

Minutes
PS 166 PTA General Meeting
June 14, 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.

PTA Election

The PTA Co-President began the elections by introducing the only candidates for PTA Co-Presidents, Liz Wedlan and Jen Hogan. Each spoke briefly, following which a vote by show of hands was held. The vote was unanimous.

Election of the PTA Co-Presidents

RESOLVED, that Liz Wedlan and Jen Hogan are elected Co-Presidents of the PS 166 PTA

The PTA Co-President introduced Charlotte Dooling and Liz Lyons, the only candidates for Co-Vice Presidents of the PTA. Each spoke briefly, following which a vote by show of hands was held. The vote was unanimous.

Election of the PTA Co-Vice Presidents

RESOLVED, that Charlotte Dooling and Liz Lyons are elected Co-Vice Presidents of the PS 166 PTA

The PTA Co-Presidents introduced Peter Rodriguez, the only candidate for Recording Secretary. Mr. Rodriguez spoke briefly, following which a vote by show of hands was held. The vote was unanimous.

Election of the PTA Recording Secretary

RESOLVED, that Peter Rodriguez is elected Recording Secretary of the PS 166 PTA

The PTA Co-President introduced Gloria Lee the sole candidate for Treasurer. Ms. Lee spoke briefly, following which a vote by show of hands was held. The vote was unanimous.

Election of the PTA Treasurer

RESOLVED, that Gloria Lee is elected Treasurer of the PS 166 PTA

Christine Di-Pasquale, the only candidate for Corresponding Secretary spoke briefly, following which a vote by show of hands was held. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLVED, that Christine Di-Pasquale is elected Corresponding Secretary of the PS 166 PTA

Following was the election for Financial Secretary. There were two candidates one of whom could not be present, but a representative spoke on her behalf. A vote by ballot was held and the results tabulated.

Election of the PTA Financial Secretary

RESOLVED, that Thad Buzolich is elected Financial Secretary of the PS 166 PTA

Adoption of the Budget

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Barbara Denham spoke briefly about the budget that had already been presented at the May PTA meeting as well as at the budget meeting.

Adoption of the Budget

RESOLVED, the budget as presented is adopted.

SLT Elections

The SLT Election was run by Jen Hogan and Dympna Gallagher. Before beginning the elections they described the responsibilities of the SLT and the time commitment involved. Following that each of the candidates spoke. A vote by ballot was held and the results were tabulated.

Election of Parent Members of SLT

RESOLVED, Stacy Boccabella, Sharon Kennedy and Sara Spinnell are elected to be members of the Student Leadership Team.

Alternates will be Stacey Shapiro and then Louise Regan

Adoption of the May Minutes

Discussion took place regarding the May minutes and some changes suggested by Ms. Frey.

Michael Solomon Presentation

Mr. Solomon presented a short film that he created based on a book regarding child abuse.

Debra Roberts

Reported on Richard Rodger's daughter's donation of dvd's to the school.

May Minutes

Ms. Frey suggested certain changes which were all accepted. Following that upon a motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the May 2013 PTA General Meeting were unanimously approved by the following resolution:

Approval of the Minutes

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

Principal's Report

PS 166 has been accepted as a participant in the Teacher's College reading and writing program. The math curriculum's available were not great, but the best available was chosen. Going to supplement with other materials.

Principal has written a letter in support of the playground renovation.

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It has come to the attention of the administration that some children have started petitions regarding the playground renovation issue and are circulating them during school. This is causing a problem and is not appropriate during school hours. Certain kids are feeling intimidated. A suggestion was made that it might be helpful to explain to the children that there are differences of opinion on the issues. Some parents then raised the issue that some teachers have been speaking to the children in support of the playground renovation and the Principal agreed to address that so it won't happen again.

SLT Update

New report cards will be created for next year. In addition, thought is being given to whether to change the name of the general education program.

WITS Update

New chef will be starting. We are hoping that she will embrace the program. We need to get participation numbers up for school lunch or we will lose staff.

Playground

A discussion took place regarding the on-going issues surrounding the proposed renovations to the playground. Ms. DiPasquale led the discussion and voiced her hope that the discussion would be calm. The principal is deeply committed to having the sunken area flattened and believes that it is an essential part of any renovation. Additionally, Ms. DiPasquale has spoken to many other parents who believe this is important. The executive board is unanimously in support of having the sunken area flattened. As far as the executive board is aware, the proper process was followed in as much as the CEC and Community Board have been involved. Two principals have asked the executive board to support this project. The executive board is sorry that there is dissent. Ms. DiPasquale has been told, in fact, that there is threat of a lawsuit to halt any proposed renovation over the summer. Much discussion took place on all sides of the issue including:

A parent suggested having a committee to work on things like snow removal and sprinklers. Another parent spoke in support of the having the playground flat.

The question of the funding was discussed and whether it will be rolled over. Following discussion, no clear answer was reached.

A parent spoke regarding the feeling of being excluded from the process and never understanding that the sunken area might be flattened as part of a renovation. The parent wanted to see alternate designs and suggested it might be worth more than \$300,000 to make people feel empowered.

The formal design has not been put forth by the Parks Department. The Parks Department representative, Mr. Simon, has told Ms. DiPasquale that the parents have given them a lot of ideas. They are hoping to create a design that will satisfy the majority of parents.

A parent noted that the playground is Parks Department property and we should only expect to give input and not to make the final decision.

Another parent said while safety is a primary concern, the safety concerns seem to anecdotal and would like statistics.

Another parent reflected that good design combines form and function.

Some parents voices a like for the PS87 playground redesign while others dislike it.

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A parent suggested that it was clear that sloping bricks are dangerous and statistics are not needed to prove that fact.

Several parents noted that they were unaware of the possibility that the sunken area might be flattened. Also parents spoke in support of repairs rather than a redesign of the space.

A parent pointed out it seems the money was allocated for repairs rather than redesign. Repairs would not likely include flattening the space. Any redesign must be done within the process set up by law and it seems that all the procedures have not been followed in this case.

Discussions continued regarding whether a flat surface would increase problems from ball playing or help. Opinions were voiced on all sides.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.