



PTA General Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2015

Board members present: President, Recording Secretary, VP of Fundraising, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary of Communications.

I. CALL TO ORDER. The meeting was called to order by the president at 6:13pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

President offered members hard copies of the minutes. President requested a motion by membership to accept the minutes. Motion was made and seconded. Minutes approved.

III. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT.

Principal Foster-Mann went home ill today. She gave the president highlights to read aloud:

- April Principal Chat: The next one will be **April 17**, due to Spring Recess.
- School Survey: These will be passed out on Thursday by teachers during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. Please help the school improve its participation rate by completing it before April 2nd. If completed during the conferences on Thursday, students will receive a homework pass. It can be completed online with the access code provided on the hard copy of the survey.

Q: If you have two kids in the school, should parents complete it twice? **A:** Narae Frederick explained that parents should fill out the form once, for the oldest child only.

- Cell Phone Policy: It will be coming home in backpacks soon. One signed copy must be returned to the school. The school is not responsible for phones brought to school.
- Safety: There have been incidents nearby where students have been approached by strangers. The school is planning an assembly to talk about stranger danger with kids. Please also discuss this issue with children at home.

President explained that a parent provided a letter with more detail about the incidents to the PTA, which has been shared with class parents to more directly inform parents.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Assistant Treasurer provided an overview of February Revenue and Expenses.

Revenue:

- Fifth grade graduation bears sold for Valentine's Day: \$105.00
- Bake Sale: \$361.15
- Annual Appeal: \$1,923.11
- Extended Day: \$912.00
- Merchandise: \$1,813.03
- School photos: \$2,229.75
- Silent Auction donations: \$250.00

Total Revenue: \$7,744

Expenses:

- Extended Day: \$118.75 (Supplies/Materials); \$11,991 (Vendor expenses); \$2,986.67 (Insurance); \$4,275.70 (Payroll Expenses); \$92.36 (Payroll Processing fee) = \$19,464.48 total
- PS 133 (check presented to the school at the Feb PTA meeting for Studio in a School): \$25,000
- PlayWorks: \$4,100. This is the PTA's final payment to PlayWorks for the year.

Total expenses: \$49,338.51

PayPal Ending balance: \$10,474.14
Chase Ending balance: \$49,238.70
Month End balance: \$59,710.84

Annual Appeal to date: \$54,629.72.

General Donations to date: \$2,392.45

Relief 4 Recess: \$95 to the PTA. As of 3/16/2015, Indiegogo website brought in \$3,415.00. The goal is \$10,000 by end of March.

Net Revenue as of meeting: \$57,117.17

V. COMMITTEE UPDATES.

Nominating Committee: Kevin Ryan-Young, President, ptapresident@ps133brooklyn.org

- The committee needs to be formed in early April for May elections. Most of the work is on the day of the election. This is a good short-term volunteer opportunity.
- Candidate Nomination meeting is May 13. Candidates interested in any position can run – no position is spoken for.
- The Election Meeting is May 20.
- Feel free to address questions to the president. Once formed, the Nomination Committee can also answer questions.
- Unlike previous years, voting will occur during the Election Meeting. Absentee ballots cannot be accepted.

Note: More information about this committee and elections will be posted on the PTA page of the website soon.

Lunch Committee: Carol Getaz, Co-Chair, carol_voeffray@hotmail.com

- The Relief 4 Recess campaign goal is \$10,000.
- As of the date of this PTA meeting, the campaign earned \$4,020.
- If we don't meet this goal, we can't be sure if we will be able to have this program at the start of the year.
- Needs parent help - \$20 per kid,

Q: Did Kid's Orbit start yet? **A:** Yes, three people started with Coach Rob two weeks ago.

Q: So the money raised is not for now? **A:** No, it's for next year. The committee is still looking at other solutions for next year, so share any ideas with Carol.

Q: Can we have Bake Sales on a Friday after school? **A:** Yes. It can be discussed with the Parent Outreach Committee, who runs the morning bake sales.

Green Team: Kate Rubin, designk8@gmail.com

Kate couldn't attend and provided Carol Getaz with an update to share:

- GrowNYC held an interactive assembly during which they talked about organics recycling in the cafeteria. Then parent volunteers met in the cafeteria to walk kids through the process during an actual lunch period. The kids were really eager and excited to participate - they did a great job!
- Next Wednesday, March 25, is the zero waste lunch challenge and the final event for Green Month. Be creative; use reusable containers.
- Please reinforce with your kids why it is important to think about how choices we make affect our community and planet.

Fundraising Committee: Kathryn Mora, VP of Development, kathrynmora@me.com

- Auction is Saturday, April 18.
- Early bird tickets go on sale soon!
- Still looking for donation items – the deadline is next Wednesday, March 25.

