

PS 165 General PTA Meeting APPROVED
Minutes Wed 2/28/2019
Auditorium 8:15am

Call to Order: Paula Moss called to order at 8:25am.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Laura moves to approve Jan 16, 2019 Minutes, Heather seconds.

21st Century Grant Midyear Review Update: Larry Lee

History: Ms Castellano applied for this federal grant and PS 165 was awarded it. Urban Arts started in Feb last year for grades 2 – 5 and in Sept this school year expanded to K – 5th grade.

This Federal grant goes to state level, then city review, then to school. It's a 5 year grant. I was invited to attend the Midyear Review meeting as a parent representative by Ms Castellano. 21st Century pays for Urban Arts, a portion of E3 recess costs, "Foundations" and "Foundations2" afterschool literacy & math support, and test prep after school for grades 3 – 5.

If you sign up for one of the programs, it is important to attend what you sign up for. Most especially, for both grant-funded free afterschool programs (YMCA afterschool funded by a different grant, COMPASS) your child's attendance matters, since grant renewal can be endangered if children don't attend.

21st Century Parent Workshops: The school is required to hold a certain number of workshops and a certain number of parents are required to attend. Literacy Night checked one box, there are other grant requirements.

Feedback/Evaluation/Communication for UA afterschool: Shyquana Bennet is here from 10am on and at 2:20 pickup and 5:00 pickup. You can email her at sbennett@robertesimon.org. There will be a Parent Survey in spring. Also, Shyquana checks in with the children during the programs, pulls them out and asks how they like what they are doing, etc. The State monitors also asked for children to attend meeting and give feedback on how they like it. New programs, paid for by 21st Century through teacher per session fee:

Ms Lisa - Ceramics

Mr Concannon – Sports

Ms Castellano: The Ceramics and Sports afterschool is for children who were NOT enrolled in anything already funded by 21st Century Grant. Hope to run them til June.

I want parents to know why the late start for Ceramics & Sports; we can only start planning when the state releases the money. We would also like to do a small robotics class with RoboFun for 4/5th graders. 15 kids max, who are not enrolled in something already. Shyquana has the list of kids who are eligible.

Nayia: As an aside, Byron, the YMCA director is adding STEM activities once a week on Wed for 4/5th graders. I happen to know the teacher from New School & think she is excellent.

Castellano: Byron is very interested in Girls Coding, Girls Who Code, something like that.

Parent: Does Chess count?

Castellano: Chess is organized by PTA and NOT funded by 21st Century, so it doesn't count toward 21st C enrollment, no.

Principal's Report: Aracelis Castellano

Math Night: Friday, March 8, led by Ms Rosas & Ms Rosado. You can volunteer, and please do, but we want the kids to work the tables. You can email arodas@robertesimon.org.

State Tests: We are beginning test prep after school and in classrooms. We use Teachers College Reading and Writing. I went to a PD yesterday. I think our kids are ready, now it's practice. For example, 3 – 5th grade essays need an answer and two details, ADD.

ALL kids in 165 are eligible for afterschool test prep. We expect the child to be there for all sessions. If a child is going to stop attending, please tell us.

Stamina – children should stay with a book 35 minutes minimum. We would like them to do it for 45 min. If they finish the book, hand them another book. It's not a reason for them to not pass the test, that they can't sit with a book.

We ask K to read/be read to 20 min. a day minimum.

You can bring your child with you to parent/teacher conference, you don't have to meet with teacher alone. We want children to be involved in their own education. Parent Engagement time is 2:30pm on Tue but if you can't do this time, arrange another time with your teacher, maybe a phone conference.

It's definitely a big change from 2nd to 3rd grade.

March Calendar has the parent workshops scheduled with Urban Arts money. There will be Yoga & Mindfulness, Dance/Zumba. It's fun.

DOE School Survey: The Parent Survey is a place for you to be a cheerleader for your school. This info is published in a database where everyone sees it. Every child brings in funds. If we want to fill up our Kindergarten seats, we need to show school pride. We are showing this is a place where parents want to bring their kids. While I can't tell you what to do, if you and your children are happy here, this survey is the place to put it. Please tell a friend to fill it out and to fill it out with positive results.

Heather Hemphill: When we apply to middle school, our elementary school reputation will matter.

