

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2013 AT 8:59 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the December 13, 2013 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:59 am by Co-President Jen Hogan.
Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 17, 2013 General Membership meeting was made and seconded.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

III. Reports

a) PTA Co-Presidents

Jen Hogan welcomed all parents and extended a special “Thank You” to each of the following:

1. Nicole Blackmun for providing snacks since the beginning of the school year to all kindergarten families.
2. Johnna Hampton and parent volunteers for help on Picture Day.
3. Maria Mjoll Jonsdittir for the Halloween Costume Fundraiser.
4. Carol Cate and Eva Landeo and over 200 parent volunteers for Haunted Halloween Fall Fest.
5. Claudia Knafo and Alex Yagupsky for the Halloween Concert.
6. Emily Fano and Green Wellness for special recognition as a Green School Award on the Progress Report.
7. All Teachers and Staff for securing an “A” in School Achievement on the Progress Report.

Liz and Jen gave an update on some meetings they recently attended.

Liz asked for some volunteers for the cafeteria.

Jen spoke about the mission of the Teachers’ College Reading and Writing Project and provided points on good writing. She also gave an account of the recent parents’ workshop held on Tuesday, October 29. The next scheduled meeting will be on March 22, 2014.

Liz reported that there is no additional news on the playground. Parents will be informed when more information is available.

A parent enquired about the status of a motion which was made and seconded at a previous meeting to form a playground committee, but no vote on the motion was taken at the time. Liz was not aware of the motion and deferred the matter to the next General Membership meeting.

Professional Development Half-Days

Jen generally outlined the purpose of PD Days.

Principal Mastriano, pointed out that the DOE is seeking to provide parents with children who performed at Levels 1 and 2 on the 2013 Pearson tests, thirty minute conferences with teachers to develop strategies to support the students.

Core Learning Standards require significant PD on behalf of teachers who need time to work across the grade for greatest consistency.

Principal Mastriano explained the three step approval process from parents, teachers and the DOE.

Principal Mastriano then responded to questions from parents.

Daycare will be provided for parents who need the service.

A motion made by Jen Hogan to approve December 20, 2013, January 17, 2014, May 9, 2014 and May 16, 2014 as Professional Development days, was seconded and by show of hands the majority of parents in attendance voted to adopt the motion.

b) Principal

Principal Mastriano generally described the reading levels and spoke on the writing assessments.

The first three Thursdays in December are sign-up days.

Everyone eligible should sign up for December 20th and the second one too.

Principal Mastriano then updated the parents on the 2nd Grade teacher Ms. Lupo who was hired after Ms. Beylo resigned. Ms. Lupo is no longer a teacher at the school and a permanent substitute is in place for now. Principal Mastriano responded to questions from several parents.

c) Community and City-wide Education Council

Barbara Denham introduced herself and described the composition of the CEC.

Barbara outlined some background information on the Beacon School situated on West 61st Street.

The CEC wants to pass a resolution regarding the recommended use of the school.

The general feeling is to house a middle school with 800 seats, which will have District 3 priority.

The CEC is looking for input from parents in District 3 on future space planning, including the focus of the new school. The ultimate decision is with the Chancellor.

d) School Leadership Team

Dympna Gallagher provided a brief update on the work and discussions of the SLT.

Minutes of the meetings held in September and October will be on the school's website soon.

e) Committees and Fundraisers

1. Auction

Anna Cipriano gave an update on plans for this fundraiser.

2. Annual Fund Drive

Jen Hogan spoke on behalf of Co-Chairs Stacey Shapiro and Shilpa Spencer.

The Annual Fund Drive is about to be launched.

A contest is planned and the grade with the highest percent participation will receive a Pizza Party in the spring. Although the suggested contribution is \$1,000 per child, the drive will focus on participation regardless of the amount contributed.

3. Photography Fundraiser

Christine Di Pasquale described this fundraiser.

It provides an opportunity for families to obtain card-ready photos on time for the upcoming holidays. We have raised \$600 so far and are hopeful to do more.

4. CAP

Karyn Gooden spoke about the Classroom Assistants Program which is geared towards families of children in all kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades.

Parents who had not yet contributed were encouraged to do so before year-end.

Karyn also provided the current participation percentages by grade with 1st grade being shown as the leader.

5. Richard Rodgers Day

Debra Roberts reported on a letter she received from Mary Rodgers, the daughter of the school's namesake, Richard Rodgers.

f) Socialsklz

Co-President Jen Hogan introduced guest speaker, Faye de Muyschondt, author of *socialsklz:-) for SUCCESS: How to Give Children the Skills They Need to Thrive in the Modern World*, whose subject matter included the importance of social skills in our increasingly technological world, as well as enforcing a healthy "media diet" for children.

At the conclusion of her talk, Faye answered questions from the parents.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary