

**MINUTES**  
**PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2014 AT 6:47 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM**

Approved by unanimous vote  
at the October 9, 2014 Meeting

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm.  
Quorum was established.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** to approve the draft minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014 General Membership Meeting, was made and seconded.

By show of hands, the motion was unanimously adopted.

III. **Reports**

a) **PTA Co-Presidents**

After introducing themselves, Co-Presidents Kerri Keiger and Erin Volkmar welcomed all attendees. Ms. Keiger then introduced Principal Mastriano as the first speaker.

b) **Principal**

Principal Mastriano welcomed and thanked all parents for coming.

Principal Mastriano provided some insight into the some of her plans and expectations for the new academic year.

The Principal then introduced the newly appointed Assistant Principal JoAnna Spanos.

Ms. Spanos gave a brief account of her background and career, and thanked all for the warm welcome to the school.

Principal Mastriano then introduced the entire teaching team by name for each class, as well as the specialty teachers.

c) **Parent Coordinator**

Ms. Markewich welcomed attendees and made the following announcements:

1. There will be a weekly newsletter posted to the Yahoo Group each week
2. The names of all parents known to her are on the "list-serve", and any one not there yet were invited to be registered
3. Coffee and conversation with the Principal will be back this year
4. School will be closed on September 25 and 26 for Rosh Hashanah
5. Passwords to ARIS for parents for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders can be obtained from her
6. Kindergarten Math workshop for parents will be held on October 2
7. Parents should not aim to sign-in to the school before 8:30 am
8. Communication with teachers is best by backpack. E-mail communication is discouraged.

d) **PTA Co-Treasurers**

Ms. Norwell and Ms. Bernstein spoke briefly about the role of the PTA Co-Treasurers.

Ms. Norwell also described the process of sending funds to the PTA and getting reimbursed for expenditures.

e) **Fundraising**

Ms. Cipriano provided a general overview of fundraising at PS 166.

Explaining the various fundraising events, including CAP, Annual Fund, Auction, Fall Fest and others, Ms. Cipriano emphasized that the enthusiasm of parents and their fundraising efforts differentiate schools from each other.

Referring to the huge pool of talent available in the PS 166 parent body, Ms. Cipriano encouraged attendees to support fundraisers either through direct contributions or hands-on volunteer work.

f) Fall Fest

Eva Landeo described plans for this event scheduled for October 26. Hands-on volunteers are needed, in particular a “Haunted House Director”. Information on the sign-up procedures will be going out soon. The first Fall Fest meeting will be held on Monday at 8:45 am.

g) Auction

Tiana Clarke and Lisa Berry, Co-Chairs of the Auction, spoke briefly about this red-carpet gala event planned for Friday, March 20, 2015. Ms. Clarke asked parents to be creative about items that can be put up for auction. Ms. Berry will be the coordinator of all volunteers.

h) YMCA Afterschool

Danice Crump, Program Director at YMCA of Greater New York, described the YMCA afterschool program at the school. Mr. Crump reported that the program, which is free, enables children to learn and grow through academic and recreational activities. Of the 100 available spots, 88 were taken.

IV. Committees and Events

a) Carnival of the Animals

Ms. Cipriano spoke briefly about the upcoming fundraiser performance scheduled for Sunday, October 5. This will be a classical music performance by parent musicians and friends from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. After the show, there will be a meet and greet of audience and performers. Ticket sales were going well.

b) New Parent Dinner

Co-President Ms. Volkmar gave a brief overview of the planned dinner for not only new kindergarten parents but any other parent of children new to the school. The dinner will be held in the Reading Garden. Childcare will be provided for school-age children of new parents who would be otherwise unable to attend. Ms. Volkmar also spoke about the WITS program. She reported that the school had a new chef and encouraged parents to have their children buy lunch at the school.

c) Other

Ms. Suzi Gordon, Co-Chair of Green/Wellness described the activities of this committee and invited parents to volunteer. The first meeting of the academic year will be held on Wednesday, October 1, and a flyer setting out volunteer opportunities will be backpacked to parents. Textile Recycling is scheduled for each day of the week of September 29.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary