

General PA Meeting, November 29, 2007

The general meeting was preceded by a presentation by Nicky Kram Rosen on the school report card. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Chory explained her position on the report card. She indicated that while she accept the results of the report card that she doesn't believe that it is productive for schools to be given letter grades. She stated that she did not object to quantitative indices but that letter grades in her opinion conferred stigma. She indicated that the school administration would continue with their efforts to differentiate instruction, work on the workshop model and celebrate children's successes.

Ms. Chory announced that the grades 2-8 after school program is in full swing and that the school had its first pre-kindergarten Thanksgiving. The after school program will end on December 12-13 and will start up again in January pending the availability of funding and staff. She also announced that the Music Festival has been rescheduled to December 19th at 6:30.

During the question and answer session, a parent asked whether the programs were able to meet all the demand. Every second grade student was admitted while around six children from the third and fourth grades did not get it. Another parent asked about how often the Parent Coordinator meets with the administration. The response given was that she meets with Ms. Chory and Ms. Marrero daily and with Ms. Hozumi on an as needed basis. The same parent asked why the Parent Coordinator was only answerable to the elementary school. Ms. Hozumi replied that there are generally more inquiries from elementary school parents and more dialogue in general. The lower level of dialogue with intermediate school parents is a known issue and a target for change.

Another parent mentioned the partnership between the Riverside Y and PS 24 and asked whether there has been any discussion of a similar partnership between PS/IS 187 and the Nagle Avenue Y. Ms. Chory indicated that the issue could be presented to the school leadership team. A proposal had been made in the past but the SLT decided the school was not ready. She explained that she is not making this kind of decision on her own without the input from and consultation with the SLT.

The administration report ended and the principal and assistant principals left the meeting. The minutes from the previous general meeting were approved. Luisa Diorio gave a financial report. She requested a motion to add \$350 to the "School Orientations/Tours" budget line which was seconded and approved by vote. The \$350 includes the \$215 that has already been expended. A question was raised about the status of the outstanding funds from last year's after school program and the answer given was that the money has not yet been recovered. Chris Kapetanos asked to speak and then proposed the creation of an ad hoc sub-committee to do an audit of the PA finances over the past 2 years. The goal of such audit would be to "clear the air" since there has been a lingering impression that more money was going out than coming in and to document what really happened. Chris Kapetanos and Jennifer Marciano volunteered to be part of the proposed audit subcommittee. The last audit that was done was two years ago by Jennifer Marciano. A motion was made, seconded, voted upon and approved. A third volunteer was requested for the subcommittee. Victoria Frye tentatively volunteered her husband.

Committee reports subsequently given. Elise Cagan reported on the amount raised by Movie Night which was about \$1,500 minus expenses. The fall fundraiser brought in about \$21,000 of which the PA gets to keep half. Parents who complained about the fact that half of the money given would go elsewhere were encouraged to write checks to the school since all of it would stay in the school. The orders will be coming in on December 7th and volunteers are needed to process and distribute individual orders. The picture days went well and the pictures will be distributed before the holidays.

Susan Saar reported for the Nutrition and Fitness Committee. Family Yoga Nights have not been very well attended and some parents suggested that turnout might be better if it was held on Friday night

or on the weekend since many parents feel weekdays are too complicated with homework and the like. Susan Saar indicated she would consider this. She announced that the school has gotten a steamer which is a step forward in terms of being able to improve the nutritional content of school lunches but that what is really needed is a stove but there is simply no room for it. Susan Saar would like to have a Health Fair in the spring and some parents inquired about the possibility of hosting a Farmer's Market as a fundraiser.

Chris Kapetanos from the Environmental Committee reported that bulbs were planted along the pathway. Wilma Lopez from the Hospitality Committee reported that it has been able to stay under budget because she has received donations from her workplace. She indicated that volunteers would be needed for the Spaghetti Dinner and the Appreciation Dinner in the spring.