



P.S. 10 PTA

PS 10 PTA
General Session Minutes
Tuesday, April 30, 2013

Location: PS10, Room 257

Executive Board Members in Person: Mike Andres, MariBeth Dono, Stephanie Hochman, Ali Hodin-Baier, Jane Kotapish, Velma McKenzie, Amy Schwartzman and Lisa Vincenti **NEW MEMBER**

Guest in Attendance: Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez

The Meeting was called to order at 8:53 am.

- I. Approval of minutes from the March 20th Meeting. Beth Manitsky made the motion, Jane Kotapish seconded. No amendments.
- II. Co-Presidents Report: Stephanie Hochman & Amy Schwartzman
 1. Presidents' Council: Amy – She and Principal Scott attended the District 15 President's Council and the CEC legislative breakfast on 4/12 during which City candidates had the opportunity to speak. Important notes:
 - i. Montgomery is co-sponsoring legislation in Albany for a bill to look at ending mayoral control of the school system. The bill would also do away with networks of information management that are currently in effect. (Principal Scott noted that she felt these networks were disjointed and less relevant than the local district meetings that used to take place and gave local principals the opportunity to discuss common issues and identify ways to share resources.) There will be a hearing in NYC on this.
 - ii. The new City budget is before City Council. It includes a proposal for \$100 million to be allocated for particular charter schools, which would result in cuts to general school funding.
 - iii. Parents were encouraged to attend meetings with political candidates to learn more about how these and other issues will affect our kids' education (upcoming events are slated for 5:30pm this Thursday at PS 29, 7:00pm on 5/6 at Beth Elohim, and another in Manhattan on 6/10.
 2. 5K Run: Stephanie – Councilman Brad Landers' sponsors this run, which is scheduled for 5/11. Its goal is to raise money for local PTAs and schools that have 20 or more people register are eligible to get a percentage of the proceeds. The more that are involved, the higher percentage received. Please register – we haven't yet met the minimum 20.
 3. Community Education Council (CEC): Stephanie – The election is coming up; 14 candidates for 2 slots. The 3 selectors for PS10 are officers of the PTA: her, Ali Hodin Baier and MariBeth Dono.
 4. Upcoming Events/Activities: Amy –
 - i. By-Laws Review – Every 3 years the Chancellor's Regs require this. This is now happening by a committee of 6. This includes a requirement to survey parents regarding meeting times, which we will use class parents to conduct. A vote on the revisions will take place at the June General Meeting.
 - ii. Budget for FY14 – Currently being worked on; the vote will be at the May General Meeting. Standard protocol is that the budget will be reapproved in the Fall and include any modifications that the new Executive Board deems appropriate.

- iii. Elections – Executive Board and SLT candidates will be elected at the May Meeting.
- iv. FY12 Audit – A 3-person committee consisting of 1 Executive Board Member and 2 general members is now reviewing the audited financials. Copies of the final statements will be available online and notice will be provided via newsflash.

III. Special discussion with Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez

- 1. She's proud to represent our district and to have increased total dollars available for school projects; she's put in half a billion dollars for our local district. She's also pleased to be have helped with the tree guards. She continues to work on \$300K for the bathrooms.
- 2. She commended Principal Scott, and PTA Co-Presidents Amy Schwartzman and Stephanie Hochman on their great leadership.
- 3. The school's anticipated loss of Title 1 funding and the new decision to end the universal lunch program were discussed. The Councilwoman noted that the Federal government will do everything it can to make the loss of Title 1 not feel like an actual loss of \$600K. She also encouraged parents to create a petition to restore the lunch program and expressed a desire to partner with the school to get this changed so that we can continue to help the many kids who are on the edge of hunger.
- 4. Staff and Parents alike thanked the Councilwoman on her incredible generosity and kindness over the last decade. It was also noted that her support for all of the district's schools was immensely meaningful and helps us all to meet the individual needs of our communities.

