

## PS199 General PTA meeting June 11, 2015

### President's update

- Motion carried to approve the meeting minutes from May.
- Thank You PS199 Community for (another) amazing year
- PTA Committees put on over 25 events, including multiple cultural festivals, drives for the needy, lice checks, bake fair.
- PLUS the Walkathon, the Auction and two Book Fairs.

### THE PTA funded these arts enhancement programs.

- Circus Arts
  - Vital Theatre
  - Chess
  - NDI
  - NY Philharmonic
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- Wellness in the Schools lunch program and recess coaches

### Science and Technology

- The PTA bought a new computer for every classroom teacher this year.
- 10 more student laptops
- Audio amplification system for cluster rooms (Art, science, library, music)
- New video monitor in the lobby
- And we had such a successful year that we can make even more technology investments over the summer.
- The Science teacher position

### With the 2015-2016 budget surplus, the PTA exec board propose the following:

- \$45,000 to reserve – help prepare for needs related to growing enrollment and science center.
- \$45,000 FOR SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY
- Laptop cart for science, plus other potential science needs
- Additional student laptop cart to be used schoolwide.

### Open the floor for questions about proposal:

Q: Question about the education value of 3D printing.

A: Eric and Louise will send question to Ms. Schuleman. It is a part of the Foss science curriculum.

Q: Question about air-conditioning the auditorium.

A: An existing concern. Louise encouraged parents to send letters about it to the school. We will

Motion carried to approve putting \$45,000 into the reserve and spending \$45,000 on technology for laptops for the science program and student laptops for schooled use.

### What's on your mind?

Q: PCB testing.

A: Numbers are good; retesting in September.

Q: 1st grade class size

A: Will likely be at capacity, 32 students, and will have paraprofessionals in every classroom.

Q: Other class sizes

A: K, 1, 2, and 3 are all quite large. New families are moving into the neighborhood with older children as well.

Q: How can we help re: over-enrollment?

A: Seventh class was added for kindergarten for 2015-2016. Visible repeated commitments by the District 3 superintendent, that won't be happening again. Ed Aldrige, PTA Treasurer, read a letter from the PS199 PTA at a D3 meeting on Tuesday night devoted to overcrowding, and again at this meeting.

#### Upcoming Events

- June 17 - End of year picnic, Riverside Park
- Community Cares food drive ends June 12th
  - Non-perishables like baby food, pasta, peanut butter, canned fruits & veggies, tuna, cereal & boxed milk.
  - Drop donations in the marked boxes in the lobby @ PS199 on 06/10-06/12.
- Standup for PS199 Friday June 12

#### PS199 Science Center - Karen Cape

- For the benefit of the new parents, Karen explained that Science Center is code for greenhouse.
- The funding is catching up with the budget.
- Still waiting for final answers from the School Construction Authority (SCA), which we expect in the fall., maybe sooner.

#### Audit Committee - Jeff Alton

- Members are Jonathan Kang, John Fish, Steve Kaplan, Jeff Alton
- Review PTA transactions
- Just finished audit of 2013-2014 audit, and will commence an audit of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
- Recommendation for an outside audit, given the size of the budget and the benefits of having an outside auditor for grant applications.

#### Treasurer's Report - Andrea

- Reviewed the surplus in the budget, as of May 31, 2015.
- Question about Amazon fundraising. Used to earn more dollars from Amazon, so there's an opportunity to earn more.
- Reviewed proposed budget for 2015-2016.
- New line item for teaching assistants, hard to find (no benefits, low pay, part-time).
- Question about capturing corporate matching. Certainly opportunity for growth.
- Question about family giving campaign, whether to remind people throughout the year instead of just once. There are so many different fundraisers already, and families can contribute in non-monetary ways as well, but the family giving campaign is the only expense-free fundraiser.
- Question about playground supervision. New provider, new costs, hoping to negotiate the price down.
- Motion carried to approve the proposed budget for 2015-2016.

#### Gardening Committee - Nora

Total area around the building is about 1 acre.

The kids do all the work!

Fall 2014

- Planted over 400 native plants
- Planted over 300 daffodil and crocus bulbs
- Mulched and fertilized planting beds.

Spring 2015

- Ms. Schuleman's science class planted hundreds of herb seeds in containers in the classroom.
- Created a natural woodlands area on the east side of the building using existing plants.
- Students mulched the path through the urban woods so they could walk without crushing new plants.
- Students transferred their herb seedlings to the garden beds.
- Planted additional native garden beds on the west side of the building.

Adding bird houses

Fairway community partners cards

- Use at any Fairway.
- Anyone can use the 199 Fairway card so share!
- Show your cashier the card/key card at check-out and scan before paying.

Thank you to Eric Shuffler and Lisa Shulman, retiring PTA executive board members.

Meeting adjourned.