

**PS24 PA Meeting Minutes  
December 20, 2017**

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:36 – L. Moukas**

- **Mr. Schwartz and Ms. Amster not in attendance due to conflict with staff party**
- **Financials – N Levinson**
  - Graduation Committee - \$1800 to date
  - Spirit Wear – \$2700
  - Pies – \$800
  - Holiday Fair – \$600 (plus raffle)
  - Money spent on teacher read alouds and classroom allocations
  - Grant money – improv for kids with a theme of Etiquette, Broadway plays, yoga classes
- **SLT – D. Weitz**
  - SLT meeting last week – Mr Schwartz and Mr Alvarez from the DOE Leadership team were in attendance
  - Mr Alvarez will be at PS24 at least once a week as a mentor
  - This is in response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade situation (recap of what happened)
  - With Mr Alvarez's help and decision making power Mr Schwartz's original decision for how to handle the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom was reversed and by Monday morning only the ICT class experienced change (new teacher placed in the classroom – Mr. Tebrake)
  - Mr Schwartz formed a Parent Advisory Committee. Parents were upset that committee members appeared to be hand picked parents who are not normally involved. Mr Schwartz said at the SLT meeting that he was offering the silent majority a voice. He shared his thought that there is a core group of parents who are the most vocal and others don't get a chance or are afraid to speak up.
  - PA feels that this committee is directly in conflict with what the PA and SLT are currently doing.
  - Other issues raised at the SLT:
    - General morale issues with teachers: Teachers are saying they have been told not to talk to parents and that administration is walking around at pick up time watching to see who is talking to parents
    - Questions around money for subs. There was no money for subs so classes were getting divided amongst other classes when a teacher was absent, however Manny Verdi's salary is now going back into the school so that line item can go to subs.
    - Additionally parents have heard and are questioning Mr. Schwartz's view on children participating in class. Parents have heard that Mr. Schwartz sets processes for how teachers call on children or don't.
- **Committees**
  - Safety Committee
    - Huge improvement
    - Soft lock downs, keys in the hands of those who need to lock doors
    - Hard lock downs, confidential protocol
    - Fire drills at lunchtime have happened – 10 fire drills to date
    - Jackets at recess – kids outside everyday, children need jackets
    - Need a parent rep to head up this committee
  - Parent Volunteer Committee
    - Recess, Administrative, Classroom etc are the categories we are addressing
    - Ready to go after the break, setting launch date
    - Recruitment: handbook, application, etc sent out to parents via email

- 8 Parent Volunteers is the target. Will build up from there. Volunteer job will include a minimum commitment
- Florence will manage this and handle vetting
- o Space Committee
  - Meeting with Dinowitz and Cohen to discuss space
  - Politicians do not believe the numbers, do not perceive there to be a space issue, do not think we are utilizing the space as well as we could be
  - Politicians are advocating for a new school by the Church of the Visitation on Broadway/Van Cortlandt
  - They have been working on this for a while – we don't have their support but considering a meeting with SCA
  - Need to re-approach Mr. Schwartz to see where the disconnect is. At most recent PA meeting (Nov) he presented a space expansion idea that he said the politicians were on board with
- o Upcoming Events
  - Movie Night Sat Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. Teachers were sent emails to ask kids to vote on movie choices
  - Auction Sat Apr 14<sup>th</sup>
  - Raffle Pick – Milenia Palanco