

PS 24 PA General Body Meeting Minutes September 27, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 7:42 pm by D. Salanto

- **Intro of PA members and agenda review**
- **Mr Schwartz**
 - Very happy to see lots of K parents showed up. Please keep coming.
 - Will be emailing PPT from Back to School Night
 - Restatement of 24 hour email response rule for himself
 - Education through music kick off program today
 - K-4 guaranteed to have 2 performances for parents
 - 5th grade has band
 - Requested that any requests, concerns, etc about school issues should go to Mr Schwartz first.
 - Questions from the parents:
 - Math program – no textbooks, no sheets sent home, concerns that children have no idea what to do. Mr. Schwartz explained it's a different style program, new way of teaching, way to develop creative thinkers. He has seen great results with this program and is considering 1/month program where parents can get curriculum in advance. A math coach is available to help
 - OT – question about when an OT will be hired. Current OT had to go on extended leave and school didn't know about it. New OT was hired, was at PS24 previously, knows kids and the building. Services will begin Monday.
 - Question about K drop off and if kids will go to classroom from auditorium on their own. Schwartz said previous drop off situation was not safe enough, now there is a clear procedure in the school with K kids who go straight to the auditorium. He would like to see K students eventually going to class on their own but for now there are teachers and older students taking them. This process gets them comfortable with the atmosphere, the staff, the school, etc. Parents are concerned about how K kids will get to second floor. There is currently one K class upstairs.
 - Beginning in October there will be coffee with the principal 1/month for Q&A
- **Nominations for SLT**
 - One parent vacancy due to a move
 - SLT meets once/month on a Wednesday from 2:30 – 4:30pm
 - Discussion on changing the time and suggestions that we are losing participation based on the time of the meetings and parents not being able to attend. There are challenges to making changes as the time has to also accommodate teachers and it must be before or after school hours. Group has to agree to change time.
 - SLT meeting minutes are available in the office the following month
 - SLT nominations – Lara Dua-Swartz, Debbie Horowitz, Eileen Bowden
 - Motion to close nominations – D.Salanto, Second by M. Montoya-Goldman
 - Two minute speeches
 - Voting – 77 people, Winner – Eileen Bowden
- **Other Announcements**
 - Oct 19th 6:30 – District 10 CEC (Community Education Council) meeting at PS24. Topics: Capacity and Construction, PA will eblast info
 - Hurricane Relief – local politicians doing drives, possible drive drop off at school or drop at Elliot Engels office, PA will eblast info

- **Lice Enders Presentation**
 - Best prevention is checking kid's heads often. If you check once every two weeks in front of window or strong light, you will see it, and if they have it, you have caught it early.
 - If child was exposed to it – comb through hair, conditioner around edge of child's head and comb through, wipe the comb off on paper towel and you will see the lice.
 - Best thing is all natural shampoo – don't use pesticide
 - If child has it, you do not have to clean your whole house, they only live for 48 hours outside of the head
 - Child can go back to school after first treatment but need to treat every day for a week and check for two weeks
 - Demonstration on how to check for lice

- **Budget**
 - Main event to discuss is Boo Bash. The PA needs volunteers and there is a committee
 - Candy sale – conservative projection in budget, last year went very well, orders can go direct to teachers or order online, only 20 orders so far
 - School supplies sale – went well, Parents stated that some of them didn't know it was a fundraiser and this should be called out
 - Committee sign ups available – called out the importance of fundraising committee
 - Sounding board – need a layout person who knows any adobe product
 - TA program was very hard to run – TAs were not reliable, Aids going into K classrooms for now, this is working so far
 - Parents very eager to volunteer in classrooms – Let's figure out ways to get parents in the school. Former learning leader program was very successful. All agreed to email Principal Schwartz to say we want to figure out a way to utilize parent volunteers
 - Denise and Bob will chair a committee to get parent volunteers in school. Question about whether or not the SLT could address parent volunteers and/or lunch and recess issues
 - S. Schwartz is having coffees 1 x/month so everyone can ask questions and talk with him. He will be at PA meetings but that will be a much shorter presentation of information.
 - Budget approval
 - Questions from Parent Group
 - Class Rep Info? Meeting Oct 4th with info packet and all responsibilities
 - Question: Can we do social media? PA has a FB page and Twitter account .Can not put voting online.
 - Can we vote if we're not here. No (DOE rule).

- **Committees**
 - **Safety Committee**
 - Meet Monthly
 - Big changes are happening and have happened
 - Fire drills are single file and going well
 - Big problem with two closed bathrooms on bottom floors – parents didn't know
 - Children who are eating cold lunch have to go upstairs to bathroom
 - Repairs are starting
 - Need a new Head of Safety Committee – they meet last Tuesday of every month at 3pm
 - **Lice Committee**
 - Debra Horowitz and Deborah Weitz
 - **Parent Volunteer Committee**
 - Denise and Bob will head this up and they got volunteers

- Motion to approve the budget - Approved