Castellano: A lot of our students do go to Columbia Secondary, other in-demand middle schools. Paper survey will have your child's name on it. We will make a big push to finish them at Parent-Teacher conferences.

President's Report: Paula Moss

To contact PTA, email pta@psms165.org

I attended Community Education Council for District 3/CEC3 Jan 23 meeting. We know about issues at our school building, but when you hear about issues at other schools it's really shocking.

Legislative Breakfast: Attended by U.S. Congressman Jerry Nadler, City Councilmember Mark Levine (and his Budget Director Amy Slattery), NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Community Board 7 Roberta Siema, NY State Senator Robert Jackson [any others I left out?] Our Cafeteria really does need a lot of love.

Parents invited to Legislative Breakfast formed Action Group with Ms Scanlon, to follow up with our electeds, re:

- 1) construction
- 2) funding for wiring & a/c units in classrooms, Auditorium, cafeteria
- 3) The loss of teacher parking to the construction storage affects 7 or 8 teachers including AP Torre.

Councilmember Levine is a big Dual Language advocate & was impressed we have Spanish/Eng slides and professional translation at PTA meetings.

March Newsletter Launch: Encourage student journalists to interview staff around the building, and give a view of what each grade is doing. Electronic and backpack, Eng and Spanish. Nildania, Fatima will help with Newsletter Committee.

Upcoming: Scholastic Book Fair #2 and Spring Fair

Heather Hemphill: The new review on insideschools.org is online now. Parent Comments are posted below review.

Liz Yockey: I taught middle school, and teachers use insideschools too, not just parents.

Treasury Report: Zasha Medina

Final Winterfest numbers: Made \$854.62 (gross \$2,427.63 minus expenses \$1,573.01)

We are on track/slightly ahead of fundraising goals, need \$15,187.34 to meet year end goal.

Hoping to launch Hester Flea market in late spring.

Facebook donations continued to trickle in for January.

Building Safety Council Update: Jaime Cunningham

- Playground netting will be re-secured and PS 165 administration requested that the SCA ensure that no nails or screws fall onto the playground
- Wet section of ceiling noticed in Auditorium on 2/13 by Mott Hall II parents; SCA will patch
- 98% of masonry work complete
- New contractor for roof replacement project selected
- One neighbor (214 W 109) has not yet conceded to the SCA license agreement which will allow the next project (roof replacement) to start
- Assuming 214 W 109 agrees, asbestos removal will start June 27th
- Project projected to last 2.5 years (until Dec. 2021, if no delays)
- Estimated that 75% of asbestos abatement will be finished in summer
- A/C initiative -- if the electricity is okay, all classrooms will get air conditioners (SCA only provides the wiring, they do not install the actual units). Project will likely start in the summer and take 9 -12 months to complete

Community Education Council/CEC3 Dual Language Committee Update: Liz Yockey

My child is enrolled in preK here and we want him to be in DL next year. Chancellor Carranza has named Linda Chen “Chief Academic Officer” and Ms Chen has plans to restructure departments. There’s been talk of closing dual language programs that do not have enough English Language Learners/ELLs enrolled.

Lucas met Feb 14 with several high-level DOE officials:

Chief Academic Officer, Linda Chen
Deputy Chief Academic Officer for Multilingual Learners, Mirza Sanchez Medina,
Deputy Chancellor of Community Empowerment, Partnerships and Communications, Hydra Mendoza
Executive Superintendent for Manhattan, Marisol Rosales and
Senior Advisor Mariano Guzman

They said they are formulating their vision, and that a plan would come out in June. Now is the time to influence these senior officials planning.

Sharon: This is a citywide initiative.

Parents should write letters to Chancellor Carranza, Ms Chen, Ms Medina, Ms Mendoza, Executive Supt Rosales and Ms Guzman, as well as to elected officials.

Paula: I hope they don't tamper with it, DL is a great program.

Fundraising: Paula

Movie Night: planning for a Friday in March.

Flea Market: Hester Street would like to operate a flea market in our large playground. Dan Cohen from Valley Restoration is helping to facilitate contract negotiations.

Joanne and I have talked about a silent auction. Maybe in a restaurant, in April.

CEC Hearing: "Say No to Charter School in D3"

Next PTA meeting Wed March 20

Adjourned 9:35am