

**PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY**  
132 WEST 89<sup>TH</sup> STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024  
PS166.ORG

**PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

February 15, 2018  
8:30AM in the Auditorium

*APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AT THE APRIL 19, 2018 MEETING*

**I. Call to Order**

Co-President Nina Roosevelt-Collmer called the meeting to order at 8:40am. Quorum was established.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

A MOTION to approve the minutes of the general membership meeting held on January 18, 2018 was made by Nina Roosevelt-Collmer. Josh Weinberger seconded the MOTION. The minutes were passed unanimously.

**III. Events**

**a. Auction**

Lauren Bernstein discussed current auction needs and made a request for donations and volunteers for the night of event.

**b. Dance Party**

Nina provided a brief update about March 4<sup>th</sup> event details – 2-3pm K-2 hours catered more toward younger kids. 3-4pm it opens up to everyone. There may be an arts and craft activity in the Community Room to give an option for a quiet event. A request for volunteers was made.

**IV. Kristen Berger, CEC3 Chair of Middle School Committee – Middle School Admissions Update for Fall 2019**

Kristen Berger presented an update on progress on the changes to the middle school admissions process for the upcoming year. The DOE has mandated a citywide blind ranking system. The DOE's goal is to increase diversity in our district. Currently, there are four schools in the district that control their applicant pool to those ranking them first or second that are struggling to determine how the blind ranking will change their admissions process.

When talking about what schools will use to evaluate their applicant pool, the Office of Enrollment recently presented to CEC and suggested putting corrections in the application process for geographic diversity, income diversity and academic diversity. They also suggested putting in floors for academic diversity – 10% Level 1 students and 15% Level 2 students – as they believe it is beneficial for students of all academic levels to be mixed in classrooms. Ms. Berger indicated the committee is concerned about unintended consequences of moving to a blind choice process – danger of schools simplifying process down to a number (i.e.: state test scores and report cards). Ms. Berger stressed that it's important to defer to the principals because they are the ones administering the applicant pool.

The next committee meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Joan of Arc. If parents have questions or concerns, they should email the district office at d3feedback@gmail.com. The CEC receives a copy of every email.

## **V. Standing Reports and Updates**

### **a. Co-President's Reports**

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer indicated that the grade wide meetings very successful and parent feedback is being shared with administration. Parents are encouraged to continue to reach out with comments/questions/concerns.

### **b. Principal's Corner**

Ms. Mastriano discussed implementing 4 and 5 grade student-led conferences. Parents expressed concern that this will take away dedicated time parents have with their teachers to receive honest feedback about their children.

### **c. SLT**

An important conversation about labeling occurred at the last SLT meeting and members agreed that both teacher and parent education is important on this issue. The value of homework will also be discussed at an upcoming meeting as it came up in all the class teas.

### **d. CEC3/President's Council**

Kim Watkins discussed other changes that the DOE is mandating without parent input including truncating PS 165 and the proposed change to Wadleigh School. The CEC proposed a resolution that they become a voting body to provide checks and balances in the process of changing schools.

### **e. Committees**

#### **i. Inclusion Committee**

Juliet Ross provided a brief overview of the committee and current initiatives to better the experiences of children with special needs/disabilities at school.

#### **ii. Green Wellness**

The tower garden is being reassembled in K classes after mid-winter break. Starting after break, there will be curbside composting on Tuesdays at drop off. Our Zero Waste report cards have been perfect all year. A request for volunteers was made for planting this spring. The next Green Meeting on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be focused on the garden and spring planting.

## **VI. New Business**

Elections for the PTA Executive Board and SLT (3 openings) are being held at the May general membership meeting. All parents/guardians are encouraged to run for positions.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Volkmar, Recording Secretary