

PS 452 General PTA Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

Meeting commences at 6:32pm

I. Welcome & Announcements (Elizabeth Campbell)

- A. Liz welcomes all...cold and wet. We will get started with our evenings presentation....which is about Ruler.

II. Approval of minutes (Liz Campbell)

- A. Liz Campbell moves to approve minutes. Robin Seconds. All approved, motion passes.

III. Principal's Report (Scott Parker)

- A. Scott speaks.....Some things coming up. Upper grade students ...testing is coming up. During this time we remind the kids what they have learned throughout the year and what they will see when it comes up during test taking. When we write on post it's we can put those things into essays and use the text evidence and use the tools and manipulatives and show them with the test...vs the partner. There will be some review and will be given some tips for the tests. There will be some test sample taking. They will be sitting for a while. 4th grade families -there will be a review starting 2/29. Teaching the younger kids too in K-2. About this time of year they are doing some celebrations and launching into the next units of study. Conferences are next month (week) teachers sent out sign ups. Spelling Bee (thank you to Sharon) 3-5th graders. Huge success. Oscar Breckenridge and Reya Miller represented us. In spring we will start getting ready for the next one. Meg and Sharon will head it up. This is the first time the District brought up the spelling bee so it came up suddenly. The kids got very excited about it. There will be an Art Fair in the district for those interested. Also a Science Fair coming up as well. Coffee Talks coming up. See the Newsletter for dates/times. Upper grades before the break and lower grades after testing. This Thursday is the Superintendents session at Joan of Arc...if you want to see what the testing is about and what to expect for the testing. RSVP to DJ if you are going. Scott said we had the 2nd soft lock down drill today. ID's are worn by all administration. Please make sure you wear

your guest stickers when in school and bring ID. There will be a town hall safety meeting with the other two schools in our building and the measures we take. It's the first Monday of each month...next one coming up. Kindergarten enrollments are all done. Enrollment letters will come out in the spring. Scott has reached out to enrollment (79 in our zone) we have asked to offer enrollment to all. They seem amenable so we can then see how many spots we can open. Parent surveys are coming up. There will be computers set up during parent conferences so they can fill out lunch forms and the survey.

IV. Treasurer's Report (Jill Gabin & Cybele Weisser)

- A. Jill....170K in income and spent 220K. Pledge drive has come in....more money in all categories. Expenses...Cybele.....shared music expenses and piano tuner, field trips for math and learning coach. Test prep books and privacy panels. See P and L statements. \$24 for pay pal fees for pledge drive. \$144 is misallocated. We are holding money for dues and debate. Jill reminds all that we are in the budget process and next meeting is on March 4th and share wish lists etc and share all info. April 19th is the big make decision meeting. What we fund/don't fund. After PTA meeting. Last mtg 5/6 and present budget on 5/10. If not approved another meeting on 5/20 and present to parent body on 5/21 for final approval.

V. Fundraising Report (Lynn Martin)

- A. Deadline for boxtops for education for this year but we can still collect throughout the year and receive the check in the Fall. We receive check twice a year. First check \$175 so far this year. The next check is coming in April the deadline is 2/26. Fairway...is having the next double day on March 1st. Amazon smile....Lynn shared how to do this....sign up PS 452. Target program ending May.

VI. New business (Liz Campbell)

- A. Ruler and Emotional Intelligence. An overview for Families. It's a program to discuss emotions and how they play into the children's day. Adam has already implemented some of what he has learned. Why emotions matter and the skills that underlie emotional intelligence. This will be a 2 year rollout and we are in year 1. What do we and our children experience each day. We did a visualization exercise. Lawrence asked how we feel when we get up and how we feel when we make breakfast? Or are we too rushed. How do they feel when they get up? To school? If we work outside the home is there transition after we drop them off to school and how we feel when we commute? Is there a shift when we have meetings? Now when we pick up our children after school? Do homework? Dinner time? How do we feel? What feelings to do we think our children have during the day and

