3/24 & 3/25**  
(Schools Closed)
- **Kindergarten Registration- 3/28-3/31**
- **Open Mic Night-3/31 6:30pm-8pm**
- **General PTA Meeting- Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 10am (plus Book fair)**
- **NYS Grade 3-6 ELA Test- 4/5-4/7**
- **NYS Grade 3-6 Math Test 4/13-4/15**

8:30pm **Adjournment**