

General Meeting, March 20, 2008

PA President Kathy Brito welcomed the attendees and indicated that administration would not be at the meeting because of the holidays. She thanked Wilma Lopez, Hospitality Committee Chair, for organizing and coordinating the staff appreciation dinner which went very well. At least one member reported that teachers expressed considerable appreciation for the event.

Financial Report

Treasurer Luisa Diorio gave her bi-monthly financial report. She indicated that she would only be discussing the line items that had changed since many of them remain unchanged from the time of the last report. Under Income, she noted that the budget line for dues was at last filled in with the amount of \$7,160 though some dues are still trickling in. The line item for Box Tops is still blank because we are still waiting for the money due for the Box Tops that have been submitted. The figure for "Other" of