



Minutes of PTA General Meeting 12/21/11

Meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

Minutes of November PTA General Meeting submitted for approval and approved unanimously.

President's Report:

- Co-President Kathryn Crosby welcomed back Co-President Juan Brea.
- Kathryn reported on the success of recent fundraising.
 - Book Fair profits net \$6,000. The Book Fair is ongoing online until Dec. 31st. Half the proceeds benefit PS11.
 - A huge thank you in appreciation for all donations to the Annual Appeal, as well as for the hard work and donations that went into making the Holiday Market a success.
 - Chef Cynthia (WITS) will be reworking the school lunch menu, and is in need of parent volunteers to serve salad.

Treasurer's Report:

- President Juan Brea reported on 2010-2011 actuals and existing numbers.
 - PS 11 has net revenue of \$94,399 raised, towards goal of \$300,000. The Annual Fund has brought in \$66,730. The Book Fair raised \$9,000, \$6,000 of which is allocated to PS11 in the form of book purchase credits. PS11 receives a higher percentage of raised funds with the credit towards school dollars for books.
- Gift cards have refill potential. PTA will plan to update in January to educate school on fundraising potential. \$46,745 worth of sales were pulled in from the gift cards, with approx. \$3,000 going to PS11.
- The Holiday Market also pulled in \$7,104 in revenue. As a last minute fundraiser, it surpassed PTA expectations. For next year, it will need more merchandise to draw in a larger community crowd. PTA would like to see this event expand and grow year after year.
- Juan noted that PTA is on target for spending and fundraising as of today. Also, he encouraged members to ask employers about matching funds when giving to the annual fund.
- PTA applauds self-initiated fundraisers. For example, the PS11 Cookbook, as a parent-initiated fundraiser has raised \$3,825 net.
- PTA will be initiating a switch to TD Bank. A new account will provide PS11 with great incentives and perks. Also, a new revenue stream can be created by opening bank accounts within the PS11 community. Once 50 accounts have been created, which are free accounts, with a \$25 incentive, a code links individual accounts to PS11's PTA account, and TD Bank donates a matching portion to all deposits back to PS11. A code will be distributed for parents in January.

Principal's Report:

- Bob Bender announced the 5th Grade production of the Music Man. It will be a full-blown production, with the show starting at 6:30pm. T-shirt order form is going home over break, and parent volunteers are needed to help with the show, and pre-show productions.
- NY State Testing regulations have changed. The ELA Math and Literacy tests will each be four hours of testing over the course of 3 days each. The first day will encompass 90 minutes of testing. Testing is scheduled for after April break, from April 17-19th and 25th-27th.
- Family Friday, as a result, has been moved from the end of April to May 4th due to testing.

- Classroom portfolios will be sent home over break for parent review. This review is implemented for parents to review recent work. As teachers can't meet with all parents, any questions or concerns can be directed to your child's teacher via email.
- A parent asked about PS11 being a nut free school. Bob explained that the cafeteria does not serve nuts, but that because of some dislike of the WITS program by the DOE, it has been difficult to ensure compliance. It is seen that it's not a police-able offense to bring in nuts/have a nut. Bob explained that he is waiting until the cafeteria and lunch workers can comply with these changes.

Parent Coordinator's Report:

- Stephen McGill reported that Chef Cynthia is looking for parent volunteers to serve salad during lunch.
- He announced that due to testing after spring break, PS11 asks parents to refrain from extending the spring break vacation.
- Parent and family webpage on DOE looks great. Sign up to receive email and phone updates and alerts.
- PS11 Cookshop, which briefly suspended programs due to funding, is holding family workshops in 2012. The first workshop is scheduled for Jan 11th at 9am. Contact Steven McGill to sign up for one of the 5 spots open.
- Arrival procedure for cold weather was reviewed. Kids cannot be admitted into the building unless they are eating breakfast, and must take a tray and milk.

School Leadership Team (SLT) Report:

- Kristen Sewell reported on the success of the Books and Burritos literacy night. Noted that evening workshops are experiencing growing pains, and will need more space should they continue to grow.
- Curriculum Connections scheduled for Monday mornings. Flip videos are available for view on website.

Fundraising Report:

- Gigi Karabinakis reported on the following:
 - Annual fund is being met slowly. Donations before the end of year are tax deductible. In January, a matching fund will be introduced, with a \$50 match for all first time donations. Even as little as \$5 is a great contribution, as that \$5 becomes \$55 with the matching donation.
 - Gift cards were very successful, with \$3,000 raised in 1 week, from a total of \$46,745 in gift card sales. During the second half of the year, the cards will be available for purchase reloads, with the same % donated per card back to PS11. More info to come in January 2012.
- Elinor Johnston explained the Box Tops for Education program (each box top is worth 10 cents.). PS11 families should collect box tops over break, with the kids activity which will be sent home. Shopping online on the box tops website also provides PS11 with a percentage per \$ spent.
- Don't forget about Holiday Shopping for your family with box tops and School It.
- Upcoming PS11 Events :
 - Wednesday, January 18th is PS11's Night Out, for parents, teachers and staff. The event will take place at The Living Room, with an 18\$ cover charge, which includes entry, bands, drinks and food.
 - Starting Monday, January 9th, the Annual Coin Drive takes place. Last year PS11 raised \$4,000 in change. A notice will be going home in your child's home folder, along with a ziplock bag, for change collection. A pizza party will be held in honor of the winning classroom/grade.

Other Business:

- Lauren Gill reported on the activities of the Garden Committee. The Garden committed a GrowNYC survey. As part of this survey, one question asked about behavioral issues. Lauren points out that there have been no behavioral incidents, but lots of learning. 28 classrooms have participated this semester. We know that if they grow it, they will eat it, or at least try it when garden produce is offered in the cafeteria. Grants for the fall and early winter have been updated. The garden is in need of more volunteers for the spring. Garden initiative is located on word press blog through PS11 website.

- The Chess Team has established a “Chess in the Schools” Tournament. Interested student may try out and don’t have to be part of the team. Email Mr. Fier if interested. Find info on the PS11 school website under the chess tab.

PAC report:

- Kristin Sewell Barnes reported on the DOE’s proposal to rezone large areas of District 2 for 2012-13. The rezoning did not affect PS11. On the PAC agenda are concerns over testing, school capacity and middle school.
- More info on the PS11 website: <http://ps11chelsea.org/current-issues/>

New Business:

- Committee formed to address school grants. Committee has met and is interested is getting more parents. Please speak with Sue Burke if interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.
There were 37 parents in attendance.

Minutes taken by Lindsay Wilson.