

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2015 AT 8:53 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the February 12, 2015 Meeting

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:53 am.
Quorum was established.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION to approve the draft minutes of the December 11th, 2014 General Membership Meeting, was made and seconded.

By show of hands, the motion was unanimously adopted.

III. **Special Guest Speaker – Jill Greenbaum from Schools Unite Network (SUN)**

Ms. Volkmar introduced Jill Greenbaum, CEO and Legal Director of Schools Unite Network (SUN) as today's guest speaker.

After providing some background information on herself, Ms. Greenbaum gave an overview of what SUN is all about.

It is an important safety initiative for children, activated in cooperation with the NYPD to help keep youths on track, prevent delinquency, and reduce crime concerning youths.

Confidential information is sent to principals of over 140 schools, including PS 166 via SUN Alerts.

By rapidly disseminating data and recommending courses of action, SUN is effective in helping to dispel rumors, to reduce fear and panic, and to mobilize the community when necessary.

At the conclusion of her address, Ms. Greenbaum encouraged parents to get involved by attending and representing schools at various SUN meetings.

IV. **Reports**

a) **PTA Co-Presidents**

1. Ms. Volkmar announced that a Walk-a-thon chairperson is being sought. Also, anyone willing to volunteer to help during Shakespeare week during May should let her know.

2. CEC3 Update –

Barbara Denham provided updates on the CEC3 Common Core Parent Survey, the recent Capital Plan Hearing with updates on Beacon High School and West End Secondary School, and the CEC3 resolution to try to end District High School Priority.

Ms. Denham also announced that her two-year term on CEC3 ends this year.

There will be Community and Citywide Education Council elections this year, and interested parents can start applying on February 11. Memberships offer parents an opportunity for district and citywide leadership with a voice in education policy. Each CEC has nine elected members and two "Borough President" appointees.

Barbara encouraged parents to apply for a seat and thus become more involved in their children's education.

b) **Principal**

Principal Mastriano reported that afterschool test tutoring will continue this year for 4th graders.

The targeted grade is 4th grade because of the middle school application process during the 5th grade.

In anticipation of the Common Core State Tests in Math and ELA scheduled for mid and late April, Test Prep will begin on February 4 and will continue for eight weeks.

The Principal explained that selection criteria used by middle schools included student report cards, teacher recommendations, and attendance.

Workshops for parents of students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will start at the end of January and will be scheduled at 8:45 in the morning. ELA will start on January 27, and Math begins on February 5.

c) **Parent Coordinator**

Ms. Markewich made two announcements.

1. Kindergarten online applications are open until February 13.
2. G&T testing calendar is out. All tests will be done during the day, and there will be group testing.

d) PTA Co-Treasurers

Ms. Norwell briefly described the two “buckets” in which PTA/FOPS funds are kept, by reiterating the sources of the funds and how they are spent.

After providing year-to-date CAP funding by grade, Julie stated that \$80,000 was sent to the DOE last November, and the final CAP installment is due in February.

Contributions to the Annual Fund Drive now stand at \$65,000, but still under target.

Any contribution is welcome. The goal is 100% participation.

e) Auction Update

Lisa Berry announced that the next Auction meeting will be held next Thursday at Tiana’s apartment.

The committee also needs someone to coordinate the production of the baskets.

An e-mail to class reps to get organized for basket production will be sent out soon.

In conclusion, Lisa spoke about the solicitation drive required to obtain donations of tickets, unique experiences and gift certificates for the Auction. To this end, informational letters with donation vouchers attached are available.

f) CAP Update

Karyn Gooden gave an update on the current staffing of the Classroom Assistants.

As soon as the contract between School Professionals Temp Agency and the DOE is renewed, 2nd grade will be staffed.

One person is currently assisting in 4th and 5th grades, but another can be available when the required funding level has been achieved.

V. Committees and Events

a) Other

Anna Cipriano announced that Book Culture has been added to the school’s “Affiliate” program, and 15% of all purchases will go PS 166 if mentioned at checkout.

The affiliate arrangement is available at any of Book Culture’s locations.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary