

Executive Board Meeting, June 1, 2009

Present: Ivelisse Suarez-Levine, Kathy Brito, Kirsten Cowal, Susan Saar, Tory Frye, Judith Michael, Wilma Lopez, Susan Rosenberg, Jeanine McAdam, Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton

In Francesca Di Mauro's absence, Ivelisse Suarez-Levine led the meeting. The first discussion item was the status of reimbursement of Title I parental involvement funds. The PA needs to spend down the balance before the end of the school year. Kathy Brito will follow up to find out how much the PA has left. It was established that these funds can cover the costs of paper as well as pizza and babysitting at meetings.

Spaghetti Dinner was discussed next. Ivelisse Suarez-Levine reported that she sent out 72 invitations and it seems that so far 33 adults and 22 children will attend. Three classrooms are available but only 2 may be needed based on the numbers. Susan Rosenberg reported that at this point food donations are needed more than volunteers. Susan Saar indicated she would send an email blast asking for donations of pasta, sauce, garlic bread, loans of crock pots and parmesan cheese. The PA has enough paper plates, cups, napkins, etc. Kathy Brito indicated she would buy a cake from BJ's and would also be at the school from 8 to 10am to receive food donations. It was agreed that t-shirts, tote bags and cookbooks would be available for sale – everything for \$10 – and that it would be a soft sell to avoid overwhelming parents.

The subsequent item of discussion was the e-group policy. Judith Michael reminded everyone that there are three issues that need to be voted upon: whether to continue moderating the e-group postings, whether to allow prospective parents who attend the Spaghetti Dinner to join, and whether to implement a policy on commercial postings. Judith Michael clarified that members who joined before 2005 are not moderated while those that joined after are. She proposed making all members un-moderated and that parents who violate the e-group policies and guidelines can be moderated. The rest of the Executive Board members agreed with this proposition. Regarding the second issue, it was noted that if the e-group is an extension of the PA then a member of the e-group must have a child attending the school. Tory Frye offered her opinion that that it was a matter of principle rather than one of potential danger, while Judith Michael mentioned rumor mongering as a potential danger associated with allowing prospective parents to join before the start of the school year. Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton noted that early September during Parent Orientation is the time to recruit and register parents. It was agreed that interested parents be told that they should contact the e-group to register once they have their child's classroom information – i.e. after the letter from the school is received. Volunteers will take down contact information for interested parents at Spaghetti Dinner and let them know that they will be contacted in the fall. With regard to the final issue, Judith Michael explained that she has already drafted a paragraph outlining a new commercial policy for the e-group. There was some discussion as to whether it should be presented for a vote right away as opposed to collecting information on parents' preferences (through a survey or the like). Consensus was reached that it made the most sense to present the commercial policy for a vote at the upcoming general meeting. It was agreed that members who violate the commercial policy will be moderated.

Discussion turned to the question of whether the question of changing to a PTA should be raised at the next general meeting. It was generally agreed that this is an issue that should be looked into more closely and thoroughly by a subcommittee before presenting it for discussion to the entire membership.

The remaining items of discussion and announcements were:

- Ms. Chory will meet with the new PA Board and SLT on June 12th
- It was agreed that there will be a party of some kind after the final general meeting on June 18th – a potluck of some kind
- Kathy Brito and Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton are spearheading efforts to recruit 7th grade, as well as 5th and 6th grade parents to hold with graduation.
- Kathy Brito will get dates from the school administration for a breakfast for all of the class parent representatives and teachers.

- The PA needs chairs for the hospitality, community liaison and fundraising committees. Ruth Lilienstein-Gatton, Stacey Linden and Jesxsica Shapely will continue as chairs of the Class Parent Representatives program, Jeanine McAdam and Ms. Lilienstein-Gatton will continue as co-chairs of the grant writing subcommittee and Ivelisse Suarez-Levine will be in charge of box tops.