

January 14, 2026 PTA General meeting

Location - Room 441 and virtual

Time: 6:09 p.m.

1. Introduction of PTA members and Mission Statement

Donnette Lyttle, co-president, introduces all the PTA members: Monica Barreto, co-president, Alyceson Reyman, vice-president, Roxana Struss, treasurer, Marisa John, co-secretary, and Helen Lai, co-secretary. Donnette Lyttle then reads the PTA mission statement to the attendees.

2. Review of October meeting minutes and approval

December 17, 2025 PTA general meeting minutes were posted on the PTA's website for review before tonight's meeting. Vadim Korol moved to approve the minutes, and Sheree Gibson seconded the motion. The December meeting minutes were approved with no objections.

3. Budget Update

Roxana Struss reports that the opening balance for the PTA was \$15,368 at the start of December. We received \$370 in donations. The flower sale that was held in late December netted \$137.96 in income. Our snack sales generated approximately \$500, but the expenses amounted to \$377.47. The PTA bought food for the student performers for 4 performances in December and fundraised for the Teachers' Holiday Party. We received \$673 in donations for the staff holiday party. After paying for the food for the holiday party, we have approximately \$100 left in the teacher holiday fund, which will be used for the Teachers' Appreciation Event that will be held in the spring. We have approximately \$14,000 closing balance as of today. Roxana reminds parents that donations of any amount will help the PTA support the students and the school. She encouraged more parent participation going forward.

A parent asks if there can be an actual link provided for donations. The PTA's website should have a donation link for Donor box donations.

Donnette Lyttle asks families to please consider flower purchases from the PTA for upcoming performances. Families should look out for future sales information for the flowers, as well as Bundles of Joy, which can be purchased to congratulate the student stars on their performances.

The Teacher Holiday Party was a dessert party. The spring staff appreciation celebration will be larger. The PTA is hoping to supply lunch for the event, which will cost more.

#### 4. Spring Gala

Donnette Lyttle announces that the Spring Gala on May 7, 2026 will be titled “Where Stars Are Born” and will be held in the school. We plan to transform the mini-theater and the art gallery into a gala space. Parents are encouraged to help build community and get involved. We will have bi-weekly meetings to plan the event beginning on Tuesday, 1/20/26. It would be great if parents could help out for at least 2 hours a month and attend the Gala. The PTA will create a list of companies that we can reach out to for sponsorship or donations. Parents are asked to let us know if they have any connections to companies that may be interested in sponsorship or donations. There are other areas of interest where connections are needed; i.e. venues, décor, food, etc.

Early bird tickets for the Gala will be offered when the visuals for the event are created by our graphic artist volunteers.

The sign-up link for the Gala committee can be found on the home page of the PTA website. No amount of participation or contribution is too small.

#### 5. School Updates

Donnette Lyttle introduces Sheree Gibson, the Chair of the Title I PAC. Sharee Gibson explains that any school that receives Title I funding must have a parent advisory committee (PAC). A Title I school receives federal funding to support students academically, and part of the funds must be used to help parents support their students. A family survey was sent out to learn what types of support families are interested in; i.e., newsletters, workshops, professional development with staff, cultural partnerships with museums, theater opportunities, etc. The PAC works with the SLT (School Leadership Team) to develop the school’s CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan). The PAC partners with the PTA and is looking for parents to join the PAC.

#### 6. Principal’s Report:

Principal Gagstetter announces that next week is Regents week. Students taking the Regents exams will receive invites. If there are any parents who want their students to retake any exams to try for higher grades, please email the school with the request. There is no school during Regents week for students who are not taking

the Regents exams. Parents can reach out to their students' guidance counselor if there are any questions.

9<sup>th</sup> graders are not likely to be scheduled for any January Regents exams. If the student is enrolled in a Regents test, it should be listed in their NYC schools account as a class course, or there should have been an email from guidance.

There is a different schedule planned for students on 1/29/26. The 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades have a career day. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade has "House of Speakeasy" where authors speak to the students about their creative process. Our Seniors will be rehearsing, and there is a MAP assessment in the morning. Mr. Gagstetter will send more information to parents on Friday.

There will be a survey request sent to the parents. Mr. Gagstetter asks families to please fill out this survey, as it is really important feedback on the appropriate supports needed in the school.

Mr. Gagstetter would love to see as many families at the Gala as possible. He is excited about the Gala as it will be his first Gala at this school.

There is a 3/14 SAT date set by the College Board, but TU has selected a different date, 3/31/26, for the SAT to be held at the school. A parent inquires if students with accommodations will get double time. Students will receive accommodations that are approved by the College Board. The students' guidance counselor will make sure that any approved accommodations are reflected in the College Board registration. The 3/31/26 SAT that is taken at the school is free. Any outside SAT registration must be paid by the students' families. Available dates for SAT test held outside of TU can be found on the College Board site. The students' guidance counselors can also help with signing up if needed.

Jupiter Ed may be back for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, but it is not definite, as it is still being worked out. Details about Jupiter Ed will be sent out. Ms. Knowlin is available to help with NYSCA access.

## 7. Adjournment

As there is no other business, the meeting is adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 25, at 6 p.m.