



## **Minutes of PTA General Meeting 11/16/2011**

- Meeting was called to order at 9am
- 73 members in attendance
- Minutes of the October meeting were submitted for approval and approved.

### **Annual Fund:**

- The annual fund is typically the second biggest fundraiser of the year.
- This year, the PTA is requesting that families donate \$500. This is based on our per child expenditures from last year.

### **Treasurer Report:**

- Currently, we have only received \$29,254 in donations which is about a quarter of our expenditures to date. We received annual fund donations from less than 80 families.
- So far this year, we have spent \$109K in program expenses. There is about \$49K in cash currently in the accounts, which is only about 20% of our total budget and significantly less than the approximately \$140K needed to cover the remainder of program expenses for the year.
- This month's expenditures include library software, supplies for the chess team, and the "Greater Giving" software for the auction.

### **Principal Report:**

- The principal advised parents not to schedule vacations while school is in session. Low attendance rates affect school accountability performance. Middle schools look very closely at attendance in their admissions applications, and poor attendance can cause students to lose their placement. Parents taking their children out of school for vacations must submit to the principal, in person, a copy of their travel ticket and/or itinerary.
- Also, parents were reminded to be punctual. It was noted that middle schools have looked very closely at lateness in recent years, in some cases giving it more weight in review applications than attendance.
- Picture re-take day will be sometime in December, date to be determined.

### **SLT Report:**

- The most recent SLT sponsored workshop, the annual Math Mac&Cheese event, was held on October 27th and focused on math instruction. Initial feedback was positive.
- The next SLT event will be the Books and Burritos event scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) is almost complete and will be submitted soon.
- This year's Community Goals are Communication, Early Childhood Literacy and also Health & Nutrition.
  - The goal of improving communication is continued from last year.
  - For fulfilling the goal of Early Childhood Literacy, The SLT has launched a "Storytime at PS11" in the library, where younger siblings and young children from the broader community can participate in a story hour hosted by parent volunteers.

- For the Health and Nutrition goals, the SLT is working with “Wellness in the Schools”. Through this program, a professional chef is revamping the school cafeteria to provide healthier, higher quality lunches. A survey was sent out recently to parents to gauge awareness and opinions about this new program. Any parents wishing to volunteer at this program should contact Stephen McGill.

### **Fundraising:**

- **PS 11 Merchandise:** We are continuing to sell PS11 logo merchandise. We have put in an order for fleece items for the holidays. Items will be on sale at all PTA meetings, Family Friday and also at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade show.
- **Grants:** There will be a meeting on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9AM in the Cafeteria of all members who wish to help out with grant writing. There are several grants that the fundraising committee have pre-selected for the agenda. However, members are encouraged to introduce any additional grants at the meeting.
- **PS 11 Holiday Market:** The annual holiday market will be held on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help set up on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and also to work at the event on the third. In addition to this, we are still looking for donations. The main requirement is that all items must be new. The PTA can pick-up donated items and will provide donors with the necessary receipts. This year, we will take credit card payment as well as cash. There will be arts and crafts activities for kids at the market to make shopping easier for the parents.
- **Scholastic Bookfair:** The bookfair will be held on December 14-16. It will be held to coordinate with the SLT’s Books and Burritos event and with Family Friday, offering parents several opportunities to shop. During the fair, each class will visit the fair.
  - It is the goal of the bookfair that each student comes home with a book, regardless of whether s/he has money. Members were asked to remember to give their child money to purchase books, otherwise the cost of their child’s book will be taken off the fair’s profit.
  - The school will be again participating in the “One-for-Books” program where people can donate money for books for the school or for students in need. For every dollar that is donated in the “One-for-Books” program, Scholastic donates that value in books to a charitable organization.
  - This year’s fair will be similar to last years, except that this year’s fair will be better stocked (as sales can be better gauged based on last spring’s fair). Also, the PTA is working with scholastic to see about getting an additional cash register.
  - There may be several authors coming to speak to the kids at the fair. Dana Solano, author of the “Apricot Brown” books, and Lara Bergen, author of the “Sophie” book series, are tentatively slated to appear.
- **Box-tops for Education:** The PTA has gathered \$190 in boxtops this year. Also, the school can earn virtual boxtops in addition to physical boxtops. The process of getting virtual boxtops is very easy and as follows: Register online at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). You will have to select our school. It is listed as “Public School 11 William Harris PTA”. Then follow the instructions to complete the registration. Once you are registered, you can click to the links of several vendors. Your virtual boxtops will be tallied automatically with your purchase. Registering also gives you access to online sweepstakes and contest where the school can get additional virtual boxtops. The virtual box-top program also allows us to expand our fundraising beyond our parent base, as grandparents and friends can also participate.
- **PS 11 Cookbook:** We have sold 225 cookbooks so far, bringing in over \$4k in revenue.
- **School-it:** We are continuing to work with Just-School-It, an online group coupon fundraising platform. Families can register online at [www.justschoolit.com](http://www.justschoolit.com) and register to receive offers for coupon deals from local vendors. Until June 2012, PS11 will receive 100% of the revenues generated by this program. To date, the school has received over \$1200 from this program.

### **Library:**

- So far this year, over 3000 books have been checked out of the library. The library is run by volunteers. No late fees are collected. You can contact the library at [ps11library@gmail.com](mailto:ps11library@gmail.com).

**Garden:**

- The garden is very active over the winter, particularly with grant writing. The garden group is always looking for volunteers.
- Next Tuesday before Thanksgiving, students will be harvesting herbs and delivering them to a local soup kitchen.
- After Family Friday, the garden group will be doing some racking and maintenance. Anyone, who wishes to help is welcome.

**Political Action:**

- The CEC calendar meeting for the month of November is tonight at 6:30 at PS111.
- The current DOE re-districting proposal, though not desirable in any way, is a very slight improvement over previous plans. In this plan, the northern border of PS11's zone would keep its current location. The zone would expand to the south, however, to below 13<sup>th</sup> Street. The DOE insists that this new territory would result in PS11 receiving only 10-11 students, as students currently enrolled in PS3/PS41 and their siblings would be exempt. There is no indication as to how they determined this number.
- The stance of our PAC is that redistricting is not really solving the root problem, which is the lack of seats, but just making the current situation more acrimonious.
- More information can be found on the PAC page of the school website.

**More Fundraising: PS11 Scrip**

- We will no longer be doing the Cherrydale fundraiser.
- This year we will be doing a sale of gift cards. Member will be able to purchase gift cards for most major retailers through the PTA. In turn, the PTA will receive between 8% - 17% of the value of the card. The advantages of this program are as follows:
  - This program puts your regular household and gift shopping dollars to work. You can earn money for the school without spending additional money. Many of the retailers listed are ones people use on a regular basis: Wholefoods, CVS, AMC Cinemas, etc. Once purchased, gift cards can be refilled online, and the school gets their percentage automatically.
  - You can feel comfortable approaching friends and co-workers to purchase gift-cards because it is money that they would be spending anyway, for things that they would buy anyway, at store where they already shop. It is a great way to expand our fund-raising sources.
- This program promises to be a simple and effective fundraising program.

**Parent's Night Out:**

- The Parent's Night Out Community Builder/Fundraiser event is scheduled for January 18 at "The Living Room" lounge in the East Village. It will last from 6:30-8:45 with an after party upstairs from the main bar. We have one band lined up to perform, and are looking for another one. Cover charge for the event is yet to be determined but will be in line with last year's Gotham event.

**Spring Children's Fundraiser:**

- In this fundraiser, children will draw pictures of themselves. For each class, a collage of all of the drawings will be printed on kitchen towels and sold for \$15 dollars each. If we sell 50 towels per grade, the profit will be \$2500.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00AM.

Minutes taken by Amy Kirk.