



Minutes of PTA General Meeting 11/17/10

Meeting was called to order at 9am
58 members in attendance

Minutes of the October meeting submitted for approval and approved.

Annual Fund Appeal:

- Currently, Eighty-six (86) families have given approximately \$30K to the annual fund. The fundraising goal for the annual appeal is \$72K. The participation level is slightly less than 20% 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.
- Donations can be made in the following manner:
 - Give to an Executive Board Member. Fundraising chairs, in particular, are outside the building every day at drop off and pick-up.
 - Drop off in the main office
 - Email the PTA to meet a representative at a convenient time and place.
 - Regularly scheduled direct deposits.
 - Cash and Checks are both welcome.
- Parents were encouraged to check matching programs that their employers may offer.
- Parent's were reminded if they got their donations in by the end of the year, they could apply it to this year's tax return.
- Donation forms can be found online.

Bylaws Committee Report:

- The revised bylaws have been written and sent to the DOE for review. A vote to approve the revised bylaws was originally scheduled for this month's general meeting. However, the DOE is still reviewing them and the PTA will wait for the DOE's comments before proceeding to a vote. The PTA Executive Board and the Bylaws Committee does not anticipate any major comments from the DOE. The vote to approve the revised bylaws is now scheduled for the December general meeting.
- There were questions regarding the DOE's authority over the PTA. Essentially, the Chancellor's office regulates PTAs and gives them general guidelines and lays out minimum requirements. The Chancellor's Regulations regarding PTAs are public knowledge and can be found online. The main purpose is to prevent malfeasance on the part of Parent Teacher Associations. In addition to this, each PTA has it's own bylaws that are tailored to each individual school and parent body.

Sample Sale:

- The Sample Sale this year will be officially be called the "PS11 Holiday Bargain Bazaar". It will be held on Saturday, December 4th at the PS11 cafeteria, and run from 10AM-6PM. At this event, new merchandise donated by retailers and manufacturers are sold at about 75% off their retail price. Some of the items include, ceramics, designer clothes, and perfumes/cosmetics. PS11 merchandise will also be sold at the event. This fundraiser offers the PTA an opportunity to raise funds outside its membership, as it is always well attended by people unconnected with the school. Last year this event raised about \$10K.
- This years event will include a used book sale in addition to the Sample Sale. Books can be dropped off at Room 101 or given to Gigi Karabinakis directly.

- There will be an Arts table set up to entertain the children while people shop.
- Many volunteers are needed for this event. They will be organized in 3 hour shifts, including a set-up shift the night before. In addition to sales and set-up, volunteers will be need to monitor the kid's activity table. Volunteers are also needed to dress up as Santa Claus and drum up business outside the sale.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair:

- Barnes and Noble is sponsoring the Book Fair again this year. The event will be held on Sunday, December 5th and Monday, December 6th at the Barnes and Noble located at 396 Sixth Avenue (near 8th Street). Customers simply mention PS11 at the register and the school will get a portion of the sale. Parents were encouraged to spread the word about this event to friends and family.
- This year purchases made online can be made to benefit PS11 as well. Customers simply need enter the Bookfair ID Code 10328698 at checkout and our school will be credited.

Family Photos Fundraising Event:

- The PTA is working with a photographer, Laura Waterbury, who will be giving 20% of the proceeds from the sale of photo packages that are organized through the school. The photo sessions will be held on Saturday, November 20th and will generally last 45 minutes. However, there is some flexibility as to scheduling. Packages include holiday cards and portrait packs and cost approximately \$150. Interested parties should contact Sue Burke or email the PTA.

Principal's Report:

- The 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are finishing up their Math and ELA Interim Assessments. The results will be posted to ARIS.
- The PTA funds have paid for the following programs by grade.
 - Kindergarten -- Education in Dance began on the 16th of November.
 - First Grade -- Joyce Dane Program starts shortly.
 - Third Grade -- The African Dance show will be held this Friday. The Thanksgiving Show will be held on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.
 - Fourth Grade -- Latin Dance Program
 - Fifth Grade -- Rosie's Broadway Kids support and the trip to Washington, DC
- Letters sent out to parents about cafeteria billing late last month had an error and were based a cost per day of \$1.25 instead of \$1.50. A correction letter will be going out to parents in the next week or so.

