

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2015 AT 8:50 AM IN THE CAFETERIA

Approved by unanimous vote
at the April 16, 2015 Meeting

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am.
Quorum was established.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION to approve the draft minutes of the January 8th, 2015 General Membership Meeting, was made and seconded.

By show of hands, the motion was unanimously adopted.

III. **Reports**

a) **PTA Co-Presidents**

Capital Improvements

Ms. Volkmar opened discussions on the “Wiring Upgrades and Air Conditioners in the Classrooms” by stating that “air conditioning” has been a line item on the PTA budget for several years.

Air conditioning has also been on various wish-lists, especially for classrooms with southern exposure.

Ms. Volkmar explained that the overall project includes a wiring upgrade requiring more circuit breakers, and the School Construction Authority is on board to get the wiring done on a timely basis so that the installation of the air conditioners can go forward this spring.

Existing units will not be replaced, and any increased electricity charges will be for the DOE’s account.

The total cost of the project is expected to be between \$60,000 and \$70,000, and the FOPS Board has approved spending of up to \$80,000.

b) **PTA Co-Treasurers**

Ms. Norwell gave a brief update on the current status of the bank accounts and indicated that having discussed the project with our accountant, it was agreed that this is a fiscally responsible expenditure with no reason not to move forward.

It was reiterated that this expenditure will have no impact on next year’s budget.

MOTION was made and seconded that we appropriate up to \$80,000 of PTA funds to make wiring upgrades throughout the building necessary to purchase and install air conditioning units for classrooms that currently do not have them.

The motion was approved by majority vote. There was one vote against the motion and three abstentions.

IV. **Special Guest Speaker: Faye de Muyshondt**

Ms. Gooden introduced guest speaker Ms. Faye de Muyshondt, author of *socialsklz:-) for SUCCESS: How to Give Children the Skills They Need to Thrive in the Modern World*.

Ms. de Muyshondt spoke of the importance of social skills for children in an increasingly technological world, with an emphasis on “how you come across to others”.

Faye also discussed the need to understand what children are doing on-line and the reasons why parents should enforce a healthy “media diet” with their children.

At the conclusion of her address, Ms. de Muyshondt responded to questions from parents.

V. **CAP Update**

Ms. Gooden gave a brief report on the status of the CAP fund. While most grades appear to be in good shape, 5th grade isn’t.

VI. **Auction Update**

Ms. Berry updated the parents on the Auction fundraiser.

She encouraged parents to solicit more donation vouchers to be auctioned, and where to send specific items for class baskets.

VII. **Annual Fund Drive / Fundraising**

Ms. Volkmar made a few fundraising announcements...

1. The Annual Fund Drive is at \$80,000.
2. The Walk-a-Thon is a fun event in need of a chairperson.
3. In its first month since initiation, "Shopping in Support of PS 166" at Fairway Supermarket has generated \$600.

VIII. **Committees and Events**

a) **Broadway Sings**

Marc Lovci gave a general outline of plans for this year's Broadway Sings event scheduled for Sunday, April 19th.

Marc announced that at this time, some artists have committed, and a list of volunteer opportunities is being prepared.

b) **CEC Update and Elections**

Ms. Volkmar introduced Mr. Noah Gotbaum, CEC3 Council Member and CEC3 liaison for PS 166.

Mr. Gotbaum described CEC3 in detail and what it does.

CEC3 is one of 32 Community Education Councils in New York City, and represents all elementary and middle schools in District 3.

Its responsibilities which are established by state law include approving school zoning lines, holding hearing on the capital plan, evaluating community superintendents and providing input on policy issues. CEC3 has committees which address issues relating to zoning, enrollment, Common Core Curriculum, fighting charter schools, to name a few.

Mr. Gotbaum also explained that 9 CEC members are elected for two-year terms by certain executive members of the PTAs in the district, and an election is scheduled for this year. He encouraged interested parents to run for a seat on the CEC.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Gotbaum responded to questions from the parents.

c) **Green and Wellness**

Lisa Berry reminded parents that the next meeting of the Green and Wellness Committee will be held on February 24th at 8:45 am in the auditorium. All are invited to attend.

d) **Staff Appreciation Day – February 27th**

Liz Lyons and Charlotte Dooling described how this annual event will unfold.

Cards of appreciation from children will be collected and displayed prominently in the foyer for all to see.

This is an opportunity for parents to tell staff, teachers and administration how much they do for our children.

IX. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary