

Minutes
PS 166 PTA General Meeting
November 16, 2011

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

Update of the Kindergarten Yard

The Kindergarten yard is still not open to the students, but it is hoped that there will be progress by next week.

Library Report

Leslie Zempetti, a parent and active volunteer in the school library, gave an in-depth presentation regarding the school library and how the children at PS 166 are using and benefiting from the library. Currently, because there is no money in the school budget for a librarian, the library is staffed by Learning Leaders (volunteers approved of by the Department of Education). The library spent about \$12,00 on new books last year and there is a wonderful selection of books that the children can choose from each week when they visit the library.

Cultivating Compassion and Empathy (Ms. Tene Kelly, Guidance Counselor)

Tene Kelly, the PS 166 guidance counselor gave a presentation on a new campaign at PS 166 to build better people. The themes of the campaign are "compassion" and "empathy." These themes will be rolled out through many programs. Ms. Kelly also described her philosophy regarding how to resolve conflicts between students.

Community Building

The Community Building Committee is working on many different programs including the following:

- Food collection with City Harvest to collect canned and pre-packaged foods at PS 166 for people in need.
- Family Funraiser

Principal's Report

The principal reported to the PTA as follows:

- Enrichment programs are underway
- 4th grade trip to Alvin Ailey

- Cafeteria will be opening a bit earlier in the morning to accommodate families
- Specials are being mixed between classes and the administration is working on the flips for second semester
- Holiday Performances are being worked on by the students and everyone is looking forward to them
- Homework concerns continue to exist in K-2. Attempts are being made to communicate better regarding the homework. Also do not make homework a battle with your child.
- Y Program is adding an educational component. There are still 60 slots open at the school so if people are looking for after school care for their children, please let them know about the program
- The technology grant has been published. The SLT and the school administration are looking into purchasing items such as classroom computers, smart boards, smart board alternatives and the wiring needs of the school

Auction News

Two parents of Kindergartners have volunteered to chair the auction. The first step is the art project portion and the solicitation of volunteers. Much more auction news as it gets closer.

Fall Fest and Friends of PS 166 Annual Fund Drive

Was a great success and we anticipate that it matched last year's success. The Friends of PS 166 Annual Fund Drive is about to be underway.

Track Team

The track team participated in the pre-marathon challenge and had a great time. They even had pictures posted on the NY Times website.

Approval of October Minutes

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

Approval of the Minutes

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.