

**PS 165 General PTA Meeting**  
**APPROVED Minutes Wed 12/20/2018**  
**Auditorium 8am**

**Call to Order:** Paula Moss called to order at 8:15am.

**Reading and Approval of Minutes:** Alex motioned to approve November minutes, Heather seconded. November 2018 General PTA minutes are approved.

**Special Thank You To:**

Heather: on behalf of parents and administration, thank you to the people who do so much work for our kids and the school. Thank you for your day-to-day commitment to PS 165.

Present at meeting: Tony, Ms. Hyde, and .... And Mr. Lewis

Custodial staff:

Floyd Ajeda  
Anthony Asencio  
Justin Bailey  
Yohanny Castillo  
Duquan Pondexter  
Daniel Ramirez

Safety Agents:

Michelle Bolden  
Shanelle Hyde  
Jeremy Lewis

Nurse:

Olabisi Kamara

**Principal's Report:** Aracelis Castellano

We appreciate the work of the staff that they do every day. They are committed to PS 165. Thank you to the PTA for recognizing them.

Visit from the SCL / DOE – (Social Emotional Learning) Dr. Green, Director Youth Service for SCL. Dr. Green wanted to come see what the Leader In Me program is all about, the framework. Student leaders walked them around the school. Showed them the emotional bank accounts, bulletin boards, binders. They were exhibiting leadership at such a young age. Dr. Green said it was “Hashtag (#)Youngleaders”. Congratulations 165 on showing leadership The DOE is considering asking other DOE schools to be “on-boarded” with Leader In Me program.

Boyd Craig – founder of Leader In Me – said that 165 is the “trim tab” of the LIM program – the part of the boat that is at the front that leads the boat into certain areas. Craig said congrats, 165 is the trim tab he thought 165 could be. Shows that the leadership of LIM is recognized in our school and 165 is on its way to being a “Lighthouse School,” acting as a beacon to other schools.

For on-boarding, we will need to open the school and let others come see what we are doing here with our wonderful community.

Computer Science Week – Successful. One info session in English, one in Spanish. Larry said he will post pics and videos. Ms. Anali(?) wants to expand informational sessions. Inside Schools is coming January 15, and we want to open the STEM lab to show kids working on coding and robotics. Heather and Ms Scanlon are making a plan for which student leaders will be leading the journalist around the school. We are working with Ms. Lisa on beautifying the school, taking the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, make them look more festive, giving them a Winter Theme. Paula is talking to SCA about outside scaffolding decoration.

January 25 – Hosting First Legislative Breakfast – Politicians coming to school. Leaving winter decorations up through Feb. We will need volunteers to pull off the breakfast. Paula is getting a U-Haul to bring tables and chairs in. Need help setting up, decorating. Working on 1/23, 1/24 to get ready.

Literacy Night – Feb 13(?) – need volunteers to work with Ms. Scanlon to help. If can't join sub-committee directly, contact Scanlon, PTA

Thanks to PTA for advocating on behalf of 165, writing letters about garbage trucks stopping in front of school and clogging traffic. Paula got in touch with Mark Levine's office – his Budget director, and got changed hours of trucks in New Year (or now?). Paula checking when it will be enacted. Parent Adellfo(?) wrote in a lot as well; it's the power of parents/local politics. Makes a difference.

Solstice Show was a success, Urban Arts added another great layer. Kids are interested in joining Urban Arts.

**President's Report:** Paula Moss

Legislative Breakfast: Friday, January 25 – reaching out for volunteers

Winter Fest: Saturday, February 2 – Need Volunteers – Flyers going out before holidays? Or at start of new year. Posting flyers on website. Similar to spring fair: open to public, bouncy house, etc, a community builder. First time it will be held in Winter. A planning committee is being put together. Paula is reaching out to see who can help organize, and also who can work on day of even. PTA is reaching out to community businesses for donations, as well a potluck for community/parents. Fundraising: auctions, raffles. Time is being decided, maybe Noon.

Literacy Night: February 13 – Need volunteers.

February Board Meeting: To be held during the day. Normally it is at Thursday 6:30pm in school library. We want more parent engagement, so looking to do Feb meeting in the morning. Maybe do this once a quarter to give more people an opportunity to attend.

