

PS199 PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
May 19, 2016

Announcement was made requesting attendees to sign in on class lists to be officially eligible to vote in tonight's elections.

Motion carried to approve the April 2016 general PTA meeting minutes.

Presidents' business

Thank you to the volunteers (Amy Friedland, Charlotte Gordon, Susie Lee, Leonora MacKay, Gayle Slonim, Andrea Steinkamp, Klazien van Vliet, and Rebecca Zimba) who helped with the teacher and staff appreciation lunch on May 4th, and thank you to Qdoba for subsidizing the delicious food!

Thank you to Karen Cape and everyone involved with the successful **Earth Day** celebration on May 7th.

Spirit Day is June 3rd. Be sure to show your school spirit with something from our school store or by wearing something of your own design!

Charlotte Cohn got up to say thanks to her committee, the crew and all of the performers at **Broadway Night**. She welcomed any feedback for the second Broadway Night next year.

Thank you to Jenni Wolf and Victoria Kopper and all the other volunteers for another amazing **Book Fair**.

Community Cares is coordinating a One Sandwich at a Time Service Project. 5th graders from PS199 and PS191 will be making sandwiches to be distributed to the homeless. You can donate jelly, ziploc baggies and soynut butter. Fairway is donating all the bread. Members of the Community Cares committee will be collecting items in the yard on Tuesday May 24. They will also be setting up an Amazon wishlist.

The **Diversity Committee** is hosting an outdoor event, Around the World with PS199, in the yard on June 4th, 2pm-5pm. Check on the PS199 website for ways you can volunteer.

Thank you to Lisa Ballard who served for two years as Co-corresponding secretary, and to Michelle Riggio who also served for two years as Co-fundraising chairperson.

PTA officer Elections

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Andrea Steinkamp as co-president for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Victoria Micalizzi co-president for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Renee Eanes as co-vice president for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Imran Hussain as co-vice president for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Jenni Wolf as co-vice president for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Rebecca Zimba as recording secretary for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Amy Friedland as co-corresponding secretary for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Melissa Dye as co-corresponding secretary for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Lara Bursor as co-fundraising chair for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Jill Urban as co-fundraising chair for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Ed Aldridge as treasurer for the 2016-17 school year.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote for Danielle Winfield as assistant treasurer for the 2016-17 school year.

SLT Parent Representative elections

Four parent representatives are required

Each is a two year term beginning July 1, 2016.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote to elect Wendy Hutter to a two year term on the SLT.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote to elect Scott Oscher to a two year term on the SLT.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote to elect Anu Sehgal to a two year term on the SLT.

Angeline Huang nominated Rebecca Zimba to cast one vote to elect Robert Schlaff to a two year term on the SLT.

Treasurer's report

Reviewed Budget to Actual report through April 30, 2016. Kudos to all of the volunteers and leadership, and thank you to everyone who bid.

Digital Media and Your Kids

Michelle Ciulla Lipkin, president of the National Association for Media Literacy Education

(mciullalipkin@name.net)

- The mission of NAMLE is to help people use all forms of media to be better communicators.
- Media includes books, music, magazines, newspapers, email, etc - the 21st century idea of literacy is an expanded concept compared to the traditional definition.
- A Common Sense Media 2015 study found that American teenagers aged 13-18 spend nine hours of entertainment media use per day, excluding time spent at school or for homework. Tweens aged 8-12 use an average of six hours worth of entertainment media daily.
- Media saturation: Opportunity versus Risk. Most media outlets emphasize the risk, but it is important to understand opportunity as well. We judge kids and parents using new media (tablet, phone) versus traditional media (book).
- Why is media literacy important? Where do we get our beliefs? What are the messages we are getting? We mostly got our beliefs from the people around us in our formative years. Today many kids get their beliefs from media, and we should pay attention to how the kids are processing these messages. Another difference between our own childhoods and our children's is that content is readily available on demand.

- Parents today are the last people in history to know life with and without the internet.

Have important conversations with your kids about the ideas behind technology. Kids are technically savvy but not media literate. We have a lot to share with our kids about how to communicate and relate to each other. Don't give your parenting power over to technology. The job of parents hasn't changed.

Truths about Adolescents and Teenagers

Always

- Finding their identity
- Want privacy and separation
- Brain is developing ("The Teenage Brain" is a good resource)
- Risk-takers, boundary-pushers

Today

- Less freedom to wander
- Time is more scheduled, less free time
- More parental involvement
- Academic pressure

- media is personal, private, and portable
- access to inappropriate content
- behaving inappropriately (cyber-bullying, or risk-taking)
- privacy - something kids need, but is really hard to maintain
- addiction to the device
- art of conversation
- multi-tasking
- assessing credibility - you can't believe everything you read
- growing lack of patience, frustration intolerance
- physical health effects
- ability to stay up to date with the technology compared to the kids
- looking up when they're looking at the phone on the street

What adults are worried about

Characteristics of Social Media (neither inherently good nor bad, sometimes both)

1. Persistence: the durability of online expressions and content
2. Visibility: the potential audience who can bear witness
3. Spreadability: content can be shared quickly and easily
4. Searchability: the ability to find content

"It's not our jobs as parents to put away the phone. It's our job to take out the phones and teach our kids how to use them." A. Samuel, The Atlantic

5 E's

Explain

Outline your expectations, discuss the technology, etiquette, set rules, etc BEFORE you purchase and use the device. Be proactive not reactive. It is easier to loosen a rule than it is to tighten it. No devices at the dinner table. Kids have to charge their devices in the kitchen at night. Sleep is vital for teenagers. Create a contract describing limitations on how to use the technology.

Empower

Encourage their media creativity. Suggest new apps, sites, classes. Teach them new skills.

Engage

Get to know the social media apps. Ask questions. Talk about the media your kids use, so they know you're not always disapproving. Discuss movies, TV programs, YouTube videos. Tell them about the media you like. Make sure conversations aren't only about what they shouldn't be doing.

Educate

Prepare versus protect. Make sure they know how to identify the questionable content, and that they know they won't be in trouble if they stumble upon something inappropriate. Learn how to have media literacy conversations in the home.

Empathize

Kids are growing up in a public space; we made our mistakes in more privacy and kids today don't have that luxury. Their consequences are far greater. We could say "This must be really hard for you," to show them we understand.

Kids are actually very thoughtful about their media use. Ninth graders reflect on their media experiences from middle school with maturity. Their worries about social media are just like ours.

"With great power comes great responsibility."

Be a role model—leave your phone at home sometimes to show your kids it is possible to be without it.

Create a road map—healthy use and boundaries

Pace yourself—technology use is a privilege that should be earned. After they have had a phone of their own for a period of time, for example, then they can earn social media apps.

Keep talking—talk with your kids about it all the time

Sample Road Map

0-2 years old—no technology

3-5 years old—limited screen time, education content, co-use

6-8 years old—personal home device, entertainment content, monitor

9-11 years old—flip phone, texting, gaming system

12-14 years old—smartphone, limited social media, controls

15-18 years old—personal laptop, social media access of their choice

Meeting adjourned 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Zimba