



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (P.S. 334)
PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2013

The meeting came to order 6:15pm.

Attendance: 17 parents

I. Minutes: The November general meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

II. President's Report: Joy Heinze (Co-President) reported that:

A. Teacher's Gift: The fund collected in class in September covers holiday and end-of-year. That fund covers the Amex gift cards that are purchased on behalf of all parents. There is no need to additionally gift. (Homemade gifts are OK.)

B. Half Days: For the first half-day in November, 60 students stayed for PTA-sponsored afternoon care. We will be voting on a budget for the expenses for the six half-days.

C. Tech Report:

i. **Equipment:** We have a large number of broken and slow laptops and are exploring alternatives with Macs or PCs. We have a group of parents who are working on a tech strategy.

ii. **Hour of Code:** We're implementing a program called Hour of Code, which will be K-8, and will start with the 8th grade.

D. Organizers: We will have a professional organizer speak to the 5th and 8th graders, so they can learn to manage their time.

E. Green Flea: Kori Stanton (PTA Co-President) is the rep. participating in each meeting and calls with GreenFlea. The Director is retiring, and their contract is up. All the schools in the building requested that the DOE provide a one-year extension of the contract until they find a new Executive Director. But the DOE has not responded to the request.

F. Facilities: Joe Lazarus was our School Facilities rep. He is leaving to help charter schools in Brooklyn. He had helped us a lot with the schoolyard, playground, classrooms.

G. Bylaw Changes: Suzanne Kerr (PTA Co-President) is heading a committee to review the bylaws. We will present tweaks at the next meeting to vote on after that.

H. Open Houses: We have approximately 14 spots for 6th grade next year, and held open houses for middle school.

III. Budget Vote: Bojan Stoyanov (Budget Committee Co-Chair) reviewed budget items:

A. Half Day Expenses: We need to fund the remaining five half days, and will vote on a new line item of \$4,300. This expense is for this year only. \$300 was already spent from contingency for the first half day.

B. Release of Funds: We are releasing funds from the budget for drama, which we now have a detailed budget for, and budget cuts that Donna Smiley provided documentation for.

C. Overages: The Budget Committee approved slight overages for the cost of busing for 5th and 8th grade trips, and Symphony Space trips.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Joy said we are looking for a new auditor. Last year's auditor raised their prices unexpectedly.

V. Direct Appeal: Amy Davidson (VP, Fundraising) said we're in the year-end campaign for the direct appeal.

VI. Fundraising:

A. Thanksgiving Eve: The Thanksgiving Eve fundraiser was a disappointment because of the weather, but hopefully we have built a relationship with Macy's for the future.

B. KidCreate: KidCreate is an event in January, focusing on science and arts and crafts. It is a building-wide event -- we are doing it with the Computer School and P.S. 452. We are looking for volunteers.

VII. Auction: There is an auction contest going on: Grade reps. - please communicate this to your classes. We are e-mailing people when we get a donation, so people can keep track of the donations. The auction will be a black-and-white masquerade ball.

VIII. Community Affairs: Joli Golden (VP, Community Affairs) was at the meeting to determine what to do with the Beacon space. The DOE has not decided yet.

IX. SLT: Mindy Wigutow (SLT Rep. to the PTA) reviewed:

A. CEP: The Comprehensive Education Plan came back with comments from the DOE, and the SLT will be revising it.

B. Report Card: The school needs to work on communication with parents, issues with the website, and parent/teacher conferences for middle schoolers.

C. New teacher grading system: The new teacher grading system was discussed at the SLT meeting.

D. Contests: There has been an increasing the number of children who participate in contests outside the school, and the SLT discussed whether the Budget Committee should pay for expenses involved with this.

X. Green Committee: Lisa Maller (Green Committee) reported that there is a bill pending to ban Styrofoam coffee cups and take out containers. We are hoping the bill passes and there is no exemption for schools. The plastic leaches into food, which is not healthy for the kids, and this waste is non-compostible. Lisa will do a sample letter, and forward to grade reps. to send to their class in support of this bill.

XI. Adjournment: We adjourned at 6:57pm.