

**Solomon School PTO
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017**

1. Call to order at 9:20 a.m. – Donna Rempas
 - a. Donna welcomed new members, and everyone was asked to briefly introduce themselves. We discussed the goals and purpose of the PTO. In the past few years, the PTO has helped fund the arts program at Solomon, as well as working with the principal and school community to fulfill ongoing needs at the school.

2. Treasurer's Report – Jamie Kaplan
 - a. The PTO account balance stands at approximately \$49,800. \$25,000 of those funds are earmarked for arts programming, both visual and dance. \$11,000 is earmarked for outdoor improvements, both on and around the playground and turf field. Mr. Gamble will solicit quotes for two items requested by parents: benches and replacement/repair of the rubber playground padding.

3. Principal's Report – Chris Gamble
 - a. Mr. Gamble discussed goals for this year:
 - i. Volunteering – we will be working to create more opportunities for volunteering in the school. A new element this year will be the position of room parent, a person who will aid in communicating between the teacher and parents. There will be room parents up through 5th grade, but parents of 6-8th graders are welcome to help in lower grades. There is a new CPS-wide procedure for volunteering this year that will require registering through the CPS website.
(<https://chicagopublicschools.civicore.com/index.php?action=userLogin>)
 - ii. Communication – there will be an emphasis on greater communication between teachers and parents. Teachers have been asked to send a newsletter to parents at least quarterly.
 - iii. Fundraising – With a low-income rate of 60%, not all of our students have the means or opportunity to experience the arts outside of school. Our fundraising exposes all Solomon students to the arts, and we want to continue to make that a primary focus. In part because of the arts curriculum that the PTO has helped fund, Solomon has been designated a Category 1 Creative Arts School for the first time, which means that we are excelling in the arts. (More info here: <http://www.cpsarts.org/creative-schools-certification/>)
 - b. After-school programming – Mr. Gamble announced that Solomon will not be renewing our contract with our current provider, Chicago Enrichment Program. A new provider has already been contacted and is anticipated to start around the beginning of October.

4. Elections of PTO officers – The current officers were reelected by the present members, and one of the vacant vice president positions was filled by Joe Busco. A voice vote was conducted for all positions. Welcome aboard, Joe!
5. New Business
 - a. Art to Remember – Jamie Kaplan has already been in touch with the company and arranged a schedule that will allow all orders to be delivered before the holiday season. More information will be sent in the near future.
 - b. Curriculum Night will be held on September 19th from 6-8 p.m. There will be an opportunity for the PTO to introduce officers, preview the events calendar, and present fundraising goals.
 - c. PTO events that have been scheduled for the 2017-18 school year:
 - i. Holiday Shop – December 5th and 6th
 - ii. Walk Jog Roll a thon – May 4th (rain date, May 11th)
 - iii. International Night – June 1st
 - iv. The schedule of PTO meetings has been set and is attached to these minutes.
 - d. The Volunteer Breakfast will be held on June 8th.
6. The Holiday Shop committee is being formed and will hold a separate meeting.
7. The meeting was adjourned by Donna Rempas at 10:26 a.m.

Submitted by: Anne Moschopoulos, September 19, 2017

Solomon School PTO

Officers

President	Donna Rempas
Vice President	Joe Busco
Treasurer	Jamie Kaplan
Secretary	Anne Moschopoulos

Meeting Schedule

2017 – 2018

September 13, 2017 – 9:15 a.m.

October 11, 2017 – 6-7 p.m.

November 9, 2017 – 9:15 a.m.

December 13, 2017 – 9:15 a.m.

January 17, 2018 – 6-7 p.m.

February 14, 2018 – 9:15 a.m.

March 14, 2018 – 6-7 p.m.

April 11, 2018 – 9:15 a.m.

May 9, 2018 – 9:15 a.m.

June 13, 2018 – 9:15 a.m.