

PS 166 The Richard Rodgers School of the Arts & Technology
132 West 89th Street, New York, NY 10024

General PTA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:30am. • Cafeteria

APPROVED at April 18, 2019 Meeting

1. Call to Order

Co-President Ms. Solomon called the meeting to order at 8:35am.
Quorum was established.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the February 14, 2019 meeting

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on February 14, 2019 meeting was made by Ms. Solomon. The MOTION was seconded by Ms. Polimeni. Two people abstained. The minutes were passed unanimously.

3. Notice of Exec Board elections coming soon

Ms. Polimeni shared a brief overview of all of the exec board positions. Ms. Solomon shared that more information from each board member would be shared at the next PTA Meeting. And she encouraged people to run.

4. Safety Meeting

Ms Solomon shared that every month the school holds a safety meeting with the PTA President, Principal, UFT chapter lead Mr. Fama, Custodian, Neil Fitzgerald from Arts & Athletics and Nurse Hamilton shares different things going on the school. For example, they'll discuss what drills they've had or are coming up. Also discusses safety plan, including evacuation drills to make sure every classroom knows which exits to go to as well as the alternate route. Principal & Ms. Markowich also evaluate each fire drill to determine if it went quickly and orderly. Ms. Solomon shared that the administration is eager to hear any or all concerns from parents. Ms. Collmer asked if we were still planning to have a 2nd safety agent which had previously been discussed. The Principal advised that she shared this concern at every meeting. Safety Agent answered that they decide the number of agents

based on the school population, number of exits and incidents. Safety Agent said she's brought it up but has not heard an answer. She recommends the parent body share their concerns. Principal recommends that we bring it up at the CEC3 meeting. And she reinforced this concern, especially as the safety agents need to take breaks.

Ms. Watkins, President of Community Education Council in district 3. Shares an update about the a Council meeting last night. A lot of schools have multiple schools inside them which is why they have multiple agents. PS 166 is among 3 schools that don't have a 2nd or back up safety agent. She encourages everyone to write to the Superintendent and the CEC3 and express their concerns. Ms. Solomon advised that they'd put a letter together. Ms. Watkins recommended we find out which other schools don't have safety agents.

Ms. Hamilton shares that there is a severe shortage of school nurses. In many schools when the nurse is absent that there isn't a nurse. She suggests that as parents we work on good safety habits with our children - for example not putting fingers in doors, swinging umbrellas. Ms. Hamilton also reminds parents to get a doctor's note if your child is limping or injured to advise that it's OK for the child to be in school and whether we need to use the elevator. Ms. Hamilton reminds parents that kids must be fever-free for 24 hours before they return to school. Ms. Hamilton advises that that Spring brings lots of extra exuberant behavior and asks parents to help remind kids to play safely. Principal asked that children in the playground must be supervised after school. Ms. Markowich will send a note this week. Ms. Collmer also mentions that many kids self-dismiss; Ms. Markowich recommends to let her know so they can follow up with the parents.

Mr. Fama, the UFT representative shares that the primary goal is keep children safe and thinks the Safety Committee is good forum for each stakeholder to share their views. He recommends that parents use their representative on the SLT to share their concerns.

Ms. Collmer shares an update on the new security system. She advised that there have been some problems printing the barcode; the company provided a new ink cartridge. Ms. Collmer advised that

this system will help track when parents enter and leave the building; parents will wear their lanyards in the building which will let teachers know if this is a parent or visitor. Ms. Collmer passed around a mock up of the new security desk which will be put in place to support the new system and monitors. Sample badges were passed for parents to review. Principal advised that the Mr. Heshen would review the new desk for fire code. Ms. Collmer advised that ½ (more than 400) of the parents have had their pictures taken which is the majority of families. Plan is to have incoming K parents take photos at orientation.

Ms Markewich informed that the Arts & Athletics staff conducts safety drills for after school activities. Ms. Colmer asked about safety concerns at recess, and recess loss as a consequence for behavior. The school administration and Arts & Athletics staff communicate regarding these issues. Ms. Storms voiced concerns regarding the punitive nature of lunch and recess including silent lunches, punishing an entire grade for a few students misbehavior, etc. These consequences should not be occurring and have been addressed by the administration. Ms. Keuhn asked about what the recess monitors specific duties are. Ms Mastriano informed that the monitors should directly play and engage with children (in addition to the classroom assistants). Mr. Fitzgerald arrived to further discuss recess concerns, staffing strong people. There is high turnover and training is ongoing. Mr. Fitzgerald discussed closing communication gaps between his staff and school administration/parents. Discussion was had surrounding behavior management strategies and a possible recess rules contract.

5. SLT and CEC/President's Council Update

Ms. Watkins shared an update on last night's Manhattan event for elected parents, CEC3 members, and Chancellor members. Ms. Watkins shared that D3-D6 has more than 20% of charter schools yet only 8% of the kids population, which puts public schools at risk. Mayor made a commitment that KIP will not open in D3. Ms. Watkins that the shift from one-test protocol may shift. The Mayor advised that he was not aware there was a rule that PTAs could not help each other financially and would like PTAs to be able to give money to other PTAs if they choose to have the partnership. The

Mayor announced that there would be more funding for schools - campaign for fiscal equity - which means that each student is owed another \$1500 and this is likely to pass.

Ms. Solomon advised that a parent survey will be coming from SLT.

6. Treasurers Update

Ms. Dugan shared an update about WITS. She also shared they are working 2019-20 budget and that soon there would be meetings to get input from the parent body. Ms. Duggan shared an update that we've received nearly \$40,000 in matching gifts and encouraged parents to check if their companies would match. Mr. Alvarez also advised that some auction items are also eligible for matching. Parents can email the Treasurers to check in the company matches were received.

5. Events Update

a. Auction

Madelyn provides an update that bidding online is now open. Tickets and raffle tickets are still available. At the event, the teacher outings will shut at 830pm, raffle drawings at 930pm, online at 1030pm. If you win a basket or art project please bring it home.

6. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:57am

Respectfully submitted,

Carl D. Cambria, Recording Secretary