

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

**PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AND OPEN SAFETY MEETING**

May 17, 2018
8:30AM in the Cafeteria

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE AT THE JUNE 14, 2018 MEETING

I. Call to Order

Co-President Madelyn Storms called the meeting to order at 8:37 am. Quorum was established.

II. PTA Executive Board Elections

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer announced that Erin Volkmar would be running the elections. Ms. Volkmar began the elections by giving a brief overview of the process.

a. Election of PTA President

Ms. Volkmar introduced Moira Jaffe-Solomon and Monica Gelinias as candidates for PTA Co-Presidents. Each candidate spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA President closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Moira Jaffe-Solomon and Monica Gelinias as PTA Co-Presidents was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Moira Jaffe-Solomon and Monica Gelinias are elected PTA Co-Presidents of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

b. Election of Vice President of Fundraising

Ms. Volkmar introduced Rajesh Anandan as candidate for PTA Vice President of Fundraising. Mr. Anandan spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Fundraising closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Rajesh Anandan as PTA Vice President of Fundraising was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Rajesh Anandan is elected PTA Vice President of Fundraising of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

c. Election of Vice President of Grants

Ms. Volkmar introduced Rachel Polimeni as candidate for PTA Vice President of Grants. Ms. Polimeni spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Grants closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Rachel Polimeni as PTA Vice President of Grants was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Rachel Polimeni is elected PTA Vice President of Grants of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

d. Election of Vice President of Volunteers and Events

Ms. Volkmar introduced Kathryn Oblad as candidate for PTA Vice President of Volunteers and Events. Ms. Oblad spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Vice President of Volunteers and Events closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Kathryn Oblad as PTA Vice President of Volunteers and Events was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Kathryn Oblad is elected PTA Vice President of Volunteers and Events of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

e. Election of Treasurer

Ms. Volkmar introduced Jill Duggan and Max Alvarez as candidates for PTA Co-Treasurers. Each candidate spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Treasurers closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Jill Duggan and Max Alvarez as PTA Co-Treasurers was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Jill Duggan and Max Alvarez are elected PTA Co-Treasurers of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

f. Election of Financial Secretary

Ms. Volkmar introduced Simon Franceschi as candidate for PTA Financial Secretary. Mr. Franceschi spoke briefly, following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Financial Secretary closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Simon Franceschi as PTA Financial Secretary was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Simon Franceschi is elected PTA Financial Secretary of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

g. Election of Recording Secretary

Ms. Volkmar introduced Carl Cambria as candidate for PTA Recording Secretary. Mr. Cambria spoke briefly following which Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any further nominations for the position. There being no further nominations, Ms. Volkmar declared the nominations for PTA Recording Secretary closed. A vote by show of hands to elect Carl Cambria as PTA Recording Secretary was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, That Carl Cambria is elected PTA Recording Secretary of the PS 166 PTA for the 2018-2019 academic year.

h. Election of Communications Secretary

Ms. Volkmar asked if there were any nominations for PTA Communications Secretary. There being no nominations, Ms. Volkmar gave notice of the vacancy in the position and indicated a special election would be held at the June 14, 2018 general membership meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes

A MOTION was made by Madelyn Storms to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2018 Special Meeting and April 19, 2018 general membership meeting. The MOTION was seconded by Erin Volkmar. The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. CEC Update – Kim Watkins, Middle School Admissions Update

CEC President Kim Watkins provided an update on developments in District 3 including an update on the 6th grade enrollment initiatives to address the stratification of the district's middle schools. Next year, the DOE is proposing the schools use a new algorithm to determine offers. The algorithm will compute a score for each applicant with 10% of students in a certain range being offered seats at the top middle schools and an additional 15% of another range being offered seats. There is still a question as to how the algorithm will be formulated. The DOE was recently told it cannot use test scores as the primary source of admissions.

The DOE has proposed different options: (1) a combination of test scores (40% ELA/Math scores and 60% economic need of school (school applicant is coming from) or (2) test scores and end of year 4th grade grades (20% ELA test, 20% math test, 30% ELA final grade and 30% math final grade). Based on their research, the DOE indicated that the use of these levers led to a 10-12% decrease in offers to students scoring 3's and 4's on state tests.

The main difference between the existing application process and the current initiative is moving to blind ranking. Schools will now get a list of all students who ranked them somewhere on their application. There's already a set aside for offers for students with certain IEP's. After that, the new levers would be applied then the school would go to their rubric.

To give parents an idea of how the system will work, Deb Markewich explained that if a school has 100 seats they will go through their applications and rank them based on their own criteria. Then the kids are given a number. Before any offers are made, the school has to go through the list and find the first person that meets the DOE criteria to fill the quotas and so on down the list. Once the quotas are filled, the school goes back to the top of their list and goes through with their own rubric to fill the remaining seats. Under the new plan, there will be some students that would have met the school's rubric that won't get offers because of the new quotas.

Ms. Watkins stated the CEC sent a letter to the Chancellor indicating they cannot support the new process unless there is a plan to support all the schools academically. Neither the district superintendent or the Chancellor have said the academic strain the new proposals will put on the schools, nor the effect this will have on school communities, are important issues.

If parents want to be involved and help, they can attend the next hearing on Tuesday, May 22nd at PS 163 at 6:30pm. They can also write to d3feedback@gmail.com expressing concerns. As a community, we need to communicate our concerns to the DOE.

V. Standing Reports and Updates

a. Parent Coordinator – Deb Markewich

Parent-Teacher workshops are Wednesday, the 23rd from 4:30-7:30. Most sessions will have 2-5 teachers and there will be an early and late session. Ms. Mastriano will present on Teachers College at 4:30 followed by Ms. Mac providing a refresher on the RULER program. Ms. Markewich will speak with the teachers about posting materials online for parents who cannot attend.

b. Co-Presidents

i. Security Enhancements

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer indicated the Visitor Pass Plus system has been delivered and has been set up. We are still waiting for the lanyards to arrive and data upload to be completed. Photo and print days will be set up as soon as possible.

ii. Revision to Bylaws

Ms. Storms discussed proposed revisions to the responsibilities of PTA Executive Officer positions in the Bylaws. If parents want to see the changes, they can request a copy via email. The revised Bylaws will be voted on at the June 2018 general membership meeting.

iii. 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

The Board will host two open meetings to give parents an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed budget. Both meetings will be held on June 5th - the first after drop off and the second in the evening during the Art Show.

c. SLT

Ms. Roosevelt-Collmer discussed the upcoming June SLT elections.

VI. New Business

The PTA will be sending a survey out about CAP program. We have been struggling to fund the program in recent year so want to hear from parents/guardians about how they feel.

VII. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Volkmar, Recording Secretary