

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013 AT 6:50 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the October 17, 2013 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm.
Quorum was established.

II. Reports

a) PTA Co-Presidents

Co-Presidents Jen Hogan and Liz Wedlan welcomed and thanked all attendees for coming. Jen generally summarized the state of various PTA initiatives and thanked the volunteer parents. There was a call for more volunteers. The PTA is wholly dependent on volunteers from the parent body, and there are a number of ways to volunteer. Liz provided an update on the playground issue which is currently before the Public Design Commission of the City of New York. Information is on the PS 166 website and will be updated as required. Interested parents may also e-mail Liz for information.

b) Friends of P.S. 166, Inc. (FOPS)

Dahlia Doumar, a current Board member of FOPS, spoke and answered some questions about this Not-for-Profit corporation. There are major differences between the PTA and FOPS. Questions from attendees generally related to Board composition and transparency. Dahlia was assisted by Stefanie Goldblatt, Board member and Secretary of the corporation in responding to the questions.

c) Treasurer

Gloria Lee, the PTA and FOPS Treasurer, reported that the PTA is on sound financial footing. She also fielded a few financial related questions.

d) Principal

Principal Mastriano introduced herself and welcomed all. Principal Mastriano provided some insight into the some of her plans. Teachers will be going to Teachers' College next year. There was math consultant last year and the school has moved to engageNY for mathematics. With regard to the state tests, we'll be more prepared and we'll do a lot better next year.

e) Parent Coordinator

Deborah Markewich welcomed the parents and made the following announcements:-

1. There is a PS 166 Family Handbook; one for each family
2. See her if you have not received your copy
3. The website will be updated for events during the year
4. There will be a weekly newsletter posted to the Yahoo group on Wednesday or Thursday each week
5. Get any information you want to announce to her by Wednesday for inclusion in the newsletter
6. Coffee and Conversation will be back
7. There will be a meeting on middle-school
8. Testing workshops are planned for the upper grades
9. A dinner will be held next Thursday for new families.

f) School Leadership Team

Sara Spinnell explained the work and composition of the SLT. All parents can attend any monthly meeting of the SLT; just let her know. Sara also announced that she and Anna Cipriano will be back next year as co-chairs of the auction.

III. Committees and Events

a) Re-Create

Neil Fitzgerald, Director of Re-Create, explained the operations of the afterschool program in general. Although there was a back-up of e-mails at start-up, he is trying to make the transition to his administration as seamless as possible. Neil responded to questions on classrooms used as well as current and future offerings.

Homework supervision is beneficial for both the children and the teachers. Emergencies can be resolved. Neil would like to get settled into a smooth operating pattern before initiating planned improvements.

b) Peter and the Wolf

Kari Docter spoke briefly about the upcoming fundraiser performance scheduled for Sunday, September 22. There will be eighteen musicians on stage, whom the audience can meet after the show. Ticket sales were going well.

c) Fall Fest

Eva Landeo, Co-chair of this major fundraiser, thanked Rodger Wells for all the work he has done on Fall Fest in previous years and described the event.

Volunteers are essential for the success of the fundraiser and parents were invited to sign-up on-line as well as using paper forms. Assignments for the grades will be announced in due course.

d) New Parent Dinner

Christine DiPasquale 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.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Laurie Frey to delete a certain sentence on the second page of the draft minutes of the June 14th, 2013 General Membership Meeting, was seconded by Noah Kaufman.

The motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

The minutes of the June 14th, 2013 General Membership Meeting were approved as corrected.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary