



# THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (P.S. 334)

## PTA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**May 14, 2014**

Meeting came to order at approximately 8:40 AM.

Attendees: 25 parents

### **I. Principal's Report:**

- A. Our chess team did extremely well last weekend at Nationals.
- B. We will be doing a number of activities next week during Allergy Awareness Week to demystify and enhance awareness regarding food and other allergies. These include visits to the classrooms by Ms. Ridder and a middle schooler with allergies.
- C. The DOE's HIV/AIDS curriculum is being taught this week. It is available on the DOE website.
- D. Our fire drills have been going well.
- E. We will be administering field testing for standardized tests on 6/2. This is a 40 minute written test. Parents can opt their children out of this testing by sending a letter to Marcie Shaw.
- F. We have received a \$10,000 grant from the Facing History organization for Social Studies and ELA curriculum enhancement regarding the Holocaust.
- G. The DOE's contract with the teacher's union has not yet been ratified. It is possible that there will be mandated changes in our school day start and end times.

**II. Minutes:** The April minutes were approved, with an amendment to include mention of parent questions and concerns regarding the possibility of "looping" the younger grades.

### **III. Presidents' Report:**

- A. The computers we ordered are here and already in use!
- B. The new risers we ordered for use by the building have also arrived.
- C. The PTA audit is underway.
- D. Banners for each of the schools in the building have been designed and will be hung on the wall of the playground.
- E. The PTA and SLT sent a letter objecting to field testing by standardized testers at our school. The school can't opt out as a school, but individual parents can opt out for their children.
- F. The National Circus Project is coming in for a demonstration to the younger grades.
- G. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade has been asked to buy a rug for outside the school office.
- H. The Friends of Anderson organization made a presentation to the last meeting of the PTA executive board. The PTA continues to support the alumni outreach work of FOA.
- I. Year -end gift money for the teachers was collected this Fall. No additional money needs to be collected from parents for this purpose.

- J. The PTA held a teacher appreciation lunch during a recent professional development event for the teachers.
- K. The summer of 2015 is the earliest that the PCB remediation will be done in our building. It could be later.
- L. Changes to the bylaws were distributed and will be voted on at the next general meeting.
- M. The PTA website is being updated.

**IV. Nominating Committee:**

- A. 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.
- B. Nomination will be open for 2 more weeks.

**V. SLT:**

- A. The SLT discussed the pros and cons of the administration's looping proposal at the last meeting.
- B. Our CEP goals have been approved and we are reviewing our progress against them.
- C. The school's homework policy will be reviewed this summer.
- D. The SLT has set up a multicultural committee.

**VI. Fundraising:**

- A. There is a generous matching campaign this Spring. Donations to the annual fund will be matched. We are hoping to raise a total of \$70,000.
- B. Donations will be entered in a raffle to win 2 nights at the Park Hyatt in Washington D.C.

**VII. Community Affairs:**

- A. The building which has housed the Beacon High School will be turned into a school for 6-12 grades.
- B. The CEC is asking that District 3 students be given a preference at this new school.

**VIII. Budget Update:**

- A. The budget committee distributed a proposed budget for next school year.
- B. The budget committee also distributed a memo describing this proposed budget, which is available to parents on the PTA website.
- C. Next year's budget will be voted on at the June meeting.
- D. The impact of the teachers' new contract on our budget is not yet clear. It is possible amendments to this budget will need to be presented to the PTA in September.

**IX. Treasurer's Report:** The balance sheet as of April 30, 2014, P&L from August 2013 to April 2014, and Budget vs. Actual information for the same period were distributed.

**X. New Business:** We are looking for a volunteer to spearhead buying classroom supplies in bulk next year, instead of having individual parents purchase separately.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 AM.