

P199 PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 10, 2015

Present:

Andrea Steinkamp
Danielle Winfield
Ed Aldridge
Jenni Wolf
Lisa Ballard
Michele Riggio
Rebecca Zimba
Victoria Micalizzi
Jill Urban
Ken Jewell
Kiran Abid
Leslie Cawdron
Mariana Crespi
Melissa Dye
Louise Xerri
Enrique Gonzales

Absent:

Amy Friedland
Imran Husain
Lara Bursor
Renee Eanes
Guy Vardi
Wendy Hutter

Guests:

Corinne Bal

- Approval of October 2015 and September 2015 EB Minutes. Motion carried to approve the minutes from September 2015. Motion carried to approve the minutes from October 2015.
- Welcome new PALS
 - o Introductions all around

PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

- The Deer Mountain recess coach program would have had to go to bid against other DOE approved vendors because of the amount of their contract. Now, however, the amount would be below the DOE threshold, so we may be able to proceed without going to bid.
- NDI, National Dance Institutes, will come to work with first graders for 10 sessions starting in December.
- Chess will return with instruction for second and third graders. Fourth and fifth graders can elect to play during recess one day a week.
- Coding has started with fifth graders. Two sessions will be held this year because of high demand.
- Math club has started.
- Keyboarding for third graders will start with Ms. Taylor.
- Lightsail - Digital access to 1000+ books with interactive tools. May be interested in purchasing 125 Chromebooks for teachers to use this program in upper grade classrooms.
- School quality snapshot - quality review, parent and teacher surveys, test scores. Information available online. We received the highest rating in every category. Louise suggested
- One of our school goals is the increase behavioral intelligence of the kids. Ruler program from Yale. Teachers had professional development on election day. There is also a parent component.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE (20 minutes)

- Re-Zoning Update
 - o Update in the newsletter today.
 - o Since the town hall with Chancellor Farina, CEC has broken into smaller working groups. They have voted to support sibling grandfathering.
 - o PS452 would like to increase enrollment, will likely be a small zone change to move portions of the PS199 zone to the PS452 zone to support this. Also PS452 may be the waitlist overflow school for PS199. Support to revoke the right to return in first grade for students who had been on the waitlist in kindergarten. Some discussion about the priority of students moving into the zone versus students who had been on the waitlist in previous years. SLT from PS191 is supportive of pairing with PS342 for PS191 to be K through 2 and PS342 to be 3 through 8.
 - o Final proposal presentation by the DOE on Thursday November 19th, at the same time as our November general PTA meeting. Vote to move the November general PTA meeting to Friday November 20th at 8:45am.
 - o Final vote on the proposal by the CEC is December 2nd.
- Sibling Survey Update
 - o Responses for 641 students so far. 30-40 incoming kindergarten students per year according to the results of the survey. Will send out an email blast to the families who haven't responded.
- PCB Update

- o City-wide environmental/energy pilot program for the past five years - replace lightbulbs, air filters, PCB testing. October 2nd 2015 reading results: every room tested showed improvement except for the gym. No results are above threshold. Pilot program is coming to an end. Louise has asked the School Construction Authority about who will maintain the filters and whether testing will be ongoing.
- Garden/Green House/Dirt Day Update
 - o Five years ago a group of people got together to plan to build a greenhouse on the roof. When that proved to be too expensive the science center committee, working with the School Construction Authority, decided to move the greenhouse science center onto the ground floor near the garden.
 - o Final funding this summer from elected officials.
 - o Garden committee chair Nora Filipi voiced concerns to Corinne Bal, present at this meeting. She has since opened up communication with Andrea and Victoria. She decided to step down as chair of the garden committee.
 - o Now that we know the science center will be built, it will have a more prominent presence on the PS199 PTA website.
 - o Corinne Bal asked whether we could reach out to the parents of PS199 to get suggestions or questions about the science center. Andrea responded by stating that there have been numerous opportunities for parents to be involved over the past five years, through the science center committee, executive board meetings, and general meetings.
 - o Corinne raised another concern about getting kids excited about the science center. Discussion about how Ms. Shuleman and other teachers through SLT, as well as the science center committee on Earth Day in the spring, will generate excitement.
- Auction Kickoff Updates
 - o First meeting of the year a few weeks ago. Standing room only - a lot of people already involved.
- Support for PS 191
 - o Andrea and Victoria meeting with their PTA president throughout the year to discuss ways to support each other, whether financial donations, services and/or goods, collaborative fundraising, parent mentorships. Potential to bring our communities together for Walkathon. Potential to bring our communities together for a fundraising basketball game with the Harlem Wizards if we can find a space big enough to accommodate at least 800 spectators.
- Special Forces Holiday Party
 - o Date for the holiday party either December 21st or 22nd. Students in the special forces classroom have 4th grade mentors and receive gifts off of a wishlist. If there are some remaining gifts to be purchased Andrea will circulate the list.
- Questions from the suggestion box
 - o What can we do to help kids keep moving even on rainy or snowy days?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Coat Drive for NY Cares Continues through 11/12
- Auction Committee Meeting 11/12 @8:35am
- CEC Zoning Committee PS 191/342 Subcommittee 11/12 @9:00am
- CEC Zoning Meeting 11/16 @6:30pm
- K & 1st Toiletries Drive for Coalition for Homeless 11/16 -11/18
- Scholastic Book Fair 11/16 - 11/20. Come help set up at 2pm on Saturday. More volunteers needed for 10:30am-12:30pm, 12:30pm-2:30pm, and 3-4 shifts. Please sign up!
- Open School Day (K-2) 11/17
- Open School Day (3-5) 11/19
- CEC 3 Calendar Meeting - Final Zoning Proposal Presentation 11/19 @6:30pm (PS 87)
- Thanksgiving Potluck 11/20 @6:30pm
- Holiday Boutique Fair - 12/5 10am - 3pm
- Family Fitness Fundraiser - 12/5 @2pm
- Holiday Party - 12/12

TREASURER UPDATE

- Cash Balance Report
- Budget to Actual Review
 - o Discussion about targeted Family Giving letters to each grade with details about how funds support that grade.
- Budget Request for Snowplow for Yard
 - o Theresa asking for a riding snowplow for staff to use in the yard. The Parks Department is responsible for clearing the yard, but often they do not get to all areas sufficiently, and Theresa is going above and beyond to organize her staff for this. Andrea and Ed will review the budget to determine where funds would come from.
 - o Corinne suggested a fund-a-need campaign.
- Walkathon Download

- o A lot of things to discuss going forward.

NOVEMBER PTA MEETING AGENDA- November 20, 2015 @ 8:45am

Presentation of Safety Plan, Science Center Update, Walkathon Download, Our Giving Tree Update, Budget Review, Zoning Update, Dinner

Meeting adjourned.