



Minutes of PTA General Meeting 12/22/10

Meeting was called to order at 9am

51 members in attendance

Minutes of the November meeting were submitted for approval and approved.

SLT Report:

- The next SLT sponsored workshop will be the annual Math Mac&Cheese event, and will focus on math instruction. Like the Books and Burritos event earlier this year, there will be multiple, simultaneous presentations for parents to choose from. One presentation will provide information as to the math curriculum of the younger grades and the other will target the older grades. The students will participate in supervised math games while their parents are attending the workshop. The event will take place on Tuesday, January 25th.
 - The CEP was approved by the DOE with minor adjustments.
 - The SLT worked on its School Community Goal of improving communication with the parents, by sending out a survey to kindergarten parents, with the particular goal of getting feedback from new parents. Parents were very responsive to the survey. In the first 24 hours, 50% of kindergarten parents had completed the survey. As of this meeting, parent participation in the survey has reached 75%. Parents, who have yet to fill in their surveys, are encouraged to do so.
 - The minutes to the SLT meetings can be found on the school website for anyone interested in knowing more about the SLT's activities.

Annual Fund:

- The PTA is still soliciting donations to the Annual Fund.
- Currently, PS11 families have given approximately \$50K to the annual fund. The fundraising goal for the annual appeal is \$72K. The participation level is approximately 30% of the families in the school. Our participation goal is 100% of families making donations.
 - There is a suggested donation of \$250 per family. However, the PTA understands that many families cannot afford this amount and any size donation is welcomed.
 - Parents were encouraged to check matching programs for charitable donations that their employers may offer. The PTA has received the official IRS documents designating Friends and Family of PS11 a public charity, so it can fully participate in employer matching programs.
 - Parents were reminded that if they got their donations in by the end of the year, they could apply it to this year's tax return.
 - Though we have yet to reach our goal, donations this year are tracking slightly ahead of last year.

Treasurer's Report:

- The net amount raised this year is approximately \$65K. \$50K of that total has been raised from the Annual Fund. Currently, the Annual Fund has reached 70% of its goal. The recent sample sale raised approximately \$6K. As of this meeting, PS11 logo merchandise has raised \$3,600 gross and netted just over \$1,000.
- The PTA has currently paid for approximately 70% of its program expenses. The largest expense, \$30K, is for the Teachers College Literacy Program which provides teacher training and support. Approximately \$15K-\$16K has been spent on dance programs, and \$14K was spent on the 5th grade class trip to Washington, DC.

- Spending is more or less on target. Currently, we are spending slightly less than projected. However, cash reserves are low, as this year's expenditures have exceeded fundraising by \$91K. Current cash available is \$31,721, significantly less than was available at the beginning of the year.
- We are still waiting on the final numbers from the Barnes and Noble Bookfair.
- The chess team raised \$1200 at the tournament held at the school last month. The families raised this money for the chess team's use. They are asking that this money be allocated to the chess team's line item. This would increase the chess club's budget from \$2000 to \$3200 for this year only. A motion to increase this year's chess line item was made, seconded, and was unanimously approved by the membership.

Sample Sale:

- This year's Sample Sale, officially called the "PS11 Holiday Bargain Bazaar", was held on Saturday, December 4th at the PS11 cafeteria, and ran from 10AM-6PM. At this event, new merchandise donated by retailers and manufacturers are sold at about 75% off their retail price. Seventy-five volunteers worked the event which raised over \$6,000.

Principal's Report:

- The chess team attended the National Championships in Orlando, FL. The team placed 6th place nationally. PS11 students finished co-National Champions in the Unrated Division at the tournament.
- Chess in School is now in the classrooms. Third graders just finished their Chess in Schools cycle, which is a 8-10 week program. Second grades will begin their chess cycle the end of January.
- Student portfolios will be sent out on January 31st with a grade report. There will be no conference associated with the grade reports/portfolio updates.
- The school has been approved to receive a video surveillance system by the SCA. The initial walkthrough has been completed. The system will not be fully operational until the next school year. Thirty-two (32) cameras will be installed and monitored by the security officer, principal, assistant principal and custodian. The cameras will be located at and around all entrances, mandated areas such as the music and computer rooms, and possibly areas designated as hotspots the administration. The cameras will be motion activated and will hold data for 68 days. Currently, none of the doors on 20th Street are monitored. The system will be provided by the SCA. The system will require upgrades to the Custodian and Principal's computers which will come out of the school's budget and will cost approximately \$1600.
- Rehearsals have begun for the 5th grade musical. There will be 2 matinee performances for fellow students and parents of performers. There will be an additional performance on January 21st that will be open to all.
- Third, Fourth and Fifth graders have finished their enrichment cycle. Kindergarten, First and Second grades will begin their enrichment cycle on January 13th.
- Second Graders will begin an 8 week cycle of dance with Pascal Rioult.
- Smart boards are due to arrive before break. The school received a \$500K technology grant. Every classroom will have a smart board installed. Next semester, Mr. Fier will begin training teachers how to use this technology.

