



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

April 9, 2014

Meeting came to order at approximately 8:40 AM.

Attendees: 51 parents

I. Principal's Report:

- A. Childrens' author Bob Shea, and Brett Helquist, the illustrator of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, recently visited our school. Both did workshops with the children.
- B. We have started a reading initiative called "Get Caught Reading a Book." This is part of our effort to enhance our students' vocabulary.
- C. The yard will be closed for 2 days this year to accommodate the Taste of the Upper West Side community event. 76th street will be closed to traffic and available for recess on effected days.
- D. Our debate team received 7 out of the top 10 spots at its last competition. Anderson debate team alumni have come back to school to share their experiences.
- E. Our 8th graders have been accepted to many of the best public and private schools. We are reviewing the possibility of hiring someone to help with private school admissions and Jodi and Gale Ridder are hoping to tour and get to know more of these schools.
- F. We are considering hiring a math and literacy coach, as well as an additional PE coach part-time with surplus PTA funds.
- G. There's been a lot in the media about the recent state ELA test. We did less test prep this year and more of our children were able to fully finish the test.
- H. Two of our teachers are going to the National Math Conference in New Orleans.
- I. Family Math night was a success. Fitness night and Bridge night are coming up.
- J. Light fixture replacement to prevent PCB exposure will be done in the summer of '15.
- K. We are getting a new fire alarm and public address system
- L. More details of recent events are available in the Principal's letter which was sent to all parents last week.

II. Minutes: The March minutes were approved.

III. Presidents' Report:

- A. We have ordered 33 computers and the carts to lock them on. We are looking for knowledgeable parents to help evaluate software and programs for coding.
- B. A new director has been hired for Green Flea.
- C. We are ordering new risers and equipment for the music program.
- D. It is time to buy journal ads. Every student receives a journal for free.

- E. Class funds may be used for classroom supplies. Class treasurers should review class balance sheets for accuracy.
- F. The auditor we chose was the lowest cost provider.

IV. Auction:

- A. We are very happy with the results.
 - i. Final numbers are not yet available because the online sale is ongoing.
 - ii. The results are likely to be down slightly from last year.
- B. People loved the new space.
- C. Teacher time results will be announced soon. There was a glitch with the system.
- D. Thank you to all the volunteers!

V. KidFit:

- A. This is a building-wide event on May 3rd.
- B. It runs from 11-3 and there is a basketball tournament from 3-4.
- C. Over 30 organizations are coming, including a skateboard company with a half pipe!
- D. There will also be a sports equipment swap.
- E. Middle School kids can get community service. We also need day-of adult volunteers.

VI. Nominating Committee: Please let the members of the nominating committee know if you are interested in running for any position on the PTA, or any open position on the SLT.

VII. SLT:

- A. The SLT rep provided a basic description of the SLT and what it does.
- B. There was a discussion about which parent issues and concerns should be brought to SLT, and which to the PTA, and what the process is for each.
- C. Several parents mentioned they would like to discuss their concerns regarding “looping” the 2nd and 3rd grades next year and that they expected to bring this up later in the day at the SLT meeting.

VIII. Community Affairs:

- A. Earth Day is during Spring Break this year, so we will celebrate it the week of May 5.
- B. We will be selling recyclable lunch container products and having a contest to see which class can produce the least amount of garbage at lunch.

IX. Budget Update:

- A. The budget committee has met 3 times in the new budgeting cycle.
- B. The proposed budget will be presented in May for a vote in June.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30