

PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

132 WEST 89TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024

PS166.ORG

PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

December 13, 2018

8:30AM in the Cafeteria

Approved by unanimous vote at the January 17, 2019 meeting

I. Call to Order

Co-President Moira Jaffe-Solomon called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

Quorum was established.

II. Approval of the Minutes

A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on November 30, 2018 meetings was made by Mr. Micah Lasher. The MOTION was seconded by Ms. Laura Beech.

The minutes were passed unanimously.

III. Standing Reports and Updates

a. Principal/Parent Coordinator

Principal Mastriano reported she is currently negotiating with teachers on HW policy. She stated the policy would be sent out in this weeks Parent Coordinator Newsletter. A parent asked about why her daughter gets less homework now. Parent Coordinator Markewich stated that the new homework policy went into effect after several discussions with a Homework Committee. Some, but not all, teachers have implemented the new policy. Two different 4th grade parents said that they have seen more meaningful homework in their children's classrooms as a result.

Parent Coordinator Markewich reported that the Child Mind Institute (CMI) held 3 teachers workshops. It was well received by staff. Guidance Counselor Mcdonald will be holding workshops. Morning meetings and setting expectations have been helpful. The group discussed why more programs with CMI are not scheduled since we have the money budgeted. Parents discussed paying a fee to attend workshops if there is not enough money in budget. The group discussed continuing training for all teachers and staff and to provide the training to all TAs also.

The group also discussed the buddy bench at recess. This is a bench students can go to if they are looking for a buddy to play with.

Principal Mastriano also reported on the Mission & Vision statement of the school. The proposed Mission is: "Be Open, Be Kind & Grow a Learner's Mind!"

b. Co-Presidents

Ms. Gelinas reported that at the last Presidents' Council Committee meeting there was a good PS166 presence. She reported on survey results relating to parent engagement.

Ms. Gelinas reviewed the holiday gift policy.

c. Treasurers' Report

Ms. Dugan reported we are at about 47% of budget.

d. Communications Secretary

Ms. Beech and Parent Coordinator Deb Markewich reported 1 TA hired for third grade, 1 for Kindergarten, and more soon. The TAs that were hired should be starting next. More interviews scheduled with AP Anav. Deb Markewich gave an update on TAs. Ms. Gelinas discussed how the Exec board is helping with sifting through the resumes. Parent Coordinator Deb Markewich expressed that the school really appreciates this help.

e. Vice-Presidents

Fundraising

Mr. Anandan reported Family Giving campaign about to get ramped up.

There will be a match campaign. The group discussed why there are credit card fees attached to family giving. Natasha ??? expressed concerns about funding marked for Inclusion Committee and how that may impact family giving.

f. SLT

Ms. Madelyn Storms reported the SLT is currently working on the CEP. Last year's CEP is published online. The SLT is using survey data and will be sending out more surveys. Parent Coordinator Markewich reported that Principal Mastriano has also been meeting with advisory group of kids.

g. CEC3/President's Council

Kim Watkins reported on proposed KIPP middle school in district 3. The CEC3 wrote a letter to the governor about the Amazon deal and how similar attention should be placed on the public school system. Specifically highlighting the need for more school nurses, the need for a moratorium on Charter Schools. Ms. Watkins also reported on parent engagement throughout the city. Meetings are now being posted on Soundcloud. Ms. Watkins also reported on potential changes to High School Admissions.

h. Committees

i. Safety

Ms. Roosevelt Collmer gave an update on the security system. There are two different systems to be rolled out in phases-

Phase 1 : one for visitors

Phase 2: the other system for parents.

The plan is to be taking photos and creating IDs for parents in January. Additionally we are looking for a new desk or kiosk for the guard area. The group discussed various safety concerns. Ms. Storms reported that last year there was a thorough walkthrough of the building with a professional that lead to many safety improvements. While there are still things to be done in many ways we are ahead.

IV. Event Updates

a. Auction

Ms. Storms reported that the Auction Committee is busy at work canvassing the neighborhood for donations.

b. Dance Party

Ms. Oblad gave an update on the Dance Party scheduled for January 27 in the gym. We need DJ and volunteers. The exact Time TBD, 2 different sessions K-2, and 3-5.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl D. Cambria, Recording Secretary