

MINUTES
PS 166 PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2013 AT 9:03 AM IN THE AUDITORIUM

Approved by unanimous vote
at the January 17, 2014 Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Co-President Jen Hogan.
Quorum was established.

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Laurie Frey to amend the last sentence of paragraph (e) 3 - Photography Fundraiser on the second page of the draft minutes of the November 15, 2013 General Membership Meeting was seconded and adopted by unanimous consent.

The minutes of the November 15, 2013 General Membership Meeting were approved as corrected.

III. Reports

a) PTA Co-Presidents (Thank You & Holiday Gifts / Fundraising / PD Days & Childcare

Jen Hogan welcomed all parents and expressed special thanks to several parent volunteers and teachers.

1. Marta Alvarez and all those who contributed food to the Thanksgiving Food Drive.
2. Camilla Rodriguez-Perusse, Kari Docter, Debbie Rudt and all parents who volunteered in the lunchroom or encouraged their children to eat school lunch. We secured our second chef.
3. Leslie Zampetti for administrating our Annual Spelling Bee. Congratulations to Hallie Goldblatt and Jonathon Schneiderman.
4. Third grade teachers and parents for funding Met Opera Residency.
5. Fourth grade teachers and parents for funding Vital Theatre Residency
6. Anna Cipriano for organizing the Champagne and Shopping Fundraiser at TaROO
7. Marta Alvarez for organizing the Toy Drive in partnership with the New York Foundling.
8. Thad Buzolich for spending hours online ordering books for the students.

Liz Wedlan made the following announcements:

1. Holiday gifts for teachers will be given out next week by VP's Charlotte Dooling and Liz Lyons.
2. PD Days have been approved and childcare will be provided for parents in need of it. Please sign-up with Natalia Mitchell.
3. There was nothing new to report on the playground matter.
4. We need a Chairperson for Family Fitness Night. The task entails communications and administrative responsibilities.
5. A vote on Science Enrichment will be held in January.

Jen spoke briefly about fundraising at PS 166.

In addition to the main fundraisers of Fall Fest, the Annual Fund Drive and the Auction, there are opportunities for smaller ones. Jen invited all parents to make proposals outlining any ideas they have and we'll be pragmatic in our response, giving due consideration to the self-dealing requirements of the PTA's bylaws.

b) Principal

Principal Mastriano provided the history, progress and rationale for the school's Book Purchase program. The Principal also explained that the Teachers College Reading & Writing Project is a research and staff development organization housed at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The Project develops ideas that are foundational to literacy instruction.

Principal Mastriano gave a general overview of the curriculum for each grade from kindergarten to 5th grade. She also indicated the unit each grade has reached at the present time in the school year.

Assistant Principal Burns spoke briefly about book clubs and gave an overview for 5th grade readers.

Every grade has fifty fiction and fifty informational texts.

Teachers decide what texts they need for the upcoming reading units of study, and Ms. Burns will e-mail the lists to the PTA for ordering.

Principal Mastriano then responded to some questions from parents.

c) Parent Coordinator

Deborah Markewich made the following announcements:

1. Test Prep – This program will be offered to 4th grade students beginning January 27, 2014. The program will cover both ELA and Math instruction tailored to the NY State Grade 4 Common Core Tests.
2. Parent Workshop – This is mainly for parents of 4th and 5th graders who didn't do too well on the state tests last year. It is also open to parents of 3rd graders who have some concerns or questions about the new curriculum and tests.
3. G&T Testing – Tests for PS 166 students whose parents submitted RFT forms by the November 8th deadline will be administered at the school during a school day in January 2014.

d) Community and City-wide Education Council

Barbara Denham provided an update on the future use of the Beacon High School.

The CEC 3 passed a resolution calling for a new school to serve grades 6 through 12.

The current High School will move to Hell's Kitchen in the fall of 2015.

Students entering 6th grade will be drawn from all elementary schools throughout District 3.

The middle school's admissions policy gives priority to District 3 students based on a student's "portfolio".

The key thing is finding a suitable principal for the school.

Barbara pointed out that the building requires a variety of upgrades to make it ready for the expected middle school population.

The current lease expires in 2020 and since the DOE cannot make capital improvements without a lease longer than seven years, it is unlikely all requested improvements will be done.

e) School Leadership Team

On behalf of Dymrna Gallagher, Liz Wedlan stated that the next SLT meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 4:00 pm in the school library.

All meeting minutes, once approved, will be posted on the school's website.

f) Friends of PS 166 (FOPS)

On behalf of Stefanie Goldblatt, Liz announced that FOPS met on November 22, 2013.

This past spring, we had allocated \$12,000 for recess oversight for the entire 2013-14 school year.

After consultation with E3 and based on additional time they spend on our program, the budget allocation will be \$15,255.

FOPS also discussed increasing the days that Mr. Garo (Science Supplemental) spends at PS 166. We will vote on this on January 17, 2014.

The next FOPS meeting will be on December 20, 2013.

g) Class Parents (Julianne Parmenter)

Julianne Parmenter briefly explained the function of Class Reps.

Class lists generally have e-mail addresses and phone numbers of parents.

Julie also described how and when information is best communicated to parents.

h) Committees and Fundraisers

1. Auction

On behalf of Auction Co-Chairs Anna Cipriano and Sara Spinnell, Liz Wedlan gave an update on plans for this year's auction. Liz indicated that donations of goods and services have started and she urged parents to help get the pledges in.

2. Annual Fund Drive

Co-Chair Stacey Shapiro indicated that cash contributions and pledges were approximately \$32,000 which is slightly ahead of last year.

In terms of the pizza party contest, the race is close with 3rd grade having a slender lead.

3. Broadway Sings

Marc Lovci gave a brief update on plans for this fundraiser.

4. CAP

Karyn Gooden spoke about the Classroom Assistants Program.

She urged all parents of kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades to make contributions. No amount is too small.

5. Green & Wellness

Eva Landeo updated the assembly on this committee's activities.

6. Library & Book Fair

On behalf of Leslie Zampetti, Liz Wedlan announced that the library has been open since October.

We focus on supporting the curriculum and providing fun books for the students to choose from.

Several classes have learned about the differences between nonfiction in general and narrative nonfiction. Others are learning about historical fiction.

The 2nd annual Spelling Bee was a wonderful experience with sixteen student spellers.

Volunteers for helping with next spring's Scholastic Book Fair are needed. Please contact Leslie Zampetti or Johanna Hampton.

IV. **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. Rodrigues, Recording Secretary