

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2014 AT 6:39 PM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the January 8, 2015 Meeting

I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.
Quorum was established.

II. **Approval of Minutes**

MOTION to approve the draft minutes of the November 6th, 2014 General Membership Meeting, was made and seconded.

By show of hands, the motion was unanimously adopted.

III. **Reports**

a) **PTA Co-Presidents**

1. **Safety Update –**

Ms. Volkmar gave a brief update on safety measures at the school.

Alarms will be installed by the district on the school's doors.

As a result of the lockdown drill, new locks will be installed on the doors to the cafeteria.

There have been reports of parents going to their children's classrooms during school hours unannounced and without being invited by the teachers. This is a violation of security protocol.

Parents should first check in at the general office.

2. **Librarian –**

Ms. Zampetti spoke about the library in general.

Topics covered during her address included lost items policy, Spelling Bee, magazine fundraiser in order to obtain magazines for the library, and a call for volunteers especially during the morning hours.

At the conclusion of Ms. Zampetti's address, Liz Sorem, a parent and library volunteer, talked about her experience checking books, reading to children and helping children find suitable books for their respective reading levels.

b) **Principal**

Principal Mastriano gave an update on the 2014 Blackboard Award ceremony, at which we were honored as being an Outstanding Grade School.

The Principal also reported on the data gathering for the annual Quality Review report. The Superintendent of the school's district was in the building recently working on the review.

Ms. Mastriano concluded her address by reminding parents of the upcoming Winter Wonderlands Show and asked for a few volunteers to decorate the stage.

c) **PTA Co-Treasurers**

Ms. Bernstein reported that a check for \$80,000 was recently sent to the Department of Education as an installment payment to pay our classroom assistants through the winter months. A final payment is due in February 2015. Unless the grades are fully funded, cutbacks can be expected.

Year-to-date funding by grade...

- Kindergarten – 100%
- 1st Grade – 83%
- 2nd Grade – 77%
- 3rd Grade – 69%
- 4th Grade – 59%
- 5th Grade – 54 %

The Co-Treasurer also reported that year-to-date contributions to the Annual Fund Drive were \$27,000.

d) **Fundraising**

Lisa Berry gave a brief update on the planning and preparatory work relating to the Auction.

IV. **Committees and Events**

a) **Community Education Council District 3 (CEC3)**

Barbara Denham gave a detailed account of the issues giving rise to a CEC3 draft resolution on District-Priority High Schools, and the concern of District 3 families of 8th graders with a relatively low percentage access to a district priority seat.

Ms. Denham pointed out that while most high schools are citywide schools, there are some high schools that give preference to students living within the district in which the schools are located. These schools are known as District-Priority High Schools.

The numbers indicate a significant disparity in the distribution of district-priority seats in Manhattan high schools, which reduces the choices that District 3 students have available to them.

The CEC3 plan is to urge the NYC Department of Education to re-evaluate district-priority policy and bring fairness to the high school admissions process for all District 3 and Manhattan students.

Ms. Denham encouraged parents to attend an upcoming CEC3 meeting in support of this initiative.

V. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary