

**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  
AND OPEN SAFETY MEETING**

March 22, 2018  
8:30AM in the Cafeteria

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

**I. Call to Order**

Co-President Nina Roosevelt-Collmer called the meeting to order at 8:38 am. Quorum was established.

**II. Safety Updates with Principal Mastriano, Nurse Hamilton and School Safety Agents**

Principal Mastriano provided information regarding the number of emergency drills required for the year and the procedures in place for assuring the safety of all students in the building as well as how to improve the drills in the future.

Ms. Storms and Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer attended a recent CEC Safety Town Hall. Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer stated the DOE is considering steps to increase safety at schools including locking front doors with buzzers. They are currently vetting vendors and working toward resolutions. The DOE Borough Safety Director, Frank Jordan, was present who indicated a decision will come regarding the locked doors and buzzers by the end of the year. Presenters also indicated that the Mayor says there will absolutely be no armed guards at elementary schools but they do have the Strategic Response Group so we will see more of a police presence at schools.

Ms. Storms inquired about obtaining a second safety agent for PS 166. CO Johnson made note of the request and indicated their goal is to have two safety agents at every elementary school – one at the front desk and another performing perimeter walks and monitoring the hallways.

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer indicated that a walk through with a private safety agent recently occurred at school. He stated the exterior cameras need to be positioned differently to see down the block and recommended more cameras be installed (ie: none currently in the gym or auditorium). The expert also stated that parents should never go into the building without talking to a security agent, especially after school.

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer discussed the Visitor Pass Plus and CAASS System to improve the sign in process. The systems, which are currently in place at PS 6, are DOE approved. The Visitor Pass Plus system creates visitor stickers from scanning ID's. The CAASS System is a parent ID system where current parents would have a school ID to present when checking in at school.

A discussion ensued regarding other security/safety improvements implemented at PS 6 including white boards outside the bathrooms with magnets indicating when children are in the bathroom. They have walkie-talkies with a direct line to first responders. They also have numbers on each window that indicate which rooms are classrooms.

The auction paddle raise, where we are aiming to raise \$25,000 will focus on safety enhancements and improvements including the purchase of the Visitor Pass Plus System, the CAASS System and walkie-talkies.

Nurse Hamilton reminded parents/guardians to dress children appropriately for the weather. She also requested that parents/guardians remind their kids there are some activities not allowed at recess (ie: somersaults, hanging upside down on bars) due to the number of children present.

A discussion ensued regarding parents being more vigilant while in the building and outside. Ms. Markewich stated the administration is trying to implement some sort of ID lanyard so students know how to identify teachers, staff, parents, etc.

### **III. Standing Reports and Updates**

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

Kim Watkins indicated the CEC would like parent/guardian input/help with the proposed middle school admissions changes. Although 17 schools in our district take 6<sup>th</sup> graders, most of the students end up at 3-4 schools. Currently, the DOE is mandating that the district remove revealed ranking from the process. However, the DOE is giving no guidance as to how to implement this change although schools are going to have to process significantly more applications. The district superintendent would like to impose floors for various factors to increase racial, geographical, economic and academic diversity.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **Moms Demand Action**

Daisy Walker provided basic information regarding the movement, discussed upcoming marches and encouraged parents to become involved. The organization is currently fighting against a law that would allow individuals permitted to carry concealed weapons in other states to carry their weapons in NY (reciprocity law).

### **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Volkmar, Recording Secretary