

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2014 AT 9:04 AM IN THE CAFETERIA

Approved by unanimous vote
at the February 14, 2014 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Co-President Liz Wedlan.
Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION to approve the draft minutes of the December 13, 2013 General Membership meeting was made and seconded.
The motion was unanimously adopted.

III. Reports

a) Community and City-wide Education Council

Barbara Denham provided an update on the Beacon school project.
There has not been too much progress. The search for a principal continues and names of suitable candidates can be forwarded to the CEC.
The CEC will be starting a “Common Core” committee and the next meeting of the CEC is scheduled for February 12 in the Joan of Arc Complex.
In order to promote the idea of reading, a Literacy Day is planned for February 1.

b) Principal

Principal Mastriano outlined the duties of the Science Coordinator and how his work supports the students from 1st grade to 5th grade. He does not work with kindergarten.
With regard to the Teachers’ College Reading and Writing Project, there is a quantity of books which need to be purchased in order to provide the students with more challenging texts. There are seven specific units for each grade, and each unit has its own special requirement of books.
Ms. Masrtriano gave a brief overview of the current process to order the books which the teachers need.
There is some book borrowing between grades and there will be a need to set up a resource for recycling books next year.
The Principal responded to various questions from parents and the justification for the request for additional book purchase funding.

c) PTA Co-Presidents

PTA Co-President Jen Hogan thanked some parents for their volunteer work and then reported on the status of the recent initiative to remove snow from the playground.
Following the Principal’s report on the number of books needed, the Co-Presidents reiterated the need to update the classroom libraries and support new book clubs in grades 3 to 5. Many of these costs will not be recurring because the units and book clubs will be repeated next year.

MOTION to approve an increase in the budget line item for books by \$22,000 was made and seconded.
The motion was unanimously adopted.

Liz Wedlan asked for volunteers to help organize and coordinate the books, and some parents responded.
The Co-Presidents also asked the parents to vote on a similar motion regarding an amendment to the budget for the Science Coordinator.

MOTION to approve an increase in the budget line item for the Science Coordinator by \$2,800 was made and seconded.
The motion was unanimously adopted.

d) Parent Coordinator

Deborah Markewich made some brief announcements on various school activities including:

1. Second grade math parent workshop scheduled for January 30
2. Kindergarten admissions – February 14 deadline
3. AMNH Adventures in Science program for 1st grade.

Other test preparation sessions are being planned.

e) Friends of PS 166 (FOPS)

Stefanie Goldblatt reported on recent FOPS activities.

With regard to the two motions to amend the PTA budget which were adopted earlier during this meeting, Stefanie explained that the FOPS Board will vote on authorizing the expenditure at the next meeting scheduled for January 24.

The CAP program fund will also be discussed.

f) Class Parents (Julianne Parmenter)

Julianne Parmenter briefly explained the ongoing work of the Class Rep Committee.

There was some discussion on the implementation of an on-line directory for the parents/guardians of all students attending PS 166.

We have class lists from each class, but they need to be updated. Various ideas and alternatives were discussed.

g) Re-Create (Neil Fitzgerald, Ryan Zavala)

Neil Fitzgerald presented an overview of the afterschool offerings.

He is aware some concerns from parents and he is working to address them.

Neil also outlined some of his goals of adding other classes such as martial arts and astronomy, and making the afterschool a part of the school's culture.

Neil explained the rationale for certain costs including the \$25 registration fee for each trimester. Some charges can be waived on the basis of hardship.

Unlike last September's start-up, he expects that the offerings for the next academic year will be announced much sooner.

At the conclusion of his address, Neil fielded some questions from the membership.

h) Committees and Fundraisers

1. Auction

Anna Cipriano reported on the status of this fundraiser.

Volunteers are needed to do a lot of follow-ups by making calls and sending e-mails. A lot of the effort is deadline driven.

Donation certificates from restaurants are particularly welcome and are all due by February 7th.

The "Gift Basket" project will start soon and the Toga Party is planned for March 14th.

2. Annual Fund Drive

Jen Hogan announced that having received contributions of \$87,000 so far, we're well underway to reach our goal.

Official results and the winner of the Pizza Party contest will be announced soon.

We'll have a phone-a-thon in early February and volunteers will be needed to make the calls.

3. Broadway Sings

Mike Solomon gave a brief update on plans for this fundraiser.

Mike provided ticket pricing information and tickets can be purchased online.

Before the show there will be a pizza party.

Volunteers are needed.

4. CAP

Karyn Gooden spoke about the Classroom Assistants Program.

She urged all parents of kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades to make contributions. No amount is too small.

Reminders will be backpacked to parents.

IV. **Miscellaneous**

Liz Wedlan made some announcements on the cafeteria and playground.

There is a system in place to notify parents about menu changes.

Since we are always in danger of losing a cook, it is important to keep our lunch numbers up and increase our “grab and go” lunch numbers.

The original architect Paul Friedberg and Parks continue to review playground renovation designs.

On behalf of Dympna Gallagher, Jen Hogan reported that all approved SLT meeting minutes for the current academic year have been posted to the school’s website. The SLT’s bylaws were approved and discussions on the Comprehensive Education Plan for PS 166 continue.

On behalf of the Green and Wellness Committee, Jen reported that a meeting is scheduled for January 28th and agenda items include WITS Update, Family Fitness and Fun Night, and Earth Day Planning.

V. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary