

## **Executive Board Meeting, June 2, 2008**

Present: Kathy Brito, Stevie Ray Dallimore, Luisa Diorio, Kirsten Cowal, Francesca Di Mauro (second half of meeting), Denny Chern-Kelk

### **Elections**

Luisa Diorio indicated that everything appears to be under control except that a school representative is needed for the evening voting session. The usual protocol is for Ms. Chory to appoint someone. Kathy Brito will speak to Ms. Chory about the need for her to appoint someone for the evening.

### **Spaghetti Dinner, Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:00**

Luisa Diorio was told by Hillary Mantel, who is keeping track of donations and volunteers, that no one has volunteered to provide cooked spaghetti. Kirsten Cowal volunteered to send out an email blast asking parents to donate cooked spaghetti in zip lock bags on Wednesday morning at drop off. Ms. Diorio indicated that crock pot loans would also be helpful. The children will not be taken up to classrooms this year. Aryn Chapman and Leonisa Ardizzone will talk to incoming parents about the OASIS program. Luisa Diorio tried to get a well known kindergarten parent to provide some musical entertainment but the person in question declined. Ms. Chory and Marrero will wear aprons and chef hats and serve parents. Canned sauce will be relied on for the most part and a parent will provide a large supply of bread. Desert will consist of watermelon and chocolate chip cookies and Wilma Lopez is responsible for that.

### **County Fair**

Stevie Ray Dallimore indicated that Ms. Copolla has asked him for 25 volunteers. A handful of parents have volunteered but nowhere near the number requested. He will send out an email blast asking for more volunteers. Ms. Copolla has not been entirely clear on what parent volunteers are specifically needed for. No one in attendance could remember the exact amount that the PA allocated to the County Fair – Kirsten Cowal indicated that she would check the minutes from the previous general meeting and inform the Board. It was also not clear to anyone how the money was going to actually be spent, particularly given the time frame (e.g. County Fair being only a few days away). It was supposed that the administration would pay for some costs and then seek reimbursement from the PA.

### **Minutes**

In the course of reviewing the minutes from the previous month's Executive Board meeting, Stevie Ray Dallimore asked for clarification about the section describing Mr. Miller's contention that the PA "owes" the upper school \$1,000 from the budget representing funds that were raised in 2006-2007 from the candy bar sales. Kathy Brito spoke to Mr. Miller who told her that he could not find any records or documentation supporting his assertion so the issue appears to be off the table. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

### **Final budget allocations and disbursement and end of year budget report**

Stevie Ray Dallimore indicated that some parents – himself, Ariel Knackmann, Aryn Chapman, among others – have been discussing the possibility of submitting a proposal to replace the current school sign for something much larger and placed closer to the north entrance on Cabrini Blvd. A proposal to that effect may be forthcoming. In the context of a discussion about disbursements and the amount of money left in the budget, Luisa Diorio indicated that in the final financial report the balance will be negative. This is not because the PA will be without funds but rather because the PA spent more than it took in this year. The PA started with a \$7,000+ carry over and some of this pot of money will have been spend this year so that the ending balance will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5,000-6,000. Denny Chern-Kelk raised the question of what the PA's options might be next year when its bank

account is frozen because of the audit. Will the PA be able to raise money next year? Can the PA operate through the Fund for Public Schools? Can the PA open a different bank account? Kathy Brito will speak to Rebecca Alicea about these questions.

### **E-group proposal**

Luisa Diorio discussed her wish to submit for a vote the question of whether to modify the e-group rules such that parents who are registered for kindergarten but not yet attending can register for the e-group. This was discussed partly in the context of the idea some PA members have had to register parents at the Spaghetti Dinner for the e-group. It was generally agreed that this would be a positive step in the direction of improving communication and involving parents while their enthusiasm is high. Given that children of parents who attend the Spaghetti Dinner are registered for PS/IS 187 there doesn't seem to be an obvious and strong reason not to. A motion was made to modify the rules to allow parents of children registered to attend PS/IS 187 this coming fall (primarily or entirely kindergarteners) be allowed to register for the e-group. The motion was seconded and passed with one Executive Board member (Marci Stringham) not being present to vote. Carlos Brito voted by telephone. Kirsten Cowal will be in touch with Judith Michael to discuss the voted upon change. It was assumed that it was up to the Executive Board's discretion to change the e-group rules and Ms. Cowal will verify that this is indeed the case. Ms. Diorio indicated that a sign up flyer for the e-group has already been developed and that Marci Stringham probably has it.

### **Thank you breakfast for parent volunteers**

Kirsten Cowal reported that Francesca Di Mauro had told her earlier in the day in an email that she wanted the Board to consider a proposal to fund an appreciation breakfast for parents who volunteered as Class Parent Representatives or as BookPals. The request was initially discussed before Ms. Di Mauro arrived at the meeting and a suggestion was made by a Board member that she submit the request in writing. The request was discussed again after Ms. Di Mauro arrived. It was established that an expenditure for this purpose did not need to be voted upon by the general membership and could either be taken out of the miscellaneous or Sunshine Fund budget lines. Also, given the fact that the breakfast would cost at most \$100 it was decided that there was no need for Francesca Di Mauro to submit a proposal and budget. The Board decided unanimously to approve the expenditure of \$75 to \$100 for a breakfast for parent volunteers to be held, most likely, in the library. Ms. Chory and Ms. Marrero would be in attendance and would sign some simple certificates.

### **Issues for next year's Executive Board**

Kathy Brito mentioned that the upper school needs to start fundraising early in the year so that the PA doesn't need to allocate as much money as it did this year for the class trip.

Francesca Di Mauro wondered if the committees should discuss the meeting schedule for the upcoming year since there is the prospect of the general meetings being held on Mondays if the proposed change to the bylaws is approved. A consensus was reached that the issue should be addressed next fall by each committee since each is free to meet whenever and wherever they wish.

The agenda for the final general meeting will be established through email and on the evening of the meeting in the hour before the meeting when the Executive Board typically meets.