

Minutes PA Meeting October 18, 2007

Kathy Brito introduced Cheryl Martin who made some brief remarks before opening the floor for nominations for the School Leadership Team (SLT) election. She mentioned that ten people submitted themselves as candidates, a spectacular turnout. One person, Aryn Chapman nominated herself from the floor. Francesca Di Mauro told the PA body that the Board had decided to reserve the right to assign the candidate with the second highest number of votes to fill any vacancies that occur during the school year.

Ms. Chory gave her administration report. She announced several upcoming events, including the school tour on October 24th, the student council-sponsored Penny Harvest (running from October 22 through November 21st) and the t-shirt design contest. November 11-16 is Open School Week and parent-teacher conferences will be during the day and evening of November 13th (which will be a half day). November 14 and 15th will be the dates of the 5th grade social studies exam so the suggested days and times of parent visits to the school will be arranged so as to minimize disruption or distraction to the test takers. Ms. Chory thanked Jim Corona, Soledad Lopez Quintero and Luisa Diorio for their service in reviewing resumes for the Parent Coordinator position and announced that Denise Rosa will be starting on November 5th and will be introduced to parents during Open School week.

Ms. Chory asked parents to remember to send their children to school with a sweater or jacket to insure they can go outside during the colder weather and not miss the opportunity for physical activity. Ms. Marrero gave a report on the pre-kindergarten program noting the transformation in the children in just the brief time the program has been in existence.

Stevie Ray Dallimore moderated the question and answer session with the administration. One parent asked whether the school had any kind of prevention protocol regarding the outbreak of staph infection that has been in the news as of late. Ms. Chory noted that school aides are posted outside of the bathrooms to remind children to wash their hands and that parents were welcome to send sanitizers with their children to school but that there were concerns about appropriate usage of such items. Ms. Chory and Ms. Marrero were thanked and left the meeting.

The minutes from the previous general meeting were approved with two corrections, one having to do with the amount of the discrepancy between income and expenses in the previous month's financial report and the date of the SLT elections. Luisa Diorio gave her treasurer's report. She discussed the answers to three outstanding questions from last month's meeting with regard to the financial report. She indicated that Ms. Chory had signed the financial report (first question), the report was sent to the region (second question) and that the region said that everything was okay (third question). Luisa Diorio also indicated that Judith Amaro would be answering specific questions when she arrived which was expected to be toward the end of the meeting. Francesca Di Mauro announced that pre-kindergarten will have class parent representatives and that the jury is still out on whether pre-k parents can run for the PA or SLT.

At 7:30 the floor was closed for nominations. The slate of candidates consisted of: Aryn Chapman, Martha Agosto-James, Yehuda Avital, Effrem Ballenilla, Fengxia Ge, James Goldwasser, Marcia Olivares, Luis Quintero, Blanca Rivera and Alfida Sosa. The Meet the Candidates session was opened and Aryn Chapman and James Goldwasser gave presentations. Cheryl Martin reminded the membership that candidates were not required to attend the Meet the Candidates session.

While Cheryl Martin, Eve Ferdman and Victoria Frye prepared the ballots, the committees made their reports. Elise Kagan, co-chair of the fundraising committee mentioned that there has been a glitch with the class photos and that the dates are consequently up in the air. The worst case scenario is that pictures won't be back in time for Christmas/Hannukah. The committee is exploring many different ideas and is committed to investigating any idea that parents refer to them, particularly since a lot of money will have to be raised to make up at least in part for the loss of Title I funds. Parents can communicate any

idea to the committee by sending email to ps187fundraising@yahoo.com. Holly Gould has researched and proposed a Movie Night with a tentative date in November. The event will be a fundraiser for art supplies for the new art teacher. Nicky Rosen mentioned that while the PA can't purchase personnel, it could pay for student teachers by setting up a payroll through the PA. She volunteered to consult with lawyers downtown or try to clarify regulations with regard to potential fundraising activities.

Susan Saar, co-chair of the grant writing committee indicated that the committee is still getting its bearings. They will meet with Ms. Chory shortly to discuss priorities, but she is under the impression that arts will be a fundraising priority this year. She mentioned that they committee is going to be applying for a Target mini-grant that might possibly cover the Kindergarten trip to Green Meadows. The committee is also reviewing the Parents as Arts Partners program. Kati Koerner asked parents to pass along any information they encounter on grant opportunities to the grant writing subcommittee. The contact information for the grant writing subcommittee will be posted on the e-group.

A question was raised as to whether the new web site has email capability since if that is the case each committee can be linked to the web site. This question needs to be investigated, which it will be. Jessica (last name?), the current Web master, lives out of state but is actively running the web site. She will be visiting New York at the end of the month to transfer the web site to Marci Stringham and Nicky Rosen.

Susan Saar indicated that she is looking for a dance teacher for a Family Dance Night and that it has not been easy thus far. Nicky Rosen suggested that admission could be charged to pay for teacher's fee and whatever amount remained could go into the PA budget. Susan Saar also indicated that last year's positive balance of \$70.12 could be used for the same purpose, though she and Stacey Linden (the new yoga teacher) are considering whether the money should be used to acquire props. Chris Kapetanos, co-chair of the Environment Committee, announced that the first grade will be planting bulbs in the garden path in the next 2 weeks. Volunteers and contributions are needed for this event. Francesca Di Mauro asked first grade parents present at the meeting to contact their class parent representative about this event. The Environment Committee can be reached at sharonsilber@aol.com.

The results of the previous voting was announced and James Goldwasser was the winner. The runner up was Aryn Chapman. The nominating committee members were thanked and Cheryl Marin, in turn, gave thanks to Judith Michael (for her advice and orientation) and to Lisa Anderson for documents that she sent.

Judith Amaro gave an overview of the situation with last year's budget. She pointed out that the confusion arose, at least in part, because the balance at the beginning of the year, \$19,697.15 included \$9,607.38 that corresponded to the after school program and not the PA. When that fact was taken into consideration, the discrepancy amounted to \$7,608.45 and that all of that amount was expected to be recovered. Judith Amaro indicated that she took full responsibility for recovering the funds and that she was working with the city agency responsible for social services to receive overdue payments and with a parent to establish a payment plan.

During the Open Forum, a parent asked if the treasurer could submit a statement of income and expenses using the A660 template and assurances were given that this would be done. Another parent asked if the budget for refreshments, currently at \$250 could be increased but she was informed that this budget line was only for refreshments for PA meetings and that it was thus not necessary to do so since the amount would be sufficient for the purpose. Francesca Di Mauro announced that she is looking for actors for the Book Pals program and distributed flyers for posting. She mentioned that PS/IS 187 is unusual in having a Book Pal in every class and that she would like to keep it that way. The last issue that was discussed was the fact that the PA meetings conflict with the District 6 CEC meetings and that this has been the case for the last two years. This is a source of frustration for parents who would like to be

able to attend both meeting. Short of changing the dates of PA meetings, it was suggested that the Board appoint someone to attend CEC meetings and make a report to the PA. The possibility was suggested of having the UPA delegate or an alternate attend or of having the two alternates stagger attendance at the CEC meetings so that one could make a report to the PA one month and attend the next. Juan Carlos Brito indicated that the Board would take this issue under consideration.