

**Minutes**  
**PS 166 PTA General Meeting**  
**February 15, 2013**

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

PTA President's Welcome

The PTA Co-Presidents, Christine DiPasquale and Karyn Gooden, opened the meeting welcoming everyone.

Acuity Presentation

Ms. Sora and Mr. Fama gave a presentation about Acuity and the recent predictive test that was taken in grades three through five. IAP Mastriano also spoke during the presentation. The Acuity website is meant to enhance student progress, encourage learning and target specific skills. The user name is the child's first name and last name with no space in between. The password is the OSIS number. You can find the address by simply searching NYC Acuity in Google. This is a useful tool. Teachers can assign children work under the study tab that is targeted to the skills that they need.

This predictive test is used by teachers as a tool to see what the students still need to cover. Some of what was tested in the predictive was not yet covered. In general, score of 65-74 is a one, 74-89 is a three and 90-100 is a 4. There may be another predictive given in March.

This year is very transitional. There are many new genres on the ELA. There is a bit more clarity on the Math and exactly what is expected.

Introduction of IA Assistant Principal

IAP Mastriano introduced new IA Assistant Principal Megan Burns. Ms. Burns has a very strong background in curriculum. She had previously been a literacy coach and is very familiar with the new standards. Ms. Burns explained a bit about the energy and enthusiasm with which the kids are approaching the new modules. The changes are good, but change is always scary. Ultimately it will be great.

SLT Update

- The report cards will be given out ahead of the parent teacher conferences.
- There will be a screening of the documentary "Race to Nowhere"
- Homework survey will be going out to try to ask the parents about the level of homework. The goal is to create more uniformity across grades with respect to homework. The goal is to use the survey to help construct policy decisions.
- Laptops are being purchased by Friends of PS166 to go with any ELMO that is missing a laptop.
- Hope is that there will be one field trip a month and that trips will be the same grade-wide.

Friends of PS166 Auction

The auction is still in need of donations. Most in demand are restaurants, unique experiences, tickets, but anything you can bring in is great. There is an updated list posted with the list of all businesses/individuals who have

contributed so far this year. If you are in doubt as to whether someone else has solicited a contribution, please consult the list. The raffle tickets will be sold in March and the on-line auction will begin April 7. The theme is a black and white ball so almost anything goes. Please go to the Facebook site and “like” the PS166 Black and White Ball. Any questions, email Anna Cipriano.

### Playground

We are trying to get the renovation underway. It was supposed to happen this summer, but the Parks Department is now delaying. This is despite the fact that \$600,000 has been granted to underwrite the renovation. It is very important to once again prove to the Parks Department that the playground is not safe for elementary aged children. Please email Christine with any injuries that have been sustained by your children playing in the playground. No personal information will be disclosed.

### Nominating Committee

At the next PTA meeting we need to constitute a nominating committee. All the positions on the PTA executive board are up this year. The job of the nominating committee is to find candidates. You cannot be running if you are on the committee. Please consider volunteering.

### Broadway Sings

This was a big success. Thank you to all involved.

### Richard Rogers Day

This year was the best ever. The American Songbook Project brought in volunteers to perform songs. Richard Rogers’ daughter attended both shows. Kids asked lots of questions.

### Book Fair

Will be held on March 11. Volunteers are needed.

### WITS Family Fun Night

Will be held on March 7 from 6-8 pm. There will be classes and food from Chipotle.

### Staff Appreciation Day

March 8 is the date for this event. Please bring in food for the staff. Staff will be given PS166 t-shirts and “field trip bags” that will be stocked with things that are needed for field trips.

### CEC

There are three city wide councils (high school, special ed and ELL). It is hoped that someone from District 3 will run. JB is not running for re-election. This is a great way to get involved although there is a significant time commitment. The term is 2 years. It is very rewarding to participate and make a big difference. If there are questions ask JB Smalley or Noah Kaufman.

### Adoption of the January Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the January 2013 PTA General Meeting was unanimously approved by the following resolution:

## **Approval of the Minutes**

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

## Safety

Swipe system is being explored. Concern was expressed that kids are less safe following changes that have been made. One idea is to get 2 safety agents, but it isn't clear whether that is viable. The issues will need to be addressed in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting was ADJOURNED.