at bedtime? Before going to bed? What emotions do they experience? Do we feel we are on an emotional roller coaster and think about how they feel. We experience about 400-500 different emotions during the day and what are we doing about it? Emotions matter in parenting. Memory, attention and learning. If we are distracted. Stressed or upset? Can we pay attention? Can our children? Emotions drive decision making. Does it feel right if we are making decisions when we don't feel good? Are they the right decisions? People that have good emotional skills have good qualities. Same for children. Their emotions will influence their decisions, work, and friendships. Emotions trigger how we feel. Same for kids. Emotional skilled kids have less illness, etc. Emotions matter in everyday life. We use feelings as valuable information to impact decision making and relationships. If a child is in a situation and someone is acting inappropriately and your child is feeling good they may make the right decisions vs negative ones. (5) skills that comprise the emotional intelligence. Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing, and Regulating. They all work together. If you can recognize your emotions you can understand and regulate how you feel. What the research tells you....less aggressive, less likely to use alcohol and drugs and perform better in school. Teachers...report less burnout, regulate emotions and when we are not in the appropriate mindset for what they are about to do to teach the children. Classrooms will be better able to teach to the kids. Choosing a social emotional program.....Adam says they were looking for the ideal program for our school (452) more teachers coming on board and the school growing and how we would have one cohesive approach to develop what we were going to do day to day. Ruler has 25 years of research. Begins with the adults (training) and they reflect on their emotions and testing their ability to understand their emotions and how challenging it is they appreciate how the program would be a slow introduction for the kids. At end of this training they hope they will have a good foundation to work off of. Tools they are rolling out over this year into next year are ...Class Charter and will discuss in class how kids want to feel during the day in school and the teachers then say what are we going to do if things don't go our way...how do we keep to this charter and what will we do when they don't. Kids referring to it. Next tool is the Mood Meter is quadrant (4) plot themselves how they are feeling....Red angry, yellow excited, Up and down is energy and left to right is pleasant or unpleasant. Once you understand the quadrants you can have conversations. Meta Moments...when something goes wrong and you feel a bit fragile how can you slow down that moment and recognize you need to make a good choice about how you feel. Last one is the Blueprint which they have not been trained in yet but is about conflict resolutions.

- B. Questions.....? Lauren asked...a lot of the behavior is what are externally obvious between 2 people....does it address when kids feel internal struggles but like how can kids join groups when they feel excluded? Adam

- stated it's not just one area but they are trying to train the kids about where you are...calm (green) but what they can do to get ready for what they need to do....what are some strategies they can take on? With the training there are emotions that are difficult to find....and facial reactions but they are being trained how to find these things out with the kids. You are giving yourself cues...Scott shared they are training the kids on what cues their body is giving them and how they will go through the process and how she feels and how to get through it. Amy Staub asked...what are we saying to the kids when they have these moments....it's not as if this then do that...but more of how you feel situations. There is not one easy step answer. Then what comes next will depend on their emotional independence. You can ask your child where on the Mood meter are you? Or the class Charter...both have happened in the classrooms.
- C. Lauren- wellness started trash troopers but focusing on recycling during the lunch only not in the classrooms. They will receive green wrist bands. Kid driven and they have teams which change each week and find out what this is about.
 - D. Laura Goldenberg- Pledge Drive- quiet month again....Auction around the corner so it's the same message but share the message with friends about when they will give to the pledge drive.
 - E. Community Affairs- (2) info sessions CEC is holding. March 1st at PS 145 and March 15 at PS 87? Talking about school choice. These are important meetings to go to and need to get the families to rally at PS 87 at 6:30pm.
 - F. Community Partners program- There is a Blue Mercury event and open to just our families and offer discount.
 - G. Gail Brewster meeting about overcrowding for NYC schools and money owed to us...March 8th 6-9pm PS 125...425 West 123rd Street.
 - H. Auction- Cheryl Bennett. Inside the 4 week window. Auction is April 2nd. Items needed...tickets, show, sports. Parent teacher conferences teacher time raffles will be sold for golden ticket and sales. Need volunteers for Wednesday 3/2nd....for evening sessions. The 3rd from 1:45pm-3pm. Need sign ups for other school auctions.
 - I. Community outreach- Karen Dahl- over 100 cards for homebound New Yorkers, Dorot meals...classes interacted with seniors and it went well. Book Drive is going well for Project Cicero need to be in by 3/9.
 - J. No SLT update from Elissa.

New Business: Inside Schools....lovely review of PS 452 was shared with us.

VII. Adjourn

- A. Liz makes a motion to adjourn. Robin seconds. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

