

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

General PTA Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 12, 2019 8:30am. •Auditorium

Approved at October 17, 2019 PTA meeting

- I. Call to Order
 - Co-president Ms. Daria Kim called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
 - A QUORUM was established.

- II. Approval of minutes from the following meetings:
 - A MOTION to approve the minutes from the general membership meeting held on June 5, 2019 was made by Ms. Kim. The MOTION was seconded by Ms. Polimeni. The minutes were passed unanimously.

- III. Message from Co-Presidents
 - A. PTA is an organization of parents and teachers dedicated to providing classroom enrichment, including a full-time librarian, professional development for teachers and the following residencies:
 1. K gardening
 2. 1st and 2nd grades have a chess master once a week.
 3. 3rd Grade has MET opera at the end of the year where they write songs, scripts and perform.
 4. 4th & 5th Grades- The school is partnering with Historical Society and Liberty Science Center where they bring in artifacts to teach students social studies and science related material.
 - B. PTA also runs many events like welcome breakfast and dinner, Fall Fest, movie night, dance-a-thon auction and so on. There is also grant writing to raise money, and the Green & Inclusion committees. These committees are always looking for volunteers.
 - C. Friends of PS166 (FOPS) is the financial arm of the PTA . They ratify the budget and approve all expenses. All donations go to FOPS..
 - D. The Executive Board introduced themselves and an announcement was made for the Open PTA Board Position: Special Election Next Month for Communications Secretary.

- IV. Message from Principal Mastriano
 1. Welcomed everyone. Excited about new science program (Amplify science). The TAs are being trained by teachers in the school. Teachers interviewed and played a big role in the hiring of TAs. Looked for TAs who are aspiring teachers or already teachers. Goal for the school is to grow this amazing community where teachers,

parents and students grow together. PS166 received NY State 2017-18 school year academic achievement award. 92% Math Score and ELA (close to 90%).

2. Regarding the materials that were discarded this summer: A Recycling Program is something we are working on. Recycling boxes on every floor. Everyone must put things in these boxes and they will be either donated or spread throughout the school. Applied to Zero Waste program with DOE to get a student green committee started. Will find out end of October if we get it. Students will be trained by the sustainability team.
3. Change of staff this year – new teachers come from great schools/programs. Team building is a big goal. Open door policy. Email principal/ assistant principal.
4. Mentor teachers – to help teachers who need extra support. Also, there's a teacher hiring committee and a PLC committee (professional development) to come up with different ideas of study to grow as educators.
5. Establishing a social committee. Everything will be in the newsletter. Retention of teachers is something they're working on.
6. Coffee talks are on the calendar. They are for parents to learn about the curriculum.
7. Lead issue– DOE said there was lead in the school. They were mandated to check classrooms K-1st grade. They painted the rooms and remediated. More information at the CEC meeting. Right now, everything is clear in K-1st grade.
8. Piloted 3rd - 5th Grades science program (Amplify) where teachers taught it and received positive feedback. DOE supported this. This year, piloting K-2, so whole school will have it. K – 2nd will have 2 units. Science test is supposed to be in 4th grade. Amplify coach really liked PS166 community and looking to our school to mentor. The coach was free and no funding was necessary.
9. We have about 12 new teachers. Some of our former teachers moved and some transferred. All teachers are trained in all curriculum. Sometimes, teachers are transferred to a different grade because of their strengths in a certain area. Teachers also have preference sheets and sometimes, they want to try something new. So, the administration takes that into consideration when assigning classes for the new year. It helps make the teachers more well-rounded.
10. Departmentalized 4th grade (different subjects). This year, there are only 3 classes in 5th grade, so there isn't departmentalization. If they could do it in 5th grade, they would do it again.

V. Additional Introductions

- A. Acting D3 Superintendent - Ms. Christine Loughlin welcomed everyone. She began working as acting Superintendent 3 weeks ago. She is getting to know the perspectives and the community of D3. It's a very diverse and unique district. She wants to replicate PS166's best practices in other schools, specifically performance and community involvement. She spoke of wanting to build a coherent framework to ensure the best for all students across D3. She would like to build a sense of community across the district and a level of equity across all schools.

- B. CEC3 President - Ms. Kim Watkins welcomed everyone. It's her last year as a parent at PS166. CEC3 is NYC's version of a school board. There is a wide array of schools and vast disparity among the schools with performance and fundraising. At the September 25, 2019 meeting, questions will be answered regarding lead paint testing and remediation. There will be a school supply drive on September 25, 2019 bring extra supplies to the meeting. Bring opinions regarding School Diversity and G&T to the meeting. CEC3.org is the website.

VI. Shout out to some dedicated committees:

- A. Green committee – Mr. Josh Weinberger needs a lot of help and support. Green Committee collects textiles in lobby, helps with composting, manages the two gardens. They need volunteers.
- B. Inclusion Committee – It meets last Thursday of every month. It focuses on children with allergies/special needs and how the school can be inclusive. The next meeting will be on September 26, 2019
- C. Many upcoming events:
 - a. Family welcome dinner will host old and new families. Children are invited. September 24, 2019 in the Reading Garden.
 - b. School ID cards, run by Ms. Nina Roosevelt - Collmer. We will be getting information about the school directory. Every parent needs to register in the directory to get School IDs. IDs are a nice way of identifying yourself as a parent. It is a PTA funded program.
 - c. Fall Festival - the entire street turns into a great festival. Need help, specifically with set up and break down. Huge community building event. Talk to Alisha and Madelyn.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandini Prakash, Recording Secretary