

PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY
132 WEST 89th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024
PS166.ORG

PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, November 17, 2019 8:30AM in the Cafeteria

APPROVED AT December 19, 2019 Meeting

- I. Call to Order
Co-President Ms. Daria Kim called the meeting to order at 8:39 am.
A QUORUM was established.

- II. Approval of the Minutes
A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on October 17, 2019 was made by Ms. Kim. The MOTION was seconded by _____.
The minutes were passed unanimously.

- III. President Updates
 - A. School events: Fall fest
Ms. Polimeni reported that it was great and thanked the organizers of Fall Fest.
 - B. Recent PTA-funded purchases (test prep books, Teachers College PDs for teachers)
The expenses of the test prep books that were bought for the test takers this year are covered by the PTA funds.
 - C. Residency updates (garden, 4th and 5th grade), CMI update (parent workshops)
Kindergarteners have gone twice so far and they are supposed to go 8 to 9 times in a year. They are getting the garden ready for winter. Checking the temperature of the soil. Planting garlic and discussing all about its benefits.
 - First graders - Partnership with the community garden across the street. Students will visit 5 times over the year (no cost to this program).
 - Second graders - Students will visit twice over the year. In the fall they learn about the plant life cycle, saving seeds for planting them in spring, planting garlic too.
 - Third graders - Students will work with artists from the Met Opera Guild as they compose and present their own musical performances based on the Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Students will get a deeper understanding of classroom source materials and build skills in the arts, while learning to work collaboratively and creatively with their peers. By the end of the program, the students have written their own operas, performed them in front of their school community, and visited the Metropolitan Opera House for a dress rehearsal.
 - Fourth - Students will be partnering with the NY Historical Society for a History of Art residency exploring the American Revolution. The PTA will also pay for classroom visits from the NY Hall of Science and Liberty Science Center, at the teachers' discretion.
 - Fifth - Students will be partnering with the NY Historical Society for a History on Broadway program dealing with Western Expansion. They will watch clips of Broadway shows, learn about using primary resources to better understand history, and act out scenes. The, PTA

also has helped them with getting the sign up for classroom visits from individual classes from the NY Hall of Science and the Liberty Science Center, at the teachers' discretion.

- D. Safety meeting updates - It is DOE policy that recess cannot be taken away from children as a punitive measure. Principal Mastriano has spoken to every, TA, para, staff member, and recess monitor to make sure they understand this policy.

IV. Principal Update - Principal Mastriano

She welcomed everyone and updated everyone on the following:

- A. The newly purchased PTA funded Chrome Towers and all the chromebooks have been successfully rolled out and are getting utilized in the fourth and fifth grade classrooms.
- B. Amplify Science kits: All classrooms are using the new Amplify Science Curriculum, which provides a more hands-on curriculum for science. Ms. Mastriano thanked the PTA for funding the K science kits.
- C. Physical education teacher Mr. DeVito spoke about and demonstrated the Move To Improve program which will replace Go Noodle in the classrooms. It's a program designed to get kids moving in the classroom. It will be implemented by teachers for 8 mins a day and 40 mins per week in each classroom. Teachers get to do different activities with their kids while incorporating it in their curriculum. Mr. DeVito demonstrated an example of the type of movement kids may perform... parents were invited to participate in one exercise where parents either squatted or marched in place depending on the answer to the true/false math question Mr. DeVito posed. To date, Mr. DeVito has taught the teachers four exercises - jog in place, squats and so on and the teachers get to pick which one and in which lesson to implement it. Teachers have cards for the kids who need visuals. The Move To Improve program is getting integrated into classroom instructions.
- D. Ms. Mastriano reported that yesterday she met with the Social Emotional Committee. The school picks a Word-of-the-Month; this month the word is kindness. She explained the need to create a social contract with the kids. There will also be a book of the month which will coincide and promote the word of the month. *Invisible Boy* is the book this month as the story promotes acts of kindness.
- E. Green committee - Ms. Mastriano spoke of how the school has recently started a student Green Team. Two children from each class will be chosen on a rotating basis to be Green Team leaders. Those children will make sure classrooms are recycling and composting correctly, and will help with recycling and composting in the cafeteria. Mr. Weinberger, chair of the parent-led Green Committee, will help train students. The first students have already been chosen and the program will be starting today.
- F. Progress Reports: The school has implemented a new system of progress reports that will be given out before conferences in November and March. Report cards will be given out twice a year in January and June. Assistant Principal Anav Cohen spoke about progress reports and reported that last year as a committee they felt that giving official report cards in November was too premature. Progress reports are not entered into the official record, so students have time to understand what they can work on and how to improve before the official report cards come out. As the progress report initiative is new, they will be compiling feedback and tweaking them.

- G. Coaches in the building - Thank you to the PTA for paying for several professional development (PD) programs for teachers. These programs are extremely beneficial. Two of our main PD partners are the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Program and our Math Coach Nicola, who comes in every other week. Our math curriculum is comprehensive, we have number talks, ECAM, math rotation, math projects, even nursery rhymes that are connected to math for the younger grades. All staff gets invited to certain programs where the teachers get to meet other teachers throughout the city and discuss what are the best approaches. We are exploring how robotics can be incorporated into the Math program as well.
 - H. Science - Amplify Science is a new curriculum the school piloted last year. Teachers and kids loved it last year. Through the Amplify Science program, the school gets a Science coach, provided at no cost, to help train teachers in the new program. Thanks to parent Kristin Savov, we now have a partnership with Columbia University. 7 of their undergraduate students will visit K and 2nd grade classrooms once per week to provide extra help during science lessons. If it's successful, we will have more involvement next year.
 - I. 5 Performances instead of having two this year - K&1 will be working on a performance together and grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 will each have separate performances. Their performances will be incorporating their respective curricula.
- V. Parent Coordinator Update - Ms. Deborah Markewich
- A. Ms. Markewich reminded the middle school parents that their applications are due.
 - B. Ms. Markewich reminded the community that Photo Re-take Day is on Dec. 6th. If you purchased a package but are not satisfied with the photos, you can return your photos for a refund or for a re-take. Parents who did not pre-order photos cannot take the retake, although they received a proof and they can still order prints of that proof. Kids who were absent that day will also have photos taken this day.
- I. Teacher Update - Mr. Fama - Was not able to attend.
- VI. CEC 3 Update - Kristin Berger, CEC 3 Secretary
- A. Ms. Berger is the CEC 3 liaison for PS 166. CEC parent representatives are elected by D3 PTAs. The CEC works on elementary school zoning, and works with the city on policy making. Ms. Tracy Mclair is the Family Support Coordinator and her office is on W. 93rd street. Parents should reach out to her with questions or concerns.
 - B. The DoE has had a policy for several years that prohibits taking away recess as a punitive measure. However, schools have not necessarily been enforcing this policy. The CEC recently put out a resolution reiterating that policy.
 - C. Middle school diversity is an issue - Ms. Berger reminded everyone that middle school applications are due soon. There was a change in admissions policy for middle schools that started this past year to increase diversity in D3 middle schools, and data on offers show that it's going in the direction we wanted it to go. We won't have data on actual enrollment until it is released by the DoE. We are asking them to share the data as soon as possible.
 - D. Ms. Berger discussed the G&T proposal by the school diversity committee, an advisory group made up of advocates, parents and so on. Right now the proposal is just a

recommendation and the city hasn't changed anything. There was a proposal to change the HS admissions process but the city got a lot of pushback for it. One recommendation was to remove screening due to how varied it could be by school.

- E. Ms. Berger presented that the CEC is also working on equity and that it is a big challenge as it is not yet clearly defined. All schools in District 3 have different equity teams but the teams may all focus on different issues of equity that are specific to their school.
 - F. The Interim Acting Superintendent of D3 is Christine Loughlin . Ms. Berger presented that the DOE will announce the official superintendent by December 2019.
 - G. Ms. Berger presented that the D3 Presidents Council has also worked on an effort related to equity. The D3 Presidents Council tried to address the question of fundraising as part of their discussion. Ms. Berger presented that the CEC is not working with the D3 Presidents Council on this.
 - H. Ms. Berger invited parents to join one of the many CEC committees, including committees for charter schools, high school, equity, and a multilingual committee
 - I. The CEC Council meets twice a month and all are welcome to attend.
- VII. Green Committee Update and Composting Presentation - Mr. Josh Weinberger
- Mr. Weinberger presented that they have a brand new wooden shed in the reading garden.
 - The Green Committee spearheads several initiatives at the school, including textile recycling on Fridays, compost collection on Tuesdays, and compost collection in classrooms. They also help guide students with recycling and composting during lunch - please sign up to help out, or join the Green Committee. which meets on the second Tuesday of every month.
 - Mr. Weinberger encouraged families to bring in coats for coat drive - coats only, no sweatshirts, hats, etc. PS 166 is also a partner of the 1000 Turkey Challenge program.
 - The Green Committee recently applied for grants for a water filling station.
 - Mr. Weinberger stated that the school will need to get rid of lost and found items before thanksgiving break and encouraged families to come collect them.
 - Mr. Weinberger did a compost demonstration where he explained how kids quickly need to sort their garbage, recycling and compost after lunch. He insisted that the message of composting needs to be consistent message for the kids, and encouraged families to compost at home. There are several places to bring compost in the neighborhood, one of them being at the W 86th st station from 7am to 10pm.
- VIII. PTA and Committee Updates:
- A. Fundraising - Mr. John Situ
 - Ms. Polimeni spoke on behalf of Mr Situ. The PTA pays for many of the programs we have discussed today, including teacher PDs, Chromebooks, residencies, TAs, and the Green program.. Please look out for fundraising emails. There is a suggested donation, but please participate however you can even if you do not give the full suggested amount.
 - Mr. Josh Weinberger discussed the much-delayed arrival of Fairway affiliate-marketing key fobs -- scannable barcodes that PS166 families can use when shopping at Fairway or online at Fairway's site, enabling the school to earn 3% for PS 166 for every dollar spent. Fobs will be backpacked home to all new families, and made available to all existing families who may have lost theirs or never received one in the past.

- Ms. Polimeni added that the Executive Board is looking for a parent volunteer to take the reins on all affiliate-marketing fundraising efforts, including the Fairway relationship, Amazon.com, West Side Kids, etc.

B. Treasurer - Mr. Will Kolb and Ms. Wanda Lin

Ms. Lin presented an update on the budget: Ms. Lin presented that Fall Revenue were 1.5% higher than last year. Ms. Lin stated that the treasurers were still calculating the expenses so we don't have profit numbers yet. Since our last meeting, the biggest expense we will incur this week is the 2nd installment of the Classroom Assistants Program. Other notable expenses include: the first payment of Teacher's College Professional Development Series, all the Test Prep Books for the higher grades, first two payments for the librarian, some of the residencies - for K, 4th & 5th graders, and half the year's payment for recess staff. In terms of fundraising, we are receiving some checks and credit card donations.

C. Grants and SLT - Kristin Savov

- Grants: Ms. Savov is working on several grants. She is working with Mr. Weinberger from the Green Committee and Sara from the Garden Committee to get a grant for water filling stations. Ms. Savov also submitted for participatory funding from City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal's Office.
- SLT: SLT is the School Leadership Team, a group of teachers, parents, and administration charged with creating a comprehensive education plan for the school. On the board there is Ms. Storms, Ms. Kim, Ms. Petersen, Ms. McHale, Ms. Lind, Ms. Ruffler, Ms. Stern, Ms Ruffler, Mr. Fama, Ms. Pappas, and Principal Mastriano. The SLT group just finished writing a comprehensive plan called the CEP. This year's CEP will cover english, math and social climate. The SLT is currently working towards creating a positive learning environment in school. In order to do this, the SLT administered a social climate survey last year asking kids what they felt about school. SLT intends to supplement that information they gleaned from the first survey with results from the second survey they will administer to kids for this year. Last year, SLT also performed a teachers survey and also got results from that. Ms. Savov also reports that each grade has a grade leader teacher representative tasked with coordinating and consolidating feedback from the teachers in that grade. Ms. Savov reports that our school is now one of the best schools in NYC. 93% of the fourth graders passed the ELA exam. She also referred to the other things Ms. Mastriano is doing to make this school even better. SLT's next meeting is on December 4, 2019. She states that DOE Info Hub has additional information on this topic and that an SLT newsletter is in the works.

D. Inclusion Committee -

Ms. Natasha Cipolli spoke for the Inclusion Committee. She reported about the one woman mission she had taken up and gone for 16 middle school tours. She spoke of how all the principals of all the 16 schools were very generous with their time and information. After having collected all the information she is offering it to school now. Anyone needing information on what provisions are there for special needs children in the 16 middle schools she visited may feel free to contact her.

IX. Parent ID cards - Nina Collmer

Ms. Collmer encouraged all parents and caregivers to pick up their IDs after drop off. She reported that if a person has lost an ID card, they may get a new one for a \$15 fee. Photo for these IDs will be taken again in January and April. Ms. Collmer reports that Parent IDs help create visibility in the school and the teachers also appreciate it as they can tell who the parents are. She asked for someone who would be interested in taking up the responsibility after her. They can shadow her for now and then she can pass on the responsibility.

X. Upcoming Events

- A. First show: Grade K-1 Show – Thursday, December 12th
- B. Movie night - Postponed - construction in the building on weekends, which means we cannot reserve the space.
- C. Lice check - Tuesday, January 21, 2020.
- D. Teacher appreciation events: Pie Party, Holiday Party, Holiday Gifts.
The Pie Party is on Wednesday, November 26, 2019. Please send notes of gratitude to teachers and they will be displayed during the pie party.

XI. Adjourn

Next meeting is on December 19, 2019. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Ms. Kim at 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandini Prakash, Recording Secretary