

Parent Teacher Association

BYLAWS

OF

MS 447

Math and Science Exploratory School

**345 Dean Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217**

APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP ON _____

SECRETARY

CO-PRESIDENT

SIGNATURE

DATE

CO-PRESIDENT

SIGNATURE

DATE

Article I - Name

The name of the association shall be: The Parent Teacher Association of MS 447, Math and Science Exploratory School.

Article II - Objectives

1. to provide support and resources to the school for the benefit and educational growth of the children
2. to promote and help develop a cooperative working relationship between the parents and staff of our school
3. to develop parent leadership and build capacity for greater involvement
4. to foster and encourage parent participation on all levels
5. to provide opportunities and training for parents to participate in school governance and decision-making

Article III - Membership

Section 1. Guiding Principles

There shall be no discrimination for reasons of religion, age, race or color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or non-English language, veteran status or disability.

Section 2. Eligibility

Membership in the association is open to all parents, legally appointed guardians, persons in parental relation to students currently attending MS 447, and to all staff members of MS 447, with the exception of supervisors, who are barred by the City Department of Education from belonging to the PTA of the school where they work. Parents, legally appointed guardians or persons in parental relation to students currently attending MS 447 are automatically a member of the PTA; no membership form is necessary. Parents must be informed of all membership rules in a letter sent home at the beginning of the school year.

Section 3. Donations

Donations are not a requirement for membership, voting or running for office. The PTA may solicit voluntary donations from parents.

Section 4. Voting Privileges:

Each parent of a child/children currently enrolled at MS 447 shall be entitled to one vote. Members who are employed at the school may not vote on issues where there may be a

conflict of interest. Such school staff also may not serve as parent members of committees, nor serve on the nominating committee, as officers, or as members of the Executive Committee at the school. Proxy voting or absentee balloting is prohibited.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1. Titles

The officers of the association shall be: two co-presidents, two vice co-presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. Co-Presidents must assume the duties of the President as outlined below. The term of office for Co-Presidents shall be for one year as outlined below.

Section 2. Term of Office and Term Limits

The term of office shall be from July 1st through June 30th. Officers shall be elected by the second Friday in June for a one-year term beginning July 1. Eligibility for office is limited to parents, legally appointed guardians or persons in parental relation who are not employed at MS 447. Term limits for each officer position for the association shall be two consecutive one-year terms. The candidate may be elected to serve in a third term provided no other interested candidate is nominated and willing to serve.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

- 3.1 President or Co-Presidents: The co-presidents shall preside at all meetings of the association and shall be ex-officio members of all committees except the nominating committee. The co-presidents shall provide leadership for its members. The co-presidents shall appoint chairpersons of PTA committees with the approval of the Executive Board. The co-presidents shall delegate responsibilities to other PTA members and shall encourage meaningful participation in all parent and school activities. The designated co-president (see bylaws provision below) shall attend all regular meetings of the region/district presidents' council and shall be a core member of the school leadership team. The remaining executive board members in consultation with the association will determine which co-president will serve as the core member on the school leadership team and which co-president will serve as the school's representative to the region/district presidents' council. The president or co-presidents shall meet regularly with the Executive Board members in accordance with these bylaws to plan the agendas for the general membership meetings. The co-presidents shall be one of the signatories on checks. Either of the co-presidents or his/her designee shall represent the PTA on region/district committees. The co-presidents shall assist with the June transfer of PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.
- 3.2 Vice President: The co-vice-president shall assist the co-presidents and shall assume the co-presidents' duties in his/her or their absence or at the co-presidents' request. The co-vice-presidents shall assist with the June transfer of PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

3.3 Secretary: The secretary shall maintain the official record (minutes) of the proceedings and actions of all association meetings. The responsibilities shall include the preparation of notices, agendas, sign-in sheets and materials distributed. The secretary shall prepare and read the minutes of each association meeting and shall make copies of the minutes available upon request. He/she shall maintain custody of the association's records on school premises. The secretary shall sign and incorporate all amendments into the bylaws and shall ensure that signed copies of the PTA bylaws with the latest amendments are on file in the principal's office. The secretary shall be responsible for reviewing, maintaining and responding to all correspondence addressed to the association. The secretary shall assist with the June transfer of all PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

3.4 Treasurer:

The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial affairs and funds of the association. The treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining an updated record of all income and expenditures on school premises and shall be one of the signatories on checks. The treasurer shall adhere to and implement all financial procedures established by the association. The treasurer shall be prepared to present and provide copies of financial reports at all association meetings. The treasurer shall also prepare and provide the January 31st interim and June annual financial accounting reports to the DOE, IRS (form 990) and New York State. He/she shall make available all books or financial records for viewing by members upon request and for audit. The treasurer shall prepare all financial records and assist with the June transfer of all PTA records to the incoming Executive Board.

3.5 School Leadership Team Membership: The designated co-president of the PTA shall automatically serve as a core member of the School Leadership Team. (Refer to Article IV, Section 3.1 of the association's bylaws.) If neither co-president is able to attend the monthly SLT meetings, another Board member must be designated to attend to represent the PTA. All other parent member representatives shall be elected to the SLT by the general membership.

Section 4. Election of Officers

The yearly election of officers of the association will take place at the June PTA general membership meeting scheduled before the second Friday in June.

4.1 Nominating Committee: A nominating committee shall be required for elections, but PTA members, except school staff, may also nominate themselves for PTA officer positions at a meeting of which all members have been notified. Members of the nominating committee should be chosen by the general membership, but any parent or guardian of an enrolled student may also volunteer to serve on the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall have at least three members.

The nominating committee shall seek out the membership in writing, in English and other languages as appropriate, for recommendations of candidates

for all offices. The nominating committee will also be responsible for conducting the election process. This includes the following:

canvassing the membership throughout the months of February – April for all eligible candidates
preparing and distributing all notices at least ten calendar days in advance of any meeting(s) pertaining to the nominations and election process in English and other languages spoken by parents in the school;
preparing ballots, attendance sheets, ballot box, tally sheets and all other materials pertaining to the election immediately following the May meeting;
determining and verifying the eligibility of all interested candidates, prior to the election;
reporting the names of nominated candidates during the May meeting;
ensuring that an opportunity is provided to all members allowing for nominations (this includes self-nomination) to be taken from the floor and then officially closed during the May meeting;
sending a reminder meeting notice which includes the names of all eligible candidates and the officer positions they are seeking to the membership at least two weeks prior to the spring election meeting;
notifying the principal of the date of the election in writing two weeks prior to the spring election meeting;
ensuring that only eligible members receive a ballot for voting;
ensuring that the election is certified by the principal or his/her designee immediately following the election;
maintaining on file (on school premises) the ballots from any contested election for a period of six months or until a determination of any grievance filed, whichever is longer.

If a nominating committee is not/can not be formed by the end of March, the executive board must communicate that the nominations and election process outlined above will proceed under the direction of at least two members of the association who are not running for office.

- 4.2 Notices: The meeting notice and agenda for the spring general membership election meeting shall be distributed not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the date. All meeting notices and agendas shall be available in English and translated, whenever possible. The distribution date shall appear on all notices. It shall list all candidates in alphabetical order by surname under the office for which they were nominated.

Voting Requirements: There shall be one vote per member for the child/children currently attending MS 447. Each eligible staff member currently employed at MS 447 shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot is prohibited.

Contested Elections and Use of Ballot:

Written ballot shall be used in all contested elections.

Names of candidates shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order by surname under the title of the office(s) for which they were nominated. Names of candidates for the positions of co-presidents must be listed as a team.

Ballots shall be printed with voting instructions in English and other languages spoken by parents in the school.

Ballots shall be distributed once voter eligibility has been established.

Ballots shall be counted immediately following the election and in the presence of the members.

Ballots shall be retained for six months by the chairperson of the nominating

committee or if there is no nominating committee, by an officer. If he/she will no longer be an eligible member after June 30, the ballots shall be turned over to the incoming Secretary.

Uncontested Elections:

In uncontested elections, members may vote by show of hands or by acclamation to accept the slate of incoming officers.

Section 5. June Transfer of Records

The outgoing PTA Executive Board shall arrange for the orderly transfer of records and information of the PTA, which shall include an overview of all PTA transactions for the school year, to the incoming Executive Board. At least two meetings will be scheduled during the month of June for this purpose. Any member of the Executive Board may request the assistance of the district or region presidents' council during this process.

Section 6. Certification of the Election

The results of the election shall be announced by the chairperson of the nominating committee or by a member selected to conduct the nominations and election process.

Section 7. Vacancies

A vacancy occurring in the office of the president shall be filled by the vice president. A vacancy occurring in any other position shall be filled by a special election process. Officers who wish to resign their positions once an election has been certified, must do so in writing to the secretary, and, at that time, shall turn over all records to the secretary. In the event of the resignation of the secretary, he/she must transfer records to the president or co-presidents.

Section 8. Special Expedited Election Process

Special Expedited elections shall be held to fill vacancies in the mandatory officer positions (President, Secretary and Treasurer) in the event they cannot be filled through succession. The Executive Board shall be responsible for announcing vacancies in any or all of the core mandatory officer positions. Notice of any vacancies must be communicated to the general membership at least forty-eight hours prior to holding special election process to fill the vacancy. Officer vacancies can be filled at a special meeting provided there has been at least a five calendar day written notice to the membership.

Section 9. Disciplinary Action

Any officer who fails to attend three (3) consecutive Executive Board meetings shall be removed from office by recommendation of the Executive Board or motion from a member and two-thirds vote of the membership present. The officer shall be given the opportunity to submit in writing an explanation showing good cause which explains his/her reason for not attending these meetings for the Board's consideration.

In other instances where an elected officer(s) of the association has been accused of being derelict and/or neglectful in his/her duties, an officer(s) may be removed only after:

A motion is presented by any PTA member during any meeting of the PTA assembly to appoint a review committee. The motion must be approved by majority vote of the general membership present.

The majority of the review committee must be comprised from the general membership. Executive Board members against whom charges are being contemplated may not serve on the review committee.

The review committee must investigate, examine and obtain all relevant documents, interview all pertinent witnesses, etc., in order to conduct their fact-finding review. All pertinent facts and information must be considered by the committee. The officer(s) against whom charges are being contemplated has the right to present relevant facts, documents and/or witnesses.

The committee must present its findings and recommendations during a general membership meeting within a period not to exceed sixty (60) calendar days from the date of the establishment of the review committee. The association's notice and agenda must cite that a vote will be taken by the membership regarding disciplinary action. The general membership shall then vote to remove or absolve the officer(s).

Article V - Executive Board

Section 1. Composition

The Executive Board shall be composed of the elected officers of the association (and chairpersons of standing committees). Persons employed at MS 447 or community school board members and or community and citywide education councils in the district or region shall be ineligible to serve as an elected officer of the association. Officers shall be expected to attend all Executive Board meetings and shall be subject to removal under Article IV, Section 9 unless a good and valid reason is rendered in writing.

Section 2. Meetings

Regularly scheduled meetings of the Executive Board shall be held monthly, September through June, a week before the general membership meeting, on a schedule to be determined at the beginning of the school year, unless such date shall fall on a legal or religious holiday, in which case the meeting shall be rescheduled at a time to be made known to the membership. The meetings shall be open to all members of the PTA.

Section 3. Voting

Each member of the Executive Board shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 4. Quorum

Three members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum, allowing for official business to be transacted.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. General Membership Meetings

- 1.1 The general membership meetings of the association shall be held once a month from September to June on a schedule to be determined at the beginning of the school year. Written notice of the next meeting, including an agenda, should be distributed before the meeting to the entire PTA membership. Written notice can be distributed via e-mail, backpack, and/or postal mail.
- 1.2 All eligible members may attend and participate during general membership meetings and may speak to agenda items subject to restriction in these bylaws.
- 1.3 Observers may speak and otherwise participate, if acknowledged by the chair.

Section 2. Order of Business

The order of business at meetings of the association, unless changed by the Executive Board shall be:

Call to Order
Reading and Approval of Minutes
President's Report
Treasurer's Report
Principal's Report
School Leadership Team Report
Committee Reports
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

Section 3. Quorum

A quorum of three officers plus three additional members shall be required in order to conduct official association business.

Section 4. Minutes

Minutes of the previous general or special membership meeting shall be available in written form and read for approval at the next general membership meeting. The minutes must be made available upon request to any member.

Section 5. Special Membership Meetings

A special membership meeting shall be called to deal with a matter(s) of importance that cannot be postponed until the next general membership meeting. The president may call a special membership meeting with a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours written notice to parents stating precisely what the topic of the meeting will be.

In addition, upon receipt of a written request from five (5) association members, the president must call a special membership meeting within five working days of the request and with forty-eight (48) hours written notice to parents.

Section 6. Parliamentary Authority

All procedural questions not covered by these bylaws shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, provided they are not inconsistent with law, policy, regulation and these bylaws.

Article VII - Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees

- x 1.1 The co-presidents will appoint standing committee chairpersons with the approval of the Executive Board. Ad-hoc committees shall be established by Executive Board approval. Only chairpersons of the standing committees will be allowed to vote on Executive Board issues. Committees may meet independently but they must take written minutes and provide reports of their activities at each PTA meeting. The standing committees of the association are the following:

Membership: The membership committee shall be responsible for encouraging parent participation, outreach and recruitment. The Chairperson for the Membership committee shall make every effort to coordinate their outreach efforts and strategies with the school's Parent Coordinator.

Budget: The budget committee shall be responsible for drafting 1) a proposed budget each spring for approval by the membership, 2) a written review of the prior year's budget, both of which must be presented for vote at the May membership meeting, and 3) presenting the budget process.

Audit: The audit committee shall conduct an internal audit or shall recommend that an external audit of all financial affairs of the organization be conducted based upon their initial findings. The treasurer shall make all books and records available to them. The audit committee shall prepare a written report or provide copies of the external report to be presented to the membership at a general membership meeting or upon completion of their review and investigation.

Article VIII - Financial Affairs

Section 1. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the association shall run from July 1 through June 30.

Section 2. Signatories

The co-presidents and treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks. Vice-presidents shall be authorized to sign checks when there is only one president. All checks require at least two signatures. Signatories shall not be related by blood or marriage.

Section 3. Budget

The budget committee shall consist of at least three persons and be chaired by the treasurer. The committee shall be responsible for the development and/or review of the budget process, presenting the budget process for membership approval, which must be voted on no later than the October membership meeting. The budget may be amended by vote of the general membership at any membership meeting. All expenditures not included in the budget at the time of its adoption must be approved by resolution of the membership. Minimal expenditures of the Executive Board shall not exceed the amount of \$200 per month. Allowable expenditures for reimbursement are meeting refreshments, office supplies, photocopying and mailing costs.

3.2 The outgoing Executive Board must review the current budget, annual financial status, accounting, expenditures and outstanding bills and prepare a proposed budget for the next school year. The proposed budget must be presented to and approved by the membership no later than the June meeting.

3.3 The incoming Executive Board must review the proposed budget in September for presentation and discussion during the September meeting. Budget amendments may be proposed at this time.

Section 4. Audit

4.1 The co-presidents shall request volunteers to form an audit committee of three to five (3-5) persons. Executive Board members, if they are not check signatories, may serve. The majority of the committee shall be comprised from the general membership.

4.2 The audit committee shall conduct an audit of all financial affairs of the association with the help of the treasurer who shall make all books and records available to them. The audit committee may also recommend that an external audit of the association's financial records be conducted.

4.3 Additional duties of the audit committee may include the examination of all relevant financial statements and records of disbursements, verification of all association equipment and ensuring compliance with bylaw provisions for the expenditure of funds.

4.4 The audit committee shall prepare a written report or provide copies of the external report to be presented to the membership at a general membership meeting or upon completion of their review and investigation. This report shall be included for review and discussion during the June transfer of records.

Section 5. Financial Accounting

5.1 The treasurer shall prepare and provide copies of the Interim Financial Accounting Report by January 31st and the Annual Financial Accounting Report by the June meeting including all income and expenditures, to be presented and reviewed by general membership. The treasurer shall ensure or assist the CPA or someone with a background in accounting, business or a related field in the completion of IRS Form 990 and NYS CHAR 500, due in November unless an extension is filed. Copies of all annual reports shall be provided to the principal.

5.2 The treasurer shall be responsible for all monies of the association and shall keep accurate records in a form consistent with these bylaws and applicable Regulations of the Chancellor. The treasurer, secretary, at least one other PTA officer, and additional persons as needed shall be designated and approved by the PTA Executive Board to collect, count, tally and record all orders and payments. Parents must obtain written approval from the principal before collecting fund raising proceeds from students. The treasurer and at least one other PTA officer shall transport all funds to the bank, and deposit slips shall identify the source of all monies deposited. All parties involved in these financial transactions shall initial the deposit slips. All records of the association including checkbooks, ledgers, cancelled checks, invoices, receipts etc., shall be maintained and secured on school premises.

All collected monies for bank deposit must be secured on school premises.

Article IX - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the amendment has been presented in writing to the membership at the previous meeting, and appears in the notice of the meeting at which it is to be amended. Amendments are effective immediately unless otherwise specified. A thorough review of these bylaws shall be conducted every three (3) years. These bylaws shall not contain language that does not conform to Chancellor's Regulation A-660 and Department of Education guidelines.

These bylaws as set forth above have been voted on and approved by the membership. The most recent amendment(s) was/were approved, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, at the membership meeting held on_____.

Signed By:

Co-President

Co-President

Secretary

(Month) (Day) (Year)