

PS 165 General PTA Meeting
APPROVED Minutes Wed 6/19/2019
Auditorium 8:15am

Call to Order: Paula Moss called to order at 8:30am.

Principal's Update: Aracelis Castellano

School Newsletter will announce newly hired bilingual Parent Coordinator, Yadira Brenes. She is a parent of three, with children at PS 9 & WESS. Planned start date at end of July.

Sustainability Coordinators – 165 received a Green award from DOE

Wellness Council: Divya Rajaraman

Parent Survey: Snack Policy and Classroom Celebrations

108 responses, very high response rate in K & 1st. A lot of parent support for not sending soda, candy, high sugar items, or chips to school. Mixed response for using food as reward, but low approval for using candy as classroom reward.

(Applause)

Also, DOE Wellness Grant received & used for classroom cooking kits. Spoons Across America continued and expanded into 3rd Grade. Workshops at Math & Literacy Nights included nutrition label reading activity and “Edible Math.”

Ms Castellano: There will be a Snack & Classroom Celebration policy in parent handbook. We want to respectfully encourage replacing chips, candy, soda, etc with more healthy items and be very mindful of cost.

We plan to distribute a snack policy at Meet the Teacher in August, in discussion with PTA & Wellness Council before we put a final draft out. We want to kick off next school year having that policy in parent hands.

Celebrations: would like ideas for how to celebrate without food. Perhaps doing activities instead of eating.

Wellness Council will meet quarterly next year. It's what they bring for dessert for lunch that I have an issue with...Please don't just give them a big donut and think they ate something. 7:30 - 8 all students can get a free DOE breakfast. I want to promote school breakfast.

June is very busy. Thank you parents for supporting the 5th grade social, K graduation, tours, Scholastic Book Fair, SLT, I could go on and on.

Reading & Approval of Minutes: Fatima motioned to approve, Alex seconded. May 2019 minutes are approved.

President's Report: Paula Moss

3rd grader submitted writing and drawing about Philharmonic trip for Newsletter.

Yadira will work closely with PTA to get Newsletter to all parents in fall. She was Co-President at PS 9 last year (they have 3 Co-Presidents).

School Tool Box (school supply company) will be backpacked and was emailed to PTA announce email list. Removed copy paper from order as Ms Castellano is certain school can supply this to teachers.

Scholastic update: Fatima

Biggest sales yet at last Book Fair. Each one has grown in sales. Having preview days seemed really helpful, made them smart shoppers. We took \$1,000 in cash and the remainder in Scholastic dollars.

We have an excess of books available in entryway at pickup. Teachers will also bring classes down to "shop"

Picture Day: Looking for a new class photo vendor, Irving Simon. Price a little high.

Afterschool Chess: Paula

Chess was very popular this year, plan to have them back on Tue in fall. Over 20 kids and we can form a Chess team.

Larry: Not everything works on the first try, but I've seen a lot of growth in what the school is able to offer through parent involvement.

Building Safety Council: Paula

6/12/2019 meeting with SCA present

6/13/2019 new contractor starts staging the area

Over the summer: SCA confirmed that asbestos abatement will start June 29 and stop Aug 25th. This will be 75% abatement. Only custodial staff allowed in the building during this time. I think

Ms C will go to PS 163. Floyd [Head Custodian] was present, a/c will be unplugged over the summer and they will tape up windows.

Aug 25 is the air quality test. Results will be posted on a paper visible at school building. We don't know where the results will be posted.

Nayia: Mesothelioma. How can we double check that the air is safe?

Alex: PTA will not be able to afford to pay an outside contractor to test every room

Divya & Hans: Parent involvement in the process helps focus the SCA

Meet the Teacher/Orientation will be week before Labor Day

Treasurer's Report: Alex

Erika prepared the monthly Treasurer's report, but I don't have copies so we will post on PTA Board.

Paula: Thank you to our newly elected Fundraising Chairs, Nayia and Erika.

SLT Update:

Next SLT meeting Thu June 20

Nayia: We need to start addressing Sustainability in the schools, move away from consumption as a fundraising model.

Keri: D3 Green Schools has a yahoo email listserv.

Castellano: Mr Strang is Sustainability Coordinator at 165.

Tara: Looking for food donations for Spring Fair. Please help!

Adjourned 9:25am

Title 1 Meeting: Zasha Medina & Alex P

Title 1 is the federal funding program for schools with more than 40% of students qualifying for Free or Reduced Lunch.

1% of total Title 1 budget is allocated for parent engagement. At this meeting, we need to adopt our bylaws.

Keri: since all students now get free lunch, you need to make a big push for everyone to fill out the form even though the individual family doesn't see any benefit. It brings significant funding to the school as a whole.

David Neff motions to approve Title 1 Minutes from Nov 2017, Fatima Sowid seconds.

David motions to approve bylaws, Fatima seconds. Unanimous approval.

Title 1 mtg adjourned 9:29am