IV. Principal's Report: Laura Scott

- 1. Testing Period –
 - i. Expressed gratitude for the parents' support of kids and teachers and the PTA's entertainment initiatives during the testing period, which students really enjoyed.
 - ii. Many students were upset by the difficulty of the tests. She gave pep talks to each class each day to start them off right. Teachers were also given professional development to train kids to circle the number of questions asked in each section to help minimize the amount of incomplete answers. Weekend prep classes were well attended.
 - iii. Her personal position is that kids should be tested, but only for high stakes, and not part of teacher evaluations. It's a good experience for the kids that prepares them for the expectations of middle school. Parents expressed appreciation for Laura's practical and moderate approach to testing.
- 2. Universal Lunch Program – Parents were asked to sign a letter of support to reinstate the school's program. She just received word that the State has decided to end it. This is typically based on the socioeconomic demographics of the school's community and families.
- 3. Drills – Evacuation drills are going to begin. A reminder to parents that they should not distract their children if they happen to see them while walking in and out of school for the drill.
- 4. 2013-2014 School Year – Now looking at 7 kindergarten classes; the DOE's priority is on serving all zoned kids. Also need to hire 3 new teachers (if you know someone with experience please let her know).
- 5. Carnival – Funding for this year's event didn't come through. Some of the cost is covered by proceeds from the school store, but she'll need corporate sponsors to avoid having to charge a fee for this important community building event.

V. SLT Report: Ali Koziel

- 1. Testing was the biggest topic at the last meeting. She emphasized that testing is important for the students to complete even if the parents are against testing conceptually. The school does not recommend having families opt out of testing.
- 2. Recommendation to form a committee to have open discussion about how testing affects kids' anxiety.

VI. Treasurers Report: MariBeth Dono (PTA) & Velma McKenzie (Afterschool)

1. PTA report – A report of actuals through 3/31/13 was distributed and reviewed. Of note: PTA store during Health Expo made \$147; 10X10 grossed \$5,400; Read-a-Thon grossed \$11,000 just this month; PS10 Rocks secured a \$1,500 sponsor; and 5th Grade Committee's Sports Mania netted \$1,600.
 2. Afterschool report – A Budget versus Actuals report through 3/31/13 was distributed. Very little activity this month. The budget is above targets, meaning we should have more in the bank at the end of the year than originally projected. Much of this is because of the focus on getting families to pay bills on time.
- VII. Old Business: Stephanie - Student Art Auction raised approximately \$3,500. Beautiful art. Thanks to Assistant Principal Denise Watson for once again being a phenomenal auctioneer.
- VIII. New Business: Jane Kotapish – Fashion Show and Marketplace - Very excited for this new event. Needs help encouraging large number of participants. Teachers and parents will walk the runway and the giveaways are amazing. \$10 entrance fee. She proposed a budget of \$1,000 and projected a net profit of \$1,500. Motion to approve this expenditure was made by Ali Hodin Baier and seconded by Mike Andres (none objected/none abstained).
- IX. Committee Reports
1. Nominating Committee: Roseann Ciarlante – Today is the last day to accept nominations for the Executive Board and SLT; if you're interested after the deadline you can still be nominated from the floor during the vote at the next General Meeting. A lot of Executive members are interested in returning and there are also a number of new parents running.
 2. Recess Committee: Roseann Ciarlante – Will be implementing a small 4-week test of a “lunch buddies” program between mid-May through mid-June. She's happy to get suggestions as to who would be good 5th grade candidates to be helpers to kindergarteners. If it goes well, she'll be asking the PTA to consider some funding for a larger program next year; funding would cover certificates for students, a year-end party, some professional development for staff and additional equipment.
 3. Green Committee: Mike Andres – Thanks to everyone who donated to the small electronics recycling initiative; the volume of participation was double his expectation. Also, there is a real need for more salad bar help on Tuesdays and Fridays.
 4. PS10 Rocks: Velma McKenzie – scheduled for 5/31; need volunteers to help plan and/or work the day of. Also considering a Junior version of this event.
 5. Grandparents' Day: Stephanie Hochman – scheduled for 6/7, the last first Friday of the school year.
- X. Other:
1. Stephanie Hochman reported that PS321 is starting a forum for PTAs in various stages of growth. If anyone is interested in helping with this, please let her know.
 2. Amy Schwartzman reminded parents that there are many committee opportunities for those who are interested in getting involved but don't want to be on the Executive Board.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 am. Motion by MariBeth Dono; seconded by Mike Andres.