

Executive Board Meeting, May 4, 2009

Present: Francesca Di Mauro, Ivelisse Suarez-Levine, Susan Saar, Kirsten Cowal, Kathy Brito, Tory Frye, Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton,

The meeting began with a discussion about the agenda for the next general meeting which will include the taking of nominations and the Meet the Candidates forum. In the context of discussing the need to solicit volunteers to head fundraising activities next year, it was established that Kati Koerner, Vicky Taylor and Holly Gould will coordinate movie nights next year. In addition, Vicky Taylor would like to organize a Dance Night for kids and adults.

The next topic of discussion was the upcoming Spaghetti Dinner and the status of plans to sell t-shirts made and ordered specifically for the occasion as per a decision reached at a previous general meeting. It was ultimately decided that t-shirts would be sold and that cookbooks and tote bags remaining in stock would also be sold. Tory Frye agreed to contact Ariel Nachmann to ascertain whether t-shirts for the dinner have been ordered. It was also agreed that t-shirts, cookbooks, and tote bags will be sold at the upcoming Intermediate School Music and Arts Festival. Kathy Brito indicated that she would get approval for this from Ms. Chory.

Susan Saar announced that June 1 is editorial deadline for the last issue of the Backpack News. Tory Frye indicated that she will conduct an interview for the BPN with the character education teacher, and Kathy Brito reminded the Board that the wish list, as fulfilled, has to be distributed school wide. There was discussion about whether that could be done via the BPN and it was ultimately decided that it could.

Ms. Di Mauro indicated that she would not be able to attend the June 1 Executive Board meeting for personal reasons and asked that the vice presidents preside at the meeting. She then outlined the agenda for the mini retreat on Friday, May 8th from 8:00 to 10:00am. She indicated that the meeting would be attended by the PA Executive Board, members of the School Leadership Team, select teachers, the school administration including Ms. Chory, Ms. Marrero and Ms. Hozumi and some representatives from the empowerment network and the Department of Education. Additional attendees will include Judith Michael and Sarah Holloway. The meeting will be initiated with a team building activity and the goal is to find common ground. Ms Di Mauro stressed the importance of a positive and constructive approach and stance by the Executive Board and School Leadership Team in the face of personalities and bureaucratic processes that will not easily change.

A discussion followed about the extra meeting that was requested and voted upon at the previous general meeting. There was debate about what form the meeting should take and when it should be scheduled. Some Executive Board members emphasized that a meeting needed to be held in the next week or so because that is what the membership mandated. Tory Frye, Jeanine McAdam and Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton agreed to do the necessary investigation and legwork to make the extra meeting happen.