

Minutes
PS 166 PTA General Meeting
September 20, 2012

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by the PTA co-Presidents.

PTA President's Welcome

The PTA Co-Presidents, Christine DiPasquale and Karyn Gooden, opened the meeting welcoming everyone and introducing a couple of the specialist teachers, Ms. Robellow and Ms. Ascensio. Following that they introduced the I.A. Principal D. Mastriano.

Principal's Report

Principal Mastriano introduced herself and spoke briefly to parents about her work experiences which included time as a classroom teacher, literacy coach and assistant principal.

Vice Principal

Ms. Wilson introduced herself and spoke briefly to parents about her work experiences.

Debra Markewich's Report

Ms. Markewich's office is upstairs in room 212 now should parents need to see her. Then Ms. Markewich made the following announcements:

- If you are not on the Yahoo email list and want to be included please let her know
- ARIS is a website that allows parents to access information on their child's academic progress

Adoption of the June Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the June 2012 PTA General Meeting was unanimously approved by the following resolution:

Approval of the Minutes

RESOLVED, that minutes of the June PTA Board meeting are approved.

PTA Co-President's Announcements

- Letters will be going home about extended day. Extended day will begin October 1
- PS 166 received a \$600,000 grant for the playground to be renovated. Originally we were told that the work would take place in the summer of 2013, but that seems unlikely.

- PS 166 received a technology grant 2 years ago that allowed the computer lab to be renovated, at least 1 new computer to be placed in each classroom and smart boards should be installed soon.
- Exemplars were ordered in science, math, differentiated math and creative writing at the K-8 levels
- Math Step workbooks were ordered for kindergarten
- The teacher discretionary funds will be given out. These funds allow each teacher to buy items needed for the classroom with funds from Friends of PS 166.
- Last year a decision was made following discussions with teachers and our network leader that the teacher assistants were not as effective in the upper grades. A decision was made that it was more important to try to hire a curriculum coach for PS 166 than to fund assistants in the upper grades. We hope with the help of the new IA principal that someone will be hired soon.
- New rugs were purchased for some classrooms. This will begin a rotation where rugs will be replaced on a rolling basis.
- Introductions of the Executive Board and head of the Classroom Assistant Program
- PTA meetings will be held on the 3rd Friday of every month in the mornings other than certain meetings which will be held on Thursday evenings.

Classroom Assistants Program

The head of the Classroom Assistants Program gave a brief summary of the history of the program and the need for continuing to support it.

Fall Fest

Rodger Wells spoke about Fall Fest. Volunteers are still needed.

Fundraising

Michele Samarel spoke about fundraising efforts. It is important for everyone to do what they can whether it is donating money or volunteering time or both.

The next really big fundraiser is the auction. We are looking for someone to co-chair the event. The chair's will oversee the committee heads.

Other fundraisers include the Annual Fund Drive, Broadway Sings, Election Day Bake Sale, Magazine Sale, Grant Writing, Used Book Sale, Schoolstore.com and more. Volunteers

will be needed if all of these events are going to run. In addition, if you have ideas please bring them to Michele Samarel.

Wellness in the Schools and Green Wellness

Emily Fano discussed the composting efforts at the school and the success in reducing garbage.

Green efforts at PS 166 include elimination of their styrofoam trays, encouraging children to bring reusable water bottles and use of green cleaners.

Wellness in the Schools is back this year. They will be concentrating on overall wellness, training staff and education. They will not be cooking any more so that they can make the program more sustainable.

The new menu will be submitted to the USDA for approval. They will be incorporating PS 166 garden produce into the salad bar and the dressing. In addition, there will be café days four times per year with tastings and demos. WITS labs will also give the children information on food and nutrition.

Community Building Committee

Gayle spoke for the community building committee. The committee holds various activities throughout the year including a City Harvest event to donate food, International Dinner, Generation-On Family Funraiser, Game and Math night.

Welcome Dinner

Welcome Dinner for new parents is scheduled for next Thursday from 7-8. Please RSVP through the survey monkey survey.

Other Announcements

- Monthly parents night out
- There are many volunteer opportunities and we need the support of all parents

SLT

The first meeting is Monday. SLT is made up of parents, teachers and administration.

There being no further business, the meeting was ADJOURNED.