

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2014 AT 9:05 AM IN THE CAFETERIA

Approved by unanimous vote
at the March 20, 2014 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Co-President Liz Wedlan.
Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the draft minutes of the January 17, 2014 General Membership meeting was made and seconded.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

III. Reports

a) Principal

Principal Mastriano updated the assembly on upcoming school events.

An ELA testing information session for parents of students in grades 3 to 5 is scheduled for February 28. It will provide an overview of the ELA test and how parents can help their children succeed.

On March 6th, the math coach will hold a math workshop for parents of students in kindergarten and 1st grade, after which parents will be invited to visit their child's classroom to observe math instructional activities.

b) PTA Co-Presidents

PTA Co-President Jen Hogan thanked several parents for their volunteer work including:

- Michael Solomon and the many parents who helped with the Broadway Sings show.
- Debra Roberts for the Richard Rodgers Day musical performance.
- Eva Landeo for organizing and delivering "grab-and-go" breakfasts to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students doing test prep.

Jen provided a brief update on plans for the Multicultural Night and Dinner.

By the end of the current academic year, all grades would have visited the city's major cultural institutions, and any ideas for field trips are welcome.

The Executive Board is currently working on preparing the budget for the next academic year.

Jen also announced that progress has been made on the Annual Fund Drive, but the annual goal has not yet been reached. There is still time to contribute.

On behalf of Stefanie Goldblatt, Jen reported that FOPS approved the allocation increases to the FOPS budget which were approved at the PTA General Membership meeting of January 17th, 2014.

Charlotte Dooling spoke about plans for Teachers' Appreciation Day scheduled for February 28th. Class reps will be circulating sign-up sheets soon. Fitness Night is planned for May 8th.

c) Parent Coordinator

Deborah Markewich made some announcements on various school activities including:

1. Kindergarten and 1st grade math parent workshop scheduled for March 6.
2. ELA testing workshop for parents of students in grades 3, 4 and 5 scheduled for February 28.
3. Deadline for kindergarten applications extended to February 28.
4. Graduation activities meeting for all 5th grade parents scheduled for February 25.

d) School Leadership Team

Dympna Gallagher reported on recent activities of the SLT.

The minutes of the January meeting of the SLT were approved and are on the school's website.

The teachers will have an election to replace an SLT member who resigned.

The 2013-2014 school budget was submitted by Principal Mastriano for review by the SLT, and the CEP was signed.

e) Community Education Council

Barbara Denham updated parents on some of the major topics discussed at the last meeting of CEC3.

f) Class Parents (Julianne Parmenter)

Julianne Parmenter spoke briefly about this outreach network to parents.

IV. **Committees and Fundraisers**

1) Broadway Sings

Michael Solomon reported on the details of this performance described by most as a family fun night.

2) Auction

Anna Cipriano reported that the last day for accepting donations has been extended by one week. Contributions are slightly below amounts collected for the same period last year.

Online auction is scheduled to start on March 7th, and the live auction is scheduled for March 14th.

Collection of basket items will continue as planned.

Sara Spinnell is organizing Toga Day.

3) CAP

Karyn Gooden gave an update on funding of the Classroom Assistants Program.

Contributions from parents of the 1st grade classes have met budgeted targets.

Kindergarten and 2nd grade classes are still below targets.

4) Chess

Debbie Rudt announced that a fundraising chess tournament is scheduled for Sunday, March 9th at the school. Proceeds are earmarked for the PS 166 Manhattan Knights to fund chess programs.

Debbie also described current chess opportunities at PS 166:

- Chess in the Schools – a PTA-funded program for 1st and 2nd graders.
- Early Bird Chess – open to students interested in practicing chess before the start of the school day.
- Afterschool Chess – organized through Re-Create for beginners with no prior chess experience and players with intermediate experience.
- The Manhattan Knights Chess Team – where additional training and coaching is offered to students who are ready for more challenges.

5) Garden

Marta Alfabeticos outlined some of the plans of the Gardening Committee.

There will be an afterschool gardening class.

The committee needs more volunteers to help.

Although she prefers more participation from classes during the day, this is up to the teachers.

V. **Miscellaneous**

Other speakers who briefly addressed the membership included:

1. Noah Kaufman, Citywide Council on Special Education (CCSE) Appointee to CCHS, on the Citywide Council on High Schools.

Mr. Kaufman briefly explained the mandate of the CCHS and noted that due to some recent appointments by Mayor de Blasio, both the CCSE and the CCHS have vacancies. He encouraged interested parties to learn more about these volunteer opportunities.

Mr. Kaufman attended the first meeting of 2014 of the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) and commented on the structure of parent representation on the CCHS.

2. Kari Docter on Green/ Wellness.
3. Johnna Hampton on the Scholastic Book Fair.

VI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary