

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2013 AT 6:05 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the November 15, 2013 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Co-President Liz Wedlan.
Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the draft minutes of the September 19, 2013 General Membership meeting was made and seconded.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

III. Reports

a) Principal Mastriano

Principal Mastriano and other senior members of the Administration reviewed the school's performance on the NYS standardized tests held in the spring of 2013.

Using charts, Principal Mastriano highlighted significant results. She also provided comparisons to neighboring schools including PS 9, PS 84 and PS 87. There was no separate reporting between the results of G&T students and General Education students.

The presenters also gave a brief overview of the new math curriculum for all of the grades, responded to questions from parents and provided a list of websites which parents might find useful in obtaining more information about the curriculum.

b) Teacher Representatives

Teacher representatives from K to 5th Grade were...

1. Kindergarten – Miss Courtney Meltzer
2. 1st Grade – Miss Eileen Mishanie
3. 2nd Grade – Ms. Cassandra Gregov
4. 3rd Grade – Miss Emily Chan
5. 4th Grade – Ms. Nadine Kornreich
6. 5th Grade – Mr. James Fama.

The teachers presented grade specific math curricula and end-of-year goals. They also discussed their teaching strategies and various methods they employ to enable students to successfully solve math problems. The teachers fielded several questions from parents.

c) Friends of P.S. 166, Inc.

Stefanie Goldblatt, a current Board member and Secretary of Friends of P.S. 166, Inc. (FOPS), gave an overview of this Not-for-Profit corporation.

Having been created in 2001, FOPS is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is also a public charity providing support for PS 166 and the initiatives generated through the PTA.

Stefanie explained the rationale for incorporation, and the composition of the Board, emphasizing that Board members can also be drawn from outside of the PS 166 parent body.

She outlined how FOPS works in conjunction with the PTA, and touched generally on some school programs supported by FOPS. In closing, Stefanie referred to the newly adopted policy of transparency, open Board meetings and disclosure of information on the PS 166 website.

d) School Leadership Team

Dympna Gallagher, current parent member of the School Leadership Team (SLT) updated the PTA membership on SLT composition, meeting schedules, and some issues the SLT is currently addressing. Parents are welcome to attend SLT monthly meetings, but only members or guests who are on the agenda may speak. Minutes of all SLT meetings can be found on the PS 166 website.

e) Community and City-wide Education Council

Barbara Denham, Council Member and Treasurer of CEC District 3 (CEC3) gave the membership an overview of the composition and responsibilities of CEC3.

CEC3 represents Community School District 3, which is a big district and includes PS 166. Each CEC has twelve members including nine parent members, all elected by the district's PA/PTAs.

Barbara also outlined some of the current issues before CEC3 and provided some insight on them.

f) Parent Coordinator

Deborah Markewich made several announcements relating to...

1. Healthy Heads Program
2. Upcoming Photo Day
3. G&T Admissions and the Request for Testing procedure
4. YAHOO announcement-only e-mail group used to post messages to the parent body.

g) PTA Co-Vice President

Charlotte Dooling gave a presentation on the Teacher Support Program for 2013-2014, which is funded by Friends of P.S. 166, Inc.

Charlotte provided details of the well-stocked teacher supply closet, and the teacher discretionary grant. The teachers are grateful for the help.

h) Fall Fest

On behalf of Eva Landeo, PTA Co-President Liz Wedlan updated the assembly on plans for the upcoming Fall Fest. Liz briefly discussed ticket sales, wristband pricing and volunteer online sign-up procedures. This will be a cashless event once inside, and tickets can be used for entertainment activities as well as food purchases.

i) PTA Co-President

Liz gave an update on the Box-top fundraiser which she chaired for several years.

Safety procedures during recess were discussed and parents were invited to advise Liz and Jen Hogan of any and all concerns which they may have.

On the "playground issue" Liz mentioned that the original architect M. Paul Friedberg has been recently involved in the re-design project and a proposal is expected around the end of October.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary