

**PS 24 PA General Body Meeting
June 14, 2017**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:30 pm by L. Moukas and D. Salanto

Review and Approval of the Minutes:

- Nessa Levinson: motion to approve minutes; D. Salanto seconded
- Vote: Minutes approved, no objections

Financial report: N. Levinson

- New items: negative \$1, paid teachers for read-alouds
- Total income: \$109,000 dollars
- Mini-grant applications: a few more have come in this past week
- Staff Outreach: Teacher Appreciation week with b'fast, lunches, candy-grams, etc.
- Community outreach total mostly to POTS
- Baseball Classic: food orders
- Amazon Smile: provides donations to school, make Amazon Smile to PS 24 Parents Association

Principals' report: S. Schwartz

- DanceFest: great event today, everyone was safe, all procedures followed
- Education Through Music: Provides certified DoE teachers to come in to do arts in schools, looking to partner with them. Give us teachers for half price. Avg. teacher \$88,000, they cover \$44,000. They give us professional development, another school had Josh Groban come in, given a \$600 grant to renovate auditorium, etc. Exploring relationship with them for next year.
 - o Make sure students get complete arts program in and out of building. Hoping to determine during the summer
- SLT update: CEP discussions: home -school connection needs to be better – made some strides, want to make more
 - o Come up w/ school messenger system to communicate via phone / text to put message out immediately provided we have updated accurate info for all parents
 - o What can we do to support the school; need to get word out to get parents to come to meetings 1/mo. Need more parent involvement at meetings; everyone needs to start recruiting 2 people per month
 - o Parent idea: have content programs at meetings
- Summer school: quickly approaching...requirement notices received mid-to-end of next week; used to be children passed on to next grade regardless; no child leaves the school unprepared for middle school socially emotionally and academically; more kids than previous years being held
- Teacher requests: Not honoring them if can't make everyone happy; also have expectations for all teachers perform at a very high level; will see some new staff next year; some teachers asked not to come back, and told not welcome; we have a certain expectation, I have a certain philosophy of what works; I ask teachers to do better the next day than the day before
 - o Test scores is last, first and foremost, hoe if given supports and don't take advantage of them, that's concerning
 - o Can't rest on our laurels
- 4 new teachers joining next year: 1 special ed coach that came highly recommended (Susan Litfeld); revolutionize our special ed dept. and teachers getting best training possible so our IEPs are second to none; 81 referred another teacher for 4th grade G&T
 - o Use hiring committee: interview process has every candidate in a classroom being observed by 5-10 people, students are interviewed, then go in front of hiring committee, then interviewed by me
 - o Few new 2nd grade teachers coming in
 - o Nice foundation of teachers that fit our community
 - o Recruiting: is it difficult?
 - No: hired one and that person is bringing us resumes; starting to change perceptions
 - o Substitute teachers: new process next year goes into a central system and sign out; anyone can pick it up; we can block people that don't meet our standards

- **Elections / Nominating Committee:** Belkis Tappan, Christine Mejia and Liliana Mora
 - o Exec Board Elections:
 - VP Nominations: Cristin Messenger (Fundraising), Lillian Chi (Publications), Pamela Hawkins (Membership)
 - Co-presidents: L. Moukas, D. Salanto
 - Financial Secretary: Deborah Weitz
 - Corresponding Secretary: Bob Heisler
 - Recording Secretary: Wendi Shulman
 - No ballot required as uncontested election; only vote to approve / accept nominees
 - Vote:
 - o 37 in favor of approving nominees
 - o 1 abstention
 - o 0 objections
 - o SLT elections: 4 open parent seats
 - Nominees:
 - Deborah Weitz
 - Michelle Montoya-Goldman
 - Diane Salanto
 - Rebecca Sherman
 - No vote required as uncontested election; only vote to approve / accept nominees:
 - 36 votes in favor
 - 2 abstentions
 - 0 objections
- **Funds Balance:** L. Moukas
 - o Have high number of funds, looking for ways to spend down funds
 - o Share ideas w/ SLT cabinet
 - o Looking for community building events
 - o
- **Upcoming Events:** L. Moukas
 - o June 16, 3:30 pm: Baseball Classic @ Seton Park
 - 4&5th graders and alumni play; parent game to follow
- **TAs for next year:** S. Schwartz
 - o More than we know what to do with; looking to expand beyond K
 - o No cost this year
- **Trips:** General Body Discussion
 - o Many don't have enough time to learn anything
 - o Just used to take younger students out of the building on testing days
 - o Needs to have greater educational content
 - o Bring up at SLT level
 - o PA did pay for early busing on one trip to increase time
- **Meeting Adjourned:** L. Moukas and D. Salanto, 8:40 pm