Parent Coordinator's Report:

- PS11 Parent Coordinator's Newsletter has been sent out via email. If parents have not received it, they should contact Mr. McGill.
- The parents were reminded that the ARIS network is available and provides information related to their child's attendance and performance on citywide testing.
- Kindergarten parents will receive their log-in information shortly. It will come in the form of two letters for security and privacy purposes. The first letter will contain the child's OSIS (DOE Registration Number), and the second letter will contain a temporary password. Access is limit to custodial parents and guardians only.
- Almost all parents have filled in the school lunch form. There are, however, about 30 forms that have not yet been submitted. If parents have not yet submitted a form for this year, they should contact Mr. McGill.
- In order to reduce costs, parents are asked to bring a ream of paper to Family Friday.
- The art teacher, Ms. Sam, is requesting large quantities of bubble wrap and old newspaper, in order to send home the student's ceramics projects.
- The parent coordinator advised parents not to schedule vacations while school is in session. Low attendance rates affect school accountability performance, as schools are required to maintain an attendance rate of 95%. Also,

middle schools look very closely at attendance in their admissions applications, and attendance below 90% can cause students to lose their placement.

- Attendance records are available to parents on ARIS.

SLT Report:

- The SLT has submitted the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) to the DOE for approval. Parents can look at the document online. The SLT choose "Improving Communication" as their community goal for this school year.
- The SLT hosted the annual Books and Burritos event. They had overall positive feedback regarding the new format of providing three concurrent presentations targeted by grade level.
- The next SLT event will be the Math Mac&Cheese Event in January.

Political Action:

- Our school, particularly a small group of dedicated parents, has worked very hard for our school to have the whole building. However, we, as a school community, must be vigilant that we keep the space for which we have fought so hard. Also, the school needs more new faces representing the school in the political sphere. There will be a meeting on Tuesday, November 23 for anyone interested in helping. The meeting will provide necessary briefing and background surrounding the issues that could effect our school. Some of the issues are as follows.
 - The CEC in District 2 has been asked to make recommendations with respect to rezoning. To date, the CEC discussions about rezoning have largely focused on Downtown and the Upper East Side. However, this could change very quickly. The concern that the PS11 community has regards the effects of possible rezoning in the Chelsea, Midtown West and West Village. The PS11 PTA political action wing wants to keep monitoring the CEC meetings so they can be prepared for what is ahead.
 - Many charter schools are looking for space in public school buildings. Our school, presently and in the short term, has extra space. The PS11 community must raise awareness that this space is necessary for PS11s growth and will be fully utilized in just a few years.
- The political action committee, previously known as the CEAC, is now called PS11 PTA PAC, Parent Advocacy Committee.

Treasurer's Report:

- Current cash available is \$79,661.00.
- The largest expense, \$30K, is for the Teachers College Literacy Program which provides teacher training and support.
- The Fall Festival netted \$9,625.00, not including PS11 logo merchandise.
- Spending is more or less on target. Currently, we are spending slightly less than projected.

Budget Votes:

- The PTA unanimously voted to affirm the Executive Board's decision to spend \$500 on a band for the Rosie's Broadway Kids show.
- The PTA voted to approve a one-time expenditure in the amount of \$2200 to set up Greater Giving, which is a software program that serves as a back-end to our on-line auction on "Bidding For Good". This will streamline thank-you notices, credit card payments, and donor communications which are currently all done manually. There is an annual fee of 400 dollars that is equal to what the PTA currently spends on credit card processing, which would now be handled by this system. This is an attempt to provide infrastructure to the fundraising that will be available as event chairs change from year to year. Thirty-six members voted to approve the expenditure. There were no votes against. It was announced after the vote that there is a parent that has agreed to underwrite this expense.

Facebook:

- The PTA is now on Facebook. Parents were encouraged to "friend" PS11 PTA on Facebook.
- There is now a Facebook link on the school website.
- There are several PS11 PTA profiles on Facebook, only one is for our PTA. Parents should look for the profile picture that has the blue PTA/Friends and Family of PS11 logo with heart.

PS11 Garden:

- There is a Garden Work Day on Saturday, November 20th, from 11-2. Children are welcome, but should be supervised, as there will be power tools present. Members were asked to bring tools, specifically a rechargeable drill or a circular saw, if they have them available.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15AM.

Minutes taken by Amy Kirk.