



## **Minutes of PTA General Meeting 3/16/2011**

Meeting was called to order at 9am

54 members in attendance

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

### **Gotham Comedy Club Fundraiser:**

- The Gotham Comedy Club event was raised \$1,360 in ticket sales, and just under \$500 in raffle tickets.
- We were fortunate to have celebrity performances by Lisa Lampinelli, Mario Cantone and a surprise appearance by Jerry Seinfeld.
- In addition to being a fundraiser, the event was a community/morale builder for the school and a fun night out for parents.

### **Auction:**

- The three chairs for the Auction, Robin Zachary, Laura Josepher, and Kristin Mannoni presented the Auction Committee Report.
- The Auction will be held on May 16th.
- The Auction committee has the goal of receiving at least one donation from every PS11 family.
- People interested in soliciting donations should contact PTA Second VP Robin Zachary to be invited to enter the google-docs spreadsheet of prospective donations. Once an item is received it will be entered onto the Bidding-for-Good website, so that potential bidders can preview the items.
- The Auction Committee passed around sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the various auction responsibilities, including ticket sales, check-in, check-out, set-up, etc.
- The auction committee especially want volunteers who are interested in learning how the auction functions, so that they can step into a larger, more executive role next year. The PTA and Auction Committee want to insure the continuity of current fundraising apparatus, as people come and go over the years. The Auction Committee noted that this is Co-Chair Robin Zachary's last year at the school.
- Committee members will be in the cafeteria every Thursday and Friday morning to receive items.
- This year the Auction Committee is soliciting food donations from restaurants in an attempt to make the party portion of the event more "up-scale". Restaurants will be asked to sponsor a table at the auction where they will provide a spread of hors-d'oeuvres and finger food. Currently, we have confirmed donations from Colicchio & Sons, Jakes Saloon and Bryant Park Grill. Six other restaurants have been solicited for donations of food so far. The Committee asked if any parents had any contacts in with restaurants, chefs and/or beverage distributors to let the Food & Beverage committee know. The committee has a template letter and other materials prepared that can be used to contact these businesses. Contact Robin Zachary or Kristin Mannoni for these materials.
- The Committee asking for someone with a commercial art background or general artistic ability to help with signage to recognize sponsors at the event.
- A PS11 family has generously offered to underwrite the space for the event.
- One of the most important things that members can do to help the auction is to reach out to other parents about participating and encourage family members to attend and bid on items either at the event or on-line.

## **Treasurers Report:**

- This month's program expenditures included \$5000 to Pascal Rioult Dance Company. Overall programs that are currently paid-in-full have come in at \$147K, or \$10K under budget. Remaining program expenditures are budgeted at \$67K. Current cash available totals \$60K. As we have not yet had our biggest fundraiser, the PTA is in a very good position financially, and will have a good financial base for next year.

## **Annual Fund:**

- The matching fund drive, in which an anonymous PS11 family has offered to provide a \$50 match for all new donors giving between January 28 and February 18th, has resulted in a total of 141 new donations. This has brought in a total of \$7050 from the anonymous family in addition to the funds brought in by the new donors. Also, these funds will be matched by the donor's employer, increasing the donation to \$14,100.
- Participation in the Annual Fund is at its highest ever, 59%, with 313 out of 534 families donating. In absolute terms this is a huge increase over previous years as there are approximately 100 more families at the school this year.

## **Principal's Report:**

- NYC School Surveys have been distributed to parents. The survey will contribute 15% to the school's score on the annual school progress report. The survey can be filled out on-line or in hard copy.
- The PS11 Chess team placed 2nd overall in this year's Grand Prix tournament. As a result the school will receive a grant of \$3500 to go to nationals in Dallas next month.
- The Ballroom Dance Team will have their first competition on Friday, March 18th. Time and location will be posted on the website.
- Kindergarten, First and Second will have their enrichment celebrations at this month's Family Friday. The event will begin with a "museum walk" of student work followed by performances in the auditorium.
- Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Family Friday will focus on providing parents information on the revised state exams and the test preparation strategies that are being used at the school.
- School Budget issues were discussed.
  - NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced that pending budget cuts will result in 5000 teacher layoffs city wide. Specifically, the mayor has said that state budget cuts would require the city to layoff all non-tenured performing arts, common branch, and early childhood education teachers, which would include 10 teachers at PS11. This will be coupled with budget cuts of about 10%. It is unclear whether these measures will take effect.
  - If the requirements for Title 1 funding are raised back to 60% of the student population qualifying for free and reduced lunch, the school will lose Title 1 funding.
  - DOE rules have changed regarding the principal's budget expenditures. In the past, school principals have been able to roll over surplus funds into the next year's budget. However, this year, schools will only be able to roll over 70% of any surplus funds. In the past, PS11 has maintained a surplus of \$60-\$80K.
  - Due to budget issues, the school will depend more on the PTA for program and materials expenditures, so that more money can be dedicated to maintaining teachers and small class sizes.
- The school is continuing to grow. This year's Kindergarten Intake period is officially over. So far, the school has accepted over 100 new kindergarten students. These incoming kindergarteners were either zoned or District 2 siblings. The school was not able to accept any out-of-zone students or out-of-district siblings for general education this year. The figure of 100 kindergarteners is in addition to the 2 incoming G+T classes. Also, there will be an additional First Grade and Third grade class this year.

**SLT Report:**

- The next event will be the Girl's Fact Night on March 29th. It will be open to 3rd thru 5th grade girls and their parents. The fifth grade will also have a program in class where both boys and girls, separately, can ask questions and learn about puberty.
- Architecture + Arroz con Pollo, will be held on March 31 at 6PM and based on the same model as the SLT sponsored workshops. The event will be open to all. There will be a presentation about architecture and design as well as an activity.
- As part of the effort to improve communication at the school, the SLT is continuing work on the new website, which will include "A Year in the Life" program to inform incoming parents on what to expect during the each year at the school.

**Garden Report:**

- The PS11 garden received a grant from Borough President Scott Stringer. There will be a press conference at the school and a composting event on Sunday, March 19th at noon. Parents are encouraged to bring their compost, as seventeen percent of garbage in NYC is food stuff. Also, increasing our composting efforts will really improve the quality of our soil.

**President's General Appeal:**

- The PTA co-presidents stressed the importance of parent involvement at the school. Continuity of program funding helps insure that the programs that attracted us to the school remain in place when our children are of age to enjoy them, as arts and education programs are built up over the years. One of the reasons that our school has some many programs to offer our students is that the school has build relationships with non-profits and grant underwriters over the years, and is seen as a supportive and reliable partner.
- The school is really going to need our support in the future in the face of budget cuts and possible loss of Title 1 funding.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Amy Kirk.