LOVE YOUR BLOCK (LYB): Grant – Applying January 21 – Grant of \$3,000. Paula working with Tanya to get that ready. Looking to making block prettier, planters, etc; in conjunction with SCA and scaffolding decoration. Signage on mesh fencing, colorful duct tape on poles, children's artwork. Some pushback for safety concerns, working on getting permission. But if there's construction for next 2 years, need to beautify.

Board couldn't do all they do without all the parents' help.

Reminder to join private Facebook group, everyone please sign up. On website, highlights of where parents can get information.

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

**Treasurer's Report/Title 1:** Zasha Medina/Alex P

Alex

Fall Pledge Drive / Holiday Gift Shop: \$3,517

Online Donations: \$259

Fairway Supermarket Community Support: \$158

Costs: Gifts for School Staff -\$148

Supplies -\$64

Translation Services -\$156

Change in cash position since 11/26/18 +\$3,575

Holiday Shop was very successful. Regular donations continuing. "Giving Tuesday" money from Facebook is NOT reflected above – will be in for Feb. Fairway money is increasing, usually two figures, now three.

Money out: \$2,000 due to Cool Culture, \$1,500 to E3 Sports. This will use up recent earnings, but not eat into PTA endowment.

Current balance is \$35,000 in account.

January will be a summary of Raised, Spent, Program Support

Parent: What about Amazon Smile?

Alex: A little comes in, maybe \$40 a month.

### **School Leadership Team/SLT Report: Sara Stone**

- Asking parents to write positive reviews on Great Schools and Inside Schools
  - Great Schools is a CA company, not sure how they are getting information on NY schools, so asking for parents to do write-ups, positive reviews, showcase events, etc. helps.
- Thank you for the Holiday Shop - Great gift ideas this year.
- Tour visitors are being invited to school events.
  - Ms. Scanlon invited them to Solstice, inviting them Literacy and Math Nights.
- January 25th first Legislative Breakfast.
  - Purpose/Goals: To get politicians to see the great things going in our building. But also for them to see the stage of our construction process, and hopefully get some funds, and highlight that we need them to get involved in PS 165.

- Parent workshops are being scheduled with Urban Arts. (CEP/Equity) Increase engagement; when dates are set up, Paula will disseminate to parents.
- Literacy Night planning to begin (February 13th)
  - Volunteers link up with Scanlon. Right around the corner. Donations? Books that would be helpful are needed.
- Motto Ideas For our School Name: Instead of changing school name, looking into changing motto:
  - “Where Great Minds Grow”
  - “Leaders Bloom”
  - “The Future Starts Here” – Top choice so far.

Next SLT meeting is January 10, 3:00-4:00 Room 306. At SLT meeting, only the board can initiate conversations, parents and teachers can come and pass messages to board.

To contact SLT, email [slt@psms165.org](mailto:slt@psms165.org). Literacy Event and Math/STEM Event are both planned in part by SLT.

**STEAM Update/Fundraising Committee Update:** Jaime Cunningham and/or Hans Taparia

Fall Pledge Drive – Everyone received pledge drive flyer at home; phenomenal response! Over \$2,600 pledged!

Volunteer Form – Also a great response to volunteer request. Creating a database for people who want to bring food, bake, etc. Helps keep volunteers in mind for future events. Parents are eager to participate.

Business Pledge Drive – targeting local biz community, using similar flyer, seeing who can help in general and with specific events, like Graduations. Money is important, as well as volunteers and donations at certain specific times of the year.

Facebook Donation Page – Public facing – goal is to advertise school, shows events, fundraising. This is for friends and family to join and be aware of what’s going on with school.

**Building Safety Council Update:** Paula Moss

- Meeting held Tues Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

SCA agreed to meet with us every two weeks starting in Jan, about all repairs. Should know more about who won bid for the construction in January.

- At the meeting was Schools Construction Authority (SCA) and Dept of School Facilities (DSF)
- We requested permission to decorate the scaffold poles / entry way with Dept of Buildings (DoB)
- Roof Renovation Project - still slated to start April 2019  
They are still planning to do most work in Summer.

Discussion btw PTA and parents over the construction timeline and how to influence SCA best to complete the work as soon as possible. Suggestion to involve Scott Stringer's (Comptroller) office. Suggestion to bring in more parents and local neighbors who have no connection to the school, but are impacted by the construction and want it done as soon as possible. Would it be possible to organize a townhall for parents and neighbors in the area? It would be good to attract politicians and the media.

#RAISETHEROOF

Next PTA Meeting will be Wednesday, January 16.

Adjourned 9:06 am.