

PS199 General PTA Meeting October 14, 2015

Motion carried to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2015 meeting.

Fashion show

Daniella Messina and Leslie Cawdron co-chairs of Spirit Wear organized a fashion show with kids from PS199 modeling new clothes from the Fall 2015 line of Spirit Wear.

President's Updates

Thank yous

Halloween costume swap - Patricia Dineli Chesky, Veronika Surla and Maria Dudnik

Table full of teachers! Thanks for coming!

Thank you Qdoba Fresh Meadows - Chad and Loren Cohen

Thank you to Amy Friedland for working on the website. We are still working to streamline communication and have merged the mailing lists. If you are not receiving the emails go to the website and sign up under Email sign up.

Goal for the Giving Tree family fundraiser is 100% participation. Contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

Student enrollment and sibling survey will be coming out over the next week or so via email. This will help the school plan space needs over the next several years.

PAL and SLT elections Angeline Huang

Ballots were passed out.

On the ballot for PAL: Leslie Cawdron, Mariana Crespi, Melissa Dye, Wendy Hutter, Ken Jewell, Jill Urban

Kiran Abid nominated herself

Guy Vardi nominated himself

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Leslie Cawdron as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Mariana Crespi as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Melissa Dye as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Wendy Hutter as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Ken Jewell as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Jill Urban as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Kiran Abid as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

Motion carried to cast a vote to vote Guy Vardi as PAL for the 2015-2016 school year.

On the ballot for SLT: Hazel May, Scott Oscher, Robert Schlaff. One open slot. Brian Goldstein nominated himself.

Ballots were collected and counted. Hazel May and Brian Goldstein were voted into the SLT.

Walkathon October 17th, 10am-2pm

Elizabeth Nunez talked about the Walkathon - registering online, volunteering online, and getting involved.

Diwali Festival of Light Diversity event, October 24th here at the school, 3-7.

Anu and Jyoti modeled Indian women's attire as a part of their promotion the Diwali Festival of Light diversity event on

5th Grade fundraising for the graduation. Andrea Kahn is the coordinator of the fundraiser, which will be through Mixed Bags.

Volunteer opportunities and how to find them on the website.

Calendar Highlights

Treasurer's Report

Reviewed Cash-on-hand report, the various accounts our cash are in, answered questions about the flow of funds in and out of those accounts.

Linda Rosenthal

Assemblymember for 9 years. \$150,000 in state funding in support of the science center.

Principal's Update

Deer Mountain recess coach contract being reviewed by the DOE.

First grade teacher assistant hiring process is almost finished and there should be

Second through fifth grade chess program. Second through third will receive chess instruction in the class room

Coding 5th grade students 32 students per session. Tuesday morning before school.

Teachers at the meeting were asked to introduce themselves

Bethany Trench - second grade teacher

Danielle Cione - fifth grade teacher

Rachel Baer - third grade

Stacey Rosen - fifth grade

Jaime Zucker - kindergarten

Heather Joseph - para for second grade

Denise Bess - para for first grade

Re-Zoning 101

- No existing PS199 students will be forced to transfer to another school.
- Historical precedent is to allow siblings to be grandfathered into the school even if zone lines changes, but this is not a given.
- Re-zoning is being proposed to ease overcrowding, right-size enrollment, and eliminate or reduce the waitlists fo manageable size.
- Key Overcrowding Statistics for PS199
 - Most classrooms grades K-3 are at, near or above UFT contractual class size limits
 - PS199 had waitlists for K, 1st, and 2nd grade for the 2015/2016 school year.
 - The current enrollment is 912 students, in a DOE published building capacity of 738.
 - Continuing to admit kindergarteners at volumes consistent with the 2015/2016 school year (6 classes) will result in enrollment of 1,245 students by 2019.
- Key Players
 - Department of Education (DOE) develops zone line proposals based on population density, space planning and enrollment objectives.

- Community Education Council (CEC) is an elected board of 12 members from schools across District 3.
- Community-at-large. Parent communities at PS199 and surrounding schools. PTAs and other school representatives. Local residents and property owners and developers. Educators.
- The Process
 - DOE will make its FINAL zoning presentation on November 2nd.
 - CEC will vote on the FINAL proposal on November 19th.
 - As of today CEC has three options: Reduce the zone size, adopt a Superzone, or reject both proposals.
- The Wrinkle
 - PS191 was designated a Persistently Dangerous School in July 2015. There are compelling reasons to question the validity of this designation, which the DOE plans to appeal. We do not know how likely a successful appeal is, nor how long the appeal process takes. Because of the designation, under federal law, no family is required to accept placement at PS191 and existing families at PS199 can request a transfer out.
- Please stay involved and informed. Important meetings are on the PTA calendar on the website.

Meeting adjourned.