

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2015 AT 8:30AM IN THE CAFETERIA
APPROVED AT THE NOVEMBER 19, 2015 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30AM by Co-President Erin Volkmar.
Quorum was established.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

The September 17, 2015 minutes were approved by majority vote.

III. **President's Report: Kerri Keiger**

a. **Safety:**

- i. During the first fire drill evacuation took 6 instead of 4 minutes. Last week's drill went better. There will be 6 more drills before December
- ii. At pickup: If you need to get back into the building, please sign back in
- iii. The school will be putting arrows in the stairwells to indicate which way to go up and down. The current plan is green and red, but it was suggested that we use different colors, so as not to be confused with red=stop, green=go. Kerri will speak to the principal about this.

b. **President's council:**

- i. The President's council meets with other PTA presidents in the district
- ii. The CEC (Community Education Council) creates zoning lines for schools and has political pull with the DOE. Going forward, on a quarterly basis, there is the opportunity for 5 people to speak at the CEC meeting on a first come, first served basis. To speak, please contact the PTA presidents.
- iii. District 3 rezoning will be done in two waves, the first will be done by November 20th, with a vote on November 8th.
 1. The main concern is overcrowding at PS 199. There are two possible solutions:
 - a. Shrink the 199 zone, increase the PS 452 zone. However, it is unclear if 452 has capacity. They could also increase PS 191 zone, but it was declared a potentially dangerous school recently, so parents have a right to request a different school if placed there.
 - b. Create a superzone to include PS 191, PS 199, and the new Riverside school that will open in 2018. Everyone in the superzone will rank these three schools and will be put into a lottery for placement.
 2. PS 166: Go to the zoning meetings to make our voices heard. We are going to lose specials if we get another kindergarten. Also, you can make comments on the CEC website (the link will be provided in Deb Markewich's newsletter).
 3. One option on the table: Move G&T at PS 166 to PS 191. Students already at 166 would be grandfathered in and could stay at 166. A parent noted that if you do write in to the CEC website, you can mention that if we get rid of a G&T class we can add a block to our zone to the south, alleviating crowding at schools to our south.
- iv. Upcoming CEC meetings: Oct 17, 2015 at PS 191, Oct 26 at Joan of Arc on 93rd, November 2nd.

IV. **Principal's Report: Deborah Mastriano**

- a. Halloween: K and 1 can dress up this year, other grades should not. Most schools do not dress up. First graders should bring their costumes to school and change into them. K can wear the costumes to school. Older grades can celebrate during their end of month birthday celebrations. Healthy snacks are encouraged.
- b. Playground: The hope is for end of November completion. The school is trying hard to get kids outside. Kids have been going to the gym for recess. The principal and assistant principal will look into alternatives to being in the gym, including using the public playground next door.
- c. Gymnasium: new LED lights installed, mandated.

V. **Events:**

- a. Fall fest, October 25, 2015: Susan Trattnor, chair
 - i. Please sign up to volunteer. Class reps need to pressure their classes. A parent suggested shorter time slots might increase parent volunteering.
 - ii. Haunted house is not as scary as last year.
 - iii. Ticket pre-sales the week before

- b. Auction: Erin Lee Peck, co-chair
 - i. April 8th, 6:30-11pm at Landmark on the Park.
 - ii. Donations are always welcome. Email auction@ps166.org
 - iii. They will look into trading volunteers with other schools to work the night of the event
- c. Picture day: Friday Nov. 13th, 8:30-12pm
 - i. Need volunteers
 - ii. Tiffany Chunko is coordinating. Email Deb Markewich to volunteer.

VI. **WITS: Carly the Chef**

- a. Working in classrooms: applesauce-making is next week
- b. Tastings: Restaurant visiting, tasting of cafeteria foods, foods from PS 166 garden. Tastings involve everyone whether they eat school lunch or bring from home.
- c. Pesto made from garden basil sold out, salad dressing is coming next.
- d. Healthy Halloween ideas: yogurt parfaits, pumpkin muffins, Halloween necklaces, decorating pumpkins, yogurt dip, chocolate covered bananas. Fruit cups with Ready-Whip suggested by a parent.
- e. WITS chef trains PS 166 kitchen staff on the alternative menu.
- f. The salad bar is provided through the School Foods organization. Children need to purchase school lunch to use the salad bar.
- g. How can parents volunteer? Help to compost – first training following the PTA meeting

VII. **Green and Wellness Committee: Lisa Berry**

The Green and Wellness committee provides non-toxic cleaning supplies, money for WITS, runs the textile drive that brings money to the school and keeps textiles out of landfills. Looking for grants.

VIII. **Technology: Max Alvarez**

- a. Send Max anything that needs to be posted on the website. (maxmalvarez at yahoo)
- b. Max can create PS166.org email addresses for class reps if needed, contact him
- c. Can anyone help with the website? Wordpress experience is nice. Help needed with design, editing, and administration.
- d. If anyone needs to collect money for an event, Max can help create an online sign-up.

IX. **Treasurer: Julie Norwell**

- a. Credit cards will be taken the day of Fall Fest
- b. CAP: 30% of goal is reached: 3rd/2nd/K doing well. A parent requested that we report the % of people who have given, not just % of money raised, but this is a labor intensive process given the current system.
- c. Online: Annual fund donations can be paid in installments. CAP can also be paid in installments online – let Julie know if you would like this option.

X. **Miscellaneous:**

- a. Can we do a Halloween candy trade in, for the troops, for example?
- b. Can we coordinate with Ballet Hispanico to do an afterschool program? They used to do a residency with PS 166, not anymore. It would be complicated to transport children across the street for the class after school, especially if they need help changing.
- c. Extra money from security door paddle raise: PTA will get a wish list from teachers and administration and bring the list to the PTA at the next meeting.

XI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Polimeni, Recording Secretary