

PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY
132 WEST 89TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024
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PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 19, 2018
8:30AM in the Cafeteria

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AT THE MAY 17, 2018 MEETING

I. Call to Order

Co-President Nina Roosevelt-Collmer called the meeting to order at 8:44am. Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meetings held on February 19, 2018 and March 22, 2018 was made by Madelyn Storms. The MOTION was seconded by Josh Weinberger. The minutes were passed unanimously.

III. A Focus on Math: Ms. Emma and Ms. Pick

Second grade teacher, Ms. Emma, presented on math ECAM centers for the lower grades. All the center's work is verbal in grades K-2. There are three formal assessments and other more informal assessments throughout the year. The math games in the classroom are designed to help students become stronger on skills based on the ECAM checklists for their level. The checklists are provided to parents with areas marked off that their children have mastered. If a second grade student masters all the skills on the Assessment Results, teachers have them continue practicing with numbers in the 5-6 digits to build higher skills.

Fourth grade teacher, Ms. Pick, presented on screeners, a continuation of ECAM used in grades 3-5. The screeners require all the students to write their work. In third and fourth grade, the focus is on addition, subtraction, division and multiplication. At the end of fourth grade into fifth, the focus shifts to decimals and fractions. There are games to practice skills in the higher grades to build fluency.

IV. Standing Reports and Updates

a. Co-Presidents

i. Middle School Admissions

Ms. Storms presented information received at a recent DOE Middle School Enrollment Meeting. Superintendent Ilene Altschul as well as representatives from the DOE Office of Enrollment were present. The city has mandated that District 3 move to blind ranking next year. Since this decision was rolled out, Ms. Altschul has been meeting with middle school principals to try and figure out the way this will work. The superintendent did not give a timetable for what will actually be implemented in the fall.

Ms. Altschul indicated that, in an effort to increase diversity in District 3 middle schools, the current proposal would require schools to include 10% of students who score level 1 and 15% of

students who score level 2 on the state tests in their incoming classes. 84% of District 3 students who score 1 or 2 are black or Latino. Concerns were expressed that this proposal will put students who score level 3 at a huge disadvantage because schools will take the required number of applicants with 1's and 2's, then jump to applicants who score double 4's, leaving fewer seats for students scoring level 3's.

It was stated the majority of middle school principals are behind the proposal as it will give them a way to pull a smaller portion of applicants to interview/consider under the new blind ranking. When asked whether students scoring 1's and 2's who have been put in historically higher performing academic schools are succeeding, Ms. Altschul said she did not know because the DOE doesn't track children after placement. Ms. Altschul admitted that the proposal will absolutely mean fewer students scoring 3's and 4's will get their first choices but the appeal process will remain the same.

If parents have questions or concerns, they need to reach out to the DOE to express their opinions. There is another middle school meeting tonight at Joan of Arc as well as a meeting on April 24th at PS 199 at 900am.

ii. Upcoming PTA Executive Board Elections

Ms. Storms discussed the upcoming Executive Board Elections at the May PTA General Membership Meeting and encourage all parents/guardians to run for a position.

b. SLT

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer provided an update on the team's evaluation of the CEP goals. SLT elections will occur at the June general membership meeting. More information will be posted soon.

V. Events

Marc Lovci provided information on Broadway Sings. Tickets can be purchased at www.166broadwaysings.com. The event is open to the larger community/neighborhood.

Josh Weinberger requested volunteers for the Gardening event on Sunday. Family Fitness Fun Night is coming up on May 10th. Mr. Weinberger also reminded attendees of Tuesday curbside composting and Friday textile recycling.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Volkmar, Recording Secretary