

**PS 165 General PTA Meeting**  
**APPROVED Minutes Wed 1/16/2019**  
**Auditorium 8am**

**Call to Order:** Paula Moss called to order at 8:20am.

**Principal's Report:** Jessica Torre

Insideschools will revisit 165. Painting on scaffold poles on sidewalk and 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor. We received a generous donation of a 3 D printer to our STEM lab. Foundations 2, the afterschool program will start Thu. Math Showcase is our next big event.

Parent: My daughter is in Urban Arts, it's a wonderful program. How can we make it available to more families? Some children never seem to come, yet interested families are told there's no room.

Ms Torre: Not every name you see on the class list is registered for afterschool but not attending it. The list of names you see may be children from E3 Sports, as that is part of the grant.

Parent: Shyquanna says she will remove some names on Feb 3, but this is after months of back & forth.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Paula moves to approve Dec 28, 2018 Minutes Larry seconds.

**President's Report:** Paula Moss

Citizens Committee Grant: Tonya & Paula have been photographing tree beds and working on grant application. Asking for raised planters on railings and flowers in tree beds.

Legislative Breakfast: Scheduled for 9 – 11am Fri Jan 25. Ms Rosado's class will do a dance, Urban Arts will also perform.

Paula introduces Lucas Liu, our Community Education Council/CEC District 3 liason:

Lucas: CEC3 engaged with changes to specialized high school admissions and with school quality and enrollment in Harlem. PS 165 is not the only school with significant structural issues. Also, charter schools are looking to expand in D3. I chair the Dual Language Committee for District 3.

Two large grants have upcoming deadlines, the Manhattan Borough President/MBP Gale Brewer grant used for capital improvements and technology (Feb deadline). It's an easy \$100,000, Brewer favors schools but you have to apply to get funded. Also Participatory Budgeting from Mark Levine, City Councilmember's office will happen in Spring.

Winterfest: Sat Feb 2 11 – 3pm

Inaugural community building and fundraising event. Please take the publicity flyer today and post in your building, around the neighborhood, give to friends, etc. and we will need volunteers to help set up night before, the morning of, and clean up after event. We also need food donations. Ms Yanez (Parent Coordinator) will store food donations in SEALED CONTAINERS please in her office. Winterfest Committee meeting to directly follow PTA meeting today.

Save the Date – Literacy Night: Feb 13 3:30 – 6pm

Relaunching newsletter in March (Mailchimp & backpack to all parents)

To contact PTA, email [pta@psms165.org](mailto:pta@psms165.org)

**Treasury Report: Zasha Medina**

In Dec we made \$6,458.25 NET.

Making steady increases on the budget

**Title 1 Report: Zasha Medina**

Yesterday, there was a District wide Title 1 meeting. Large changes coming. DOE will now require a stand alone, minimum three person committee. Elections for chair, secretary, and financial accounts.

There will be a district-wide election as well, which you can run for if you are elected to school Title 1 Committee.

**SLT Report: Sara Stone**

3D printer was donated to STEM lab. Students led at insideschools visit. Ms Scanlon updated our Comprehensive Education Plan/CEP goal for literacy using running records of 70% proficiency by end of school year. Literacy Night planning at next SLT meeting.

To contact SLT, email [slt@psms165.org](mailto:slt@psms165.org).

Zoraya Sanches: Here to help the parents in Latinx community. We (Hispanic community) would like to help, work.

Nildania: It's been a concern for a long time, how to engage the Hispanic community and make sure they are represented. There have been lots of meetings district wide, and it's important to talk about even though we don't have easy answers. Literacy night will be a fully bilingual event. The next step, and most important step, is how do we reach the Spanish speaking parents and make sure that they are present at this event.

Jaime: I drafted a letter to Comptroller & we will tweak it to Gale Brewer's office, and others. Divya, Paula, and I have been working on this. Not ready to send until after the Legislative breakfast on Jan 25. This is the politically optimal time. I'm going to get a committee together. There is power in numbers.

**Building Safety Council Update:** Paula Moss

BSC will meet every 2 weeks until mid April. Apr still scheduled month for work to start, actual asbestos abatement in summer. PTA can use building after school and on weekends with a permit to end of term/June. Basically, no changes or new info on roof renovation.

Letter writing campaign: The repair work must be done, we've been talking with Mott Hall 2 PTA about ensuring the roof renovation doesn't take 2 ½ years. Parents and neighborhood need to hold SCA feet to the fire re timeline.

Celia Navarro: Previous meeting we talked about the construction going on since 2011. Can we help to collect signatures around the neighborhood, because we need to finish this, it's gone on too long.

Sara Stone: Suggests there be a list of targeted elected officials.

Parent: Suggests someone email parents a template of basic information.

Jaime will form a Construction committee.

Lucas Liu: My two cents - just signing a name on a form does not carry as much weight with elected officials as each person writing their own story, a letter that is not a form letter.

Discussion of how to reach Spanish speaking community, and particularly families that don't use email. Discussion of texting on What's App.

Nildania Perez: We do have a community of undocumented people who may be fearful of providing names and contact info.

Parent: You don't actually have to have a name for a phone number or email.

Heather: I would like to nominate Zoraya to be a PTA Community Rep.

Zoraya: I go to the DOE workshops and I do try to keep the Spanish speaking mothers to know what is going on.

Celia Navarro: These are all good ideas but I think we need a letter of what we need for the school and parents can sign it. A general format where you can just include your signature, that you are a parent at the school.

Adjourned 9am.