

PS 165 General PTA Meeting
APPROVED Minutes Wed 3/20/2019
Auditorium 8:15am

Call to Order: Paula Moss called to order at 8:21am.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Zasha motions to approve Feb 28, 2019 Minutes, David seconds.

Principal's Update: Aracelis Castellano

Parent Survey: Very simple questions but you need to read them carefully. We have 444 kids, and 130 paper surveys in. Of course some parents have done it online. I would never tell you how to respond to survey, but this is a good place to tell us what you like about our school.

Insideschools review designates us as "Noteworthy."

Parent: 5 year old comments are still there. We need current parents to comment.

Castellano: A lot of people don't know we have two grant funded afterschool programs, etc. We can bring this out in the Comments.

Parent: Is there a link to parent survey on our school website?

Sara Stone: Class teachers may send it as a link through Dojo or email

Castellano: Urban Arts grant funds these Parent Workshops:

Mar 29 Paint & Sip 2:30 – 3:45

Apr 10 Dance Bollywood 2:40 in Gym

Apr 12 Career Building/Resume

Apr 17 during PTA meeting Mindfulness 30 min

Test Prep is ongoing. On test dates, after 8:55am the door to testing closes. We can NOT let children in late, so then they have to take a makeup exam.

Sara Stone: ELA State Test is Tue 4/2 & Wed 4/3, Math State Test is Wed 5/1 & Thu 5/2

President's Update: Paula Moss

Happy Spring! We are meeting today in Library Community Room since NY Philharmonic is using Auditorium. Laptops are available to respond to DOE Parent Survey now. Please welcome Lucas Liu, our Community Education Council/CEC liason & District 3 Multilingual Committee Chair.

New Insideschools review is up, I left my Comment yesterday. I mentioned Dual Lang & the afterschool at ACT/St John the Divine, since you can pick up at 6.

Spring Fair will be a Sat in June

Scholastic Book Fair week of May 28th and will finish on Sat 6/1, we hope in tandem with Spring Fair. Goal is to get community to purchase books at Scholastic as well as attend bouncy house, etc.

Spring Pledge Drive: Jaime & I have discussed Apr launch, discussing fundraising goals with Hans.

Nayia: I suggest we ask for a cash donation at beginning of year, in August, before school starts for \$500. If you don't ask, you don't get it.

Paula: This is the Fall Pledge Drive, except we don't ask for that large a dollar amount.

Sara: It's important for parents to know what the money goes for.

Paula: If we work with Administration to get breakdown of what PTA supports out to parents over summer, we can ask for money and they know where it goes.

PTA Elections: Anyone who is a parent at the school (and not running for office) can be on the Nominating Committee. The offices are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and all these positions can have two officers (Co-President, Co-Vice President, etc.)

Building Safety Council Update: School has conducted lockdown drills. Next BSC on April 12 will involve Dept of School Facilities & School Construction Authority/SCA. We should have detailed update at April PTA General meeting.

Treasurer's Update: Zasha

Feb net \$3,797. We are \$6,000 over expenses for the year. Yearly budget: we only need to raise \$10,000 more than last year; we are looking at matching or exceeding last year's fundraising.

Title 1 Election: It's a two-year commitment, this is my last year. We will hold Title 1 Elections at Gen meeting in April. Title 1 MUST be a committee now, not a single rep.

1% of total Title 1 funds is budgeted by parents. If we don't have three parents elected, school gets to decide where these funds are spent.

Title 1 Committee Responsibilities: Title 1 Chair meets Quarterly meeting with District; Committee is supposed to meet min of four times, and update PTA at General meetings. Last year's 1% was \$2,500. This year, Title 1 paid for portion of RazKids.

Community Education Council for District 3/CEC3 Candidate Forum will be April 15 at PS 242

SLT Update: Sara Stone

From Feb SLT: Please complete DoE parent survey. We gained 30 new students, last year, and the additional funding is in; will spend on manipulatives, library guided reading, adding diverse books, STEM lab. Separately, the 21st Century Grant will fund two new once/week afterschool programs, Ceramics with Ms Lisa and Sports with Mr Concannon.

Dual Language Working Group Update: Lucas Liu

DL Working Group will be citywide and consist of parents, senior DOE staff, and community-based organizations. DOE staff are:

Linda Chen, Chief Academic Officer

Mirza Sanchez Medina, Deputy Chief Academic Officer for Multilingual Learners

Hydra Mendoza, Deputy Chancellor of Community Empowerment, Partnerships & Communications

They want to know what parents want from Dual Language programs, what kind of support do Dual Language programs need.

By June, we will have recommendations for Chancellor for what Dual Lang should look like across the city. Letter writing campaign worked, we got their attention. I'm cautiously optimistic that senior leadership will listen.

Parent: Should we keep writing letters?

Lucas: Yes, but this is a citywide initiative, we need to involve parents in other districts.

In D3 we have Spanish, French, Russian & Italian. I want to make sure those students have preK – 12 options. Currently we have a couple of middle school options in French & Spanish.

Dan Cohen: Pro bono Counsel for Flea Market from Valley Restoration is secured.

Wellness Council: Tara Parsons

At Literacy Night, we read food labels and & also had a table at Math Night offering “Edible Math.” We did two nutrition booths at pickup time, and we are still working on snack policy. Snack policy survey will come out soon.

Next PTA meeting Wed April 17

Adjourned 9:40 am