

**PS24 PA Meeting Minutes**  
**March 27, 2019**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:08 – R. Heisler

- **Review of February Minutes**
  - Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes: R. Sherman
  - Approved by unanimous vote
  
- **Review of Financials – M. Montoya-Goldman**
  - Overview of report structure
  - Successful fundraisers
    - Raising money for 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduation: \$1,800 so far and beginning to spend for trips
    - Spirit Wear – pay in advance for items
    - \$4500 from Valentine's Day Sale
  - Springfest
    - Beginning to plan Springfest
    - Need to pay in advance for petting zoo, etc
  - Comedy Night
    - Will make money after the event
  - Other Fundraisers
    - Family Dance \$1400
    - Yearbook and Book Fair did well
    - Direct Appeal \$11,000
  - Other Spending
    - Classroom allocations
    - Purchased games for recess, board games, markers, arts and crafts
    - Supplemented 2nd grade and 4th grade trips
  
- **Committee Reports**
  - Diversity Committee - Ayanna Brooks
    - Putting up displays in school
    - Meeting in May to talk about ideas for next year
  - SLT – D. Weitz
    - Continue to meet to discuss goals
    - Enrichment plan was discussed
  - Wellness Committee
    - Purpose is to look at the holistic wellness of child
  - Florence Byrne announce the Third Annual Parent Symposium
    - Saturday, Apr 6th – InTech Academy 8:30 – 230, includes workshops for parents, free breakfast/lunch, performances, opportunity to meet with district office officials
  - Garden Committee
    - Clean up in April. Revamping the committee. Ms Reidy and the Y will do planting.
  - Comedy Night – replaces the former Auction
    - Our own parents will be the comedians and some others. Event held at CMSV, will include music, food, etc
  - Nominating committee
    - Job is to solicit candidates, count votes, need to find interested volunteers (Diane Salanto, Emily James, Sophie Dwyer, Ellie McGlinchey)
  - Open Safety Meeting – Apr 17 before the PA meeting at 630

- **Principal's Report – S. Schwartz**

- Surveys need to be in by Apr 3rd– 100% participation in class gets a pizza party
- Grant from Asphalt Green – 10 visits to work with staff to bring structure, safety and fun to recess – covers programs for inside and outside recess time
- PS24 Enrichment Program – Mr. Schwartz shared his approach to the new enrichment program:
  - How/Where/Why
    - Came from parent requests
    - Addresses large class size
    - Intellectual engagement
    - Address issues where students are not meeting standards
  - How was the draft document created
    - Feedback over 4 to 5 months in PAC meetings, Coffee with Principal, Teacher advisory groups, Emails
  - Other parent conversations and questions:
    - Eligibility - All students must be enrolled at PS24 before February, G&T students can opt out of G&T, students need 95% attendance rate, Students must earn spot every year
  - Selection process
    - Grade 3 – end of year reading level, overall math and writing on report card, verbal consent from all out of classroom teachers
    - Grades 4 and 5 – same as above plus state tests
  - Additional info
    - Top 30 get a spot
    - No more than 20 from a single gender
    - Principal has discretion to select up to 2 students of his choice to get in
    - If student declines, next person gets a spot
    - Child must remain in top 30 to keep seat
  - This year vs next year
    - Biggest impact on class size is fifth grade as students tend to leave PS24 in 4<sup>th</sup> grade
    - 2019-20 class size reduction will be significant with this program
  - Q&A
    - Is participation optional? Yes
    - How can we be assured that the creation of an accelerated program will not create unintentional tracking for the remainder of the students? Every demographic is represented in every class
    - How are children placed in classrooms? The process is:
      - Administration works with teachers to create a draft class list
      - Collaborate to ensure that each class has the proper mix – gender, IEP status, ENL status, reading and math levels, behaviors
      - With the addition of the enrichment class this will remain the same except we will pretend we have one less class in a grade. When the final 30 to 32 are chosen, they will be taken from the original class and entered into the enrichment class
      - Families in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be informed mid-July if they have received an offer to be in the enrichment class, Families in 3 & 4 will know later.
    - How do you anticipate this helping students not in G&T? Smaller class size, more 1:1 and small group opportunities
    - What is the diversity breakdown in G&T and what do you anticipate the breakdown is for the enrichment class – will we be exacerbating the performance gap between minority and white students?

- Parents very concerned that there are also socio-economic considerations
- Can we expand so it's not based on tests? This is why principal has two additional choice selections
- How will we manage the haves and have nots feeling?
  - Parents very concerned about being ranked, teasing, issues
- Many parents in attendance very concerned about the enrichment program overall and overwhelmingly not in favor of program. Mr Schwartz developed the program as he believes it will help address a big parent concern around class size. He is open to other ideas to address the problem and does not have to proceed with enrichment if parents don't want it.
- How do we address the social emotional impact on a child who doesn't earn seat the following year
  - We will address this, parents can opt out
- Any schools we know of that have G&T and Enrichment programs?
  - Models like this exist, not exactly the same
- Parent Questions/Concerns
  - Parents felt that this doesn't solve class size issues. DOE will send more kids, why wouldn't all schools do this?
  - New buildings in the neighborhood, big numbers coming into the school
  - How will we address the social emotional component of "smart vs not smart" kids?
  - What are we doing to provide enrichment in all classes? What are we doing today?

**Meeting Adjourned – 8:17**