

**Minutes**  
**PS 166 PTA General Meeting**  
**April 19, 2013**

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

PTA President's Welcome

The PTA Co-President, Karyn Gooden, opened the meeting welcoming everyone. \

The PTA co-presidents introduced the new Principal.

Principal's Report

Next year principal reports that she is hoping to bring Teacher's College into PS 166 and make the school part of the TC Reading and Writing Program. Having TC means that PS 166 would have a K-2 and a 3-5 curriculum coach. The TC program personnel would help plan out the year. In addition, teachers would be able to participate in professional development opportunities at TC. TC brings with it a curriculum. The have books on opinion, explanatory and narrative learning. The TC program runs in cycles of 6 weeks. Many of our peer schools on the Upper West Side that are considered the most successful are already part of the TC Reading and Writing Program.

In math, principal has opted into Go Math. It was the best option, but still leaves a lot to be desired. Math coach will continue to be instrumental.

Assistant Principal Burns

The AP demonstrated the renkenrek and how it is used in the classrooms. The Math coach brought this into PS 166.

In ELA the children have reading goals. Lower grades these goals may be on a sheet of paper and in the upper grades might have goals written on a bookmark.

PTA Executive Board Positions

Each member of the PTA executive board present at the meeting described the duties involved with the position and encouraged parents to consider joining the board.

Vote to Adopt New PTA Bylaws

Following a brief description of the changes (a full presentation of the changes was made at the March PTA meeting), following a motion duly made and seconded, NOW THEREFORE

**Approval of the Bylaws**

RESOLVED, that minutes of the amended Bylaws of the PS 166 Parent Teacher's Association meeting are unanimously approved.

Friends of PS 166 Fundraising Update

Auction is coming up and today is the last day to buy discounted tickets. It should be a great event.

### Budget Meetings

Two meetings will be held one in the morning at 9 am and one in the evening at 6:30 pm.

### Garden Committee

The committee needs more help. There is a bake sale in support of the garden planned for next week.

### After School Program at PS 166

The people who volunteered to help vet possible vendors will be meeting with will be interviewing vendors.

### SLT

- The school has opted into Go Math and will be using that with exemplars. The ELA program is called expeditionary learning.
- Shakespeare week is April 29- May 3
- 60 new chrome books were donated to the school by Friends of PS 166. Third and Fourth graders will be using them beginning next month.
- Next UFT meeting the teachers will vote on the school based options.

### Playground

The Parks Department has finally responded to requests for information regarding the proposed safety renovation of the playground. There will be a meeting next week to discuss the proposed design elements that the Parks Department is proposing.

Ms. DiPasquale explained that it is the hope that the Parks Department will be able to retain the top steps of the amphitheater and that the water features of the playground will remain.

\$600,000 was granted by Ms. Brewer and Mr. Stringer for this safety renovation.

PS 166 has what is called a jointly operated playground because the school uses it during school hours.

There was a suggestion that a special committee be put in place to work on the issue. Additionally, there was a comment questioning whether the neighborhood community might be upset by the changes.

Currently, what is proposed is to level the pit so that there is a larger even playing space. The issue has been safety of the children.

Notice was given to the community and the proposed renovation, including the leveling of the pit, was presented to CB7 at a community board meeting following the posting of flyers. CB7 was in support of the renovation.

Parks Department has said publicly that parents will have input.

A parent suggested that football was the issue rather than the design of the playground.

A proposal was made to hold a “Town Hall” meeting to further discuss the renovation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.