

March 27, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Stacey Winter and Sarah Courtemanche at 6:40pm.

**I. Call to Order/President's Report (Sarah Courtemanche & Stacey Winter)**

- Make introductions to new families

**II. Approval of Minutes (Stacey Winter)**

- Jill Gabin makes a motion to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2018 General PTA meeting. Dan Cohen seconds. All in favor. Minutes are approved at 6:42pm.

**III. Principal's Report (Scott Parker)**

- Family and Community Ties
  - Enrollment season. If you have child eligible for pre-K for September, make sure you get application completed before March 30th. Remind friends.
  - K admissions. Letters have gone out. We had seats for all in-zone, siblings, and out of zone pre-K students. Anyone who ranked us in the right order, received an offer. Also, received some of the PS 87 overflow, so we will open a 4th K section.
  - Pre-registration is happening now. We are part of a diversity pilot. We received names of 200 names of students in district 3 who are interested in coming here for K, who are in but don't live in our zone, are a sibling or in pre-K. About 20 of them have free and reduced lunch status (10% of the 200 kids), so if we have space, we will be able to offer them spots
  - Middle school: we don't have letters yet. Expect to get those in April after the break. Historically, mid April.
  - There are changes happening in the middle school admissions process which will go into effect for the current 4th graders. They are putting out proposals, and looking for parent feedback. There is a meeting tonight and another one on April 10th. DOE will submit final proposal in May. We sent out letter in last PS 452 news outlining changes. There is an email address where you can provide feedback.

Proposed changes:

- 1. Blind ranking (schools will not see how students ranked them on the application)

- 2. Looking at academic diversity. 10% of seats will go to students with score of 1 on Math state test and 15% to students with of score of 2.
- 3rd-5th grade coffee at 8am on Thurs. 1st and 2nd grade families in April.
- Effective School Leadership
  - Last year, we received rewards school status. This year, we did qualify for reward school status. However, we didn't get the status because we needed to have at least 95% of students take the state exam, and the number was less than 95%.
- Supportive school environments
  - Adam Javidi led RULER parent workshop. Continuing to do meta moment training throughout the school. Planning to go to RULER training in July. Missed the deadline in March. Up to date on all safety drills, have 3 more to do. 1 more lock down, and 2 more evacuation (ie. fire drills).
  - Mindfulness room is open. There are some events available for families. Sign up on sign up genius to participate.
- Collaborative teachers
  - Are meeting goals. Entering new PD cycles, looking at math intervention and math extension, and setting more aggressive IEP goals. Looking at vocabulary and grammar goals.
- Rigorous instructions and achievement
  - 8 children in K-5 participated in science expo.
  - State testing: ELA on April 11th and 12th. Math will be on May 1st and 2nd.
- Laura Goldenberg asked about the lunch committee and revised recess time. She has heard from a number of 4th graders that they do not like it. Scott explained the process, and that the teachers leading the lunch committee are working to adjust the plan and add an outdoor choice for choice time. Scott commented he wished the children would raise their concerns in school, because they look very happy, and happier than the way lunch/recess was structured before.
- Sharon discussed the survey. Parent participation is at 49%. It is important, the results help the SLT create the Comprehensive Education Plan. When the PTA applies for grants, they look at how many parents complete the survey when considering whether to approve.

#### IV. **Treasurer's Report (Dan Cohen & Caitlin Sullivan)**

- Budget Process 2018-2019: Budget Committee will be meeting to review budget allocations for next year. All parents are invited. April 16th at 8:45am in room G11. The first of 4 meetings.

- Expenses: Music band program - slightly over budget because we purchased risers (foldable stairs) and were more expensive than we anticipated. For overall category, we are under budget. Did payment for Lincoln Center Film.
- Income: Read-a-thon. Budgeted \$3,500, actually raised \$6,500.

#### V. **Fundraising Report (Laura Goldenberg)**

- Auction (Haley Mustac & Mariela Shalbaf): Tickets are on sale. Golden tickets and teacher time raffles on sale on website. Doing last push for donations. Last year, we had about 191 donations. Now, we have about 195. Our goal is 300 donations.
  - If you are not interested in getting donations but would like to sponsor, Amy Aversa is looking for about \$1,500 in instacart donations to help sponsor the cost of the food.
  - Volunteers: had good numbers of parent volunteers at PS 9 and Anderson. Need for PS 87 (April 21st) and Hunter.
- Thanks to Millie and Maanavi who did a great job with the read-a-thon.
- Dan Gutman: Opportunity to buy books that he will sign when he comes to visit the school. Deadline is April 9th.
- Book Fair (May 15-16): will need volunteers
- Shop Amazon and Fairway (not doing as well on AmazonSmile). Current promotion that they are giving us 3x the regular amount.

#### VI. **Committee Reports**

- Community Building Committee (Sharmilee Ramudit & Allegra Parks):
  - AJ is working on the 3rd annual variety show on May 2nd, and will let us know if she needs help.
  - AJ is working on mindfulness events
  - Diversity and Inclusion Initiative: To hear more about what they've been doing, email: ps452diversityandinclusion@gmail.com.

#### VII. **SLT Update (Jill Gabin)**

- Sharmilee presented to the SLT, which is very supportive of the diversity initiative. Working to figure out the right program.
- Also Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP). Looked at mid-year monitoring, they are tracking to mid year goals in all areas of the current CEP.

- Counseling in the Schools, funded by Helen Rosenthal. PS 199, PS 191 and PS 452 were invited to kick off the meeting. Created to support concerns stemming from the rezoning in district 3. Discussed how SLT felt, talked about how to bring communities together, particularly at the southern end of district 3. A lot of the families in the Amsterdam Houses are still going to 191 even though one of the major initiatives was to divide Amsterdam Houses among the other schools. The Amsterdam Houses families said they don't feel welcome at PS 199 and PS 452. Focus on how to build community, principals are working to build initiatives. Talking about a joint Frost Valley initiative with the schools. Scott talked about some of the counseling needs from our school at the beginning of the year. We will be doing something called The Sandwich Initiative on May 22nd. The 5th graders at PS 452 and PS 191 will come together and make sandwiches in one school's cafeteria for charity. Will be asking parents to help supervise and donate food. Will continue to look for collaborative events to do together.

## VIII. **New Business (Sarah Courtemanche & Stacey Winter)**

- Updated Bylaws Review and Approval
  - Parent at Large: Currently, it is mandated that one parent at large needs to be from K and the other can be from any other grade. Changing it so that one parent needs to be from pre-K or K, and the other can be from any other grade.
  - Minutes: Currently, if you want to see PTA meeting minutes, you can only review hardcopy in main office. We want to change bylaws so that we can post minutes online to make more accessible.
  - Budget: Currently EB can approve expenditures up to \$1,000. Over \$1,000, EB cannot approve and General PTA has to vote (which creates lag time until next Gen PTA meeting is scheduled). We are proposing increasing threshold that EB can approve to \$5,000. Any higher expenses require approval from the General PTA.
  - Dan Cohen makes a motion to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws. Shehriyar Antia seconds. The 20 people present all vote yes. Motion approved.
- Vote: Two classroom needs
  - Purchase and installation of 2 new air conditioners for 4th grade and K classrooms
  - Cost is \$4,150
  - Jill Gabin makes a motion to approve the spend of \$4,150 towards the purchase and installation of 2 air conditioners. Dan Cohen seconds. The 19 people present all vote yes. Motion approved.
- Election of Executive Board Officers 2018-2019
  - Will be reaching out to existing EB members and Committee members to see if they are interested in continuing. They are also very interested in encouraging new people who are interested to reach out to Stacey and Sarah. Please start thinking about it. There will also be 2 SLT seats available, which are a 2 year commitment.

IX. Caitlin Sullivan makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jill Gabin seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

**Next Meeting - April 24, 2018**