Political Action:

- Sandy Myers from Borough President Scott Stringer's office spoke at the meeting. The Borough President is currently soliciting applications for those interested in serving on Community Board 4. The community boards are made up of 50 members, each member serves on at least two committees. They are currently seeking members specifically to serve on the Education Committee. Term of service is two years and the time commitment is approximately 10 hours per month. Members are expected to attend monthly Community Board meetings, typically held at 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. Potential members are screened first by an independent screening panel, which includes representatives from various good government community based organizations. The panel then recommends applicants for an interview. Twenty-five of the members of the Community Board are selected by the Borough President and the other twenty-five are selected by the local Councilperson. Applicants are not required to live in the Community Board

district but are required to have a substantial interest in the district. (Having a child that attends a public school in the Community Board district would constitute a substantial interest in the affairs of the district.) There will be an informational meeting for anyone interested in serving on January 6th. The application deadline is on January 14th.

- The Borough President's office is initiating an online town-hall to allow greater communication between community based organizations. A "town-hall" survey can be found online at www.mbpo.org where parents can sound off on their priorities regarding public education. It is called "Your School, Your Voice".
- More information on Community Board membership and the online town hall can be found at www.mbpo.org.

Gotham Comedy Club Fundraiser

- The PTA submitted the following fundraising proposal.
- The event would be called the "Mid-Winter Laugh Fest". Tickets would be sold for a PS11 Night Out by Gotham Comedy Club. Tickets will include two drinks, food and entertainment (a host and 4-5 comics, most who have appeared on late night talk shows or on Comedy Central). Price of tickets in excess of \$36.00 will go to the PTA. The PTA is proposing to set the cost at \$46.00 per person. PS11 will be required to guarantee 100 people at the event in order to secure the space. The space holds 300 people. Therefore, if the PTA sells 300 tickets, our profit from ticket sales alone will be \$3,300.00. Sales of additional drinks will go to Gotham. However, the PTA is planning on having a raffle at the event.
- The event would be an opportunity to bring outside money into the school and raise awareness of the school in the wider community.
- The event would open at 7:15 with the show starting at 8PM. This will allow 45 minutes for socializing and raffle sales. The event would also function as a community builder.
- Date for the event would be on Wednesday, February 16th. The event would be chaired by Abby Koreto.
- A motion to approve the event was made and seconded. The membership voted unanimously to approve the fundraiser.

By-laws:

- The revised bylaws have been written and sent to the DOE for review. The DOE did not require any changes to the new by-laws. A motion was made to approve the bylaws and was seconded. The membership voted unanimously to approve the new bylaws.

Auction

- The auction is the biggest fundraiser of the year. The date for the event is May 16th. Last year the school raised \$90K at the event and an additional \$20K online.
- The Auction committee is currently soliciting donations for food items and auction items. A wish list for food items was distributed and included wine, beer, rum, charcuteries, cheeses, appetizers and finger foods.
- Auction donation forms can be found online. A google document will be available to people who wish to solicit businesses for donations, so that people can coordinate their efforts. Members will be able to revise the document to indicate that they have made a request of a given business, so that requests for donations are not duplicated and are widely distributed.
- The Auction Committee is looking for someone to underwrite the cost of the event space. The cost will be \$1500 and includes bartenders, tables, and chairs as well as the space.
- The Auction committee thanked the PTA for funding the GreaterGiving software which will streamline the back-end operations at the auction.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15AM.

Minutes taken by Amy Kirk.