Extended Day: Sharon Ng, Co-Chair and VP of Extended Day, playlab133@gmail.com

- Noted that Elizabeth Lahart and Mary Barker have been crucial to the success of the Winter Session.
- Next week, March 23-27, is last regular week of the Winter Session.
- Make up classes for the Winter Session will be held March 30, March 31, April 2, and April 13. This means there is no Playlab on Wednesday, April 1.
- Playlab Lost & Found is in class 107 – there is a lot of stuff in there!
- Spring Session begins April 14 and runs through June 22.
- Registration for Spring will begin on March 30 through April 13.
- Offerings: Playlab is keeping the main program with a few substitutions and additions, such as LaCrosse, Lego Mind Storm, Choir, Drumming, Gardening, Gymnastics, Leadership Academy, Science with Ms. Harbin, Violin. More Pre-K classes are being added.
- Payment must be made by checks only for now. They are still looking into taking credit cards.
- There is a Care Giver Volunteer–Barter system in which free classes can be given in exchange for volunteering.
- Student volunteers from the Brooklyn International School help keep program affordable.
- A survey will be sent soon to get feedback – please support the program’s development by responding.

Recruitment: Carlos Saavedra, VP of Community Involvement, csaave01@gmail.com

- Carols could not attend, so Sharon Ng provided update: Recruitment specifically for Spanish DLP students has been very active. The committee has met with Council Member Brad Landers and Chancellor Carmen Farina regarding cross-district bussing for District 15 students. DOE only provides PS 133 with bussing for District 13 students although the schools serves students from both districts.
- Carol Getaz updated recruitment for French teachers: 4th grade and 1st grade interviews are going well.

Q: Has student recruitment included reaching out to some of the dual-language nursery schools?

A: Sharon answered that recruitment is not a problem in lower grades. The upper grades are in danger of collapsing.

Q: How are bilingual teachers recruited? **A:** PS 133 and parent volunteers have attended bilingual teaching fairs. There may also be other avenues the school is exploring.

Kevin suggested directing more detailed questions to Ms. McGhie.

Performing Arts: Esra Dayani, Co-Chair, 133PerformingArts@gmail.com

- Hopefully parents received the Talent Show backpack mailer with details.
- June 12 is the show. Parents are asked to encourage performers! Please spread the word to kids.
- April 12 is the concept deadline – tell the committee the performance idea.
- May 12 + May 16 are preview performances. Performers should pick one date for rehearsal.
- Theatre for a New Audience read 5th graders plays earlier this year and they were great. Actors were so respectful and other kids in the audience asked very thoughtful classes. These same kids participated in this program as 4th graders and seeing the year over year transition was great!
- The committee received another grant to offer it to 4th graders this semester. June 22, 8:45am is their Theatre for a New Audience performance. All are welcome!

Q: Will any younger kids come watch the Fourth Graders Theatre for a New Audience: **A:** That hasn’t happened yet, but would like it to happen. The Committee will talk to the school about it.

Q: What time is the Talent Show? The Fifth Graders field trip is June 12 in CT. **A:** Ms. McGhie approved the date of the show a month ago. Maybe the committee can do something else for Fifth Graders.

Parent Outreach: Timm Ryan-Young, Co-Chair, timmy112@gmail.com

- Last few bake sales are bringing in over \$350 – this is great!
- Will not do one in April because it is Good Friday (4/16) and it is so close to the auction. Redirect your donations of baked goods and purchases to the auction!

Community Education Council (CEC): Diane Stephens, ladyd217@msn.com

- “Planning a perfect Summer” was theme of last meeting. They are making a list of all the summer camps and programs to post on the CEC website next week: cec13.org.
- April 28 is next meeting at PS54, 195 Sanford Street. Theme: STEAM. Everyone is invited.
- Rally for Public Schools is on March 28 at 12:00 at 633 3rd Avenue, the governor’s NYC office. The governor is holding back millions of dollars from schools - PS 133 is owed over 1 million. See more info here: www.howmuchnewyorkstaterob.nyc. Flyers available at the meeting and in the PTA office. Wear green for public schools!

VI. NEW BUSINESS + ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- Dismissal is at 11:30 tomorrow.
- Tuesday, 3/24, is a Leader in Me parents workshop in the library
- 3/28: Movie Night in the auditorium: Frozen sing-a-long. Entry is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.
- 4/3 - 4/10: Spring Recess.
- 4/17: Coffee Chat + Grandparents Day
- 4/18: Auction at Irondale, Fort Greene.
- 4/25: Movie Night in the auditorium: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. Entry is a suggested donation of \$5 per person.
- We are providing teachers with lunch + dinner for conferences tomorrow. Drop off drinks and dessert in PTA office or main office.
- The next Membership meeting will be April 15, 8:30am.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Q: Is it correct that the school received a 3-yr grant for Leader in Me that expires this year? What was it for and what happens next? **A:** Kevin explained that it’s for coaching teachers and parents how to get certain systems going in the school. The next level of funding provides something else. Whether or not the next level of funding is secured, PS 133 is now a Leader in Me school.

Q: Why was student recognition discontinued at the PTA meetings? **A:** Kevin explained that one person was running it. As the school is bigger now and keeps growing, it doesn’t have the capacity to manage it. A discussion was had about what other ways students could receive recognition. Timm Ryan-Young suggested that the Parent Outreach Committee might be able to help come up with a plan. Contact Timm if interested in discussing further: timmy112@gmail.com

VII. ADJOURNMENT. On motion of the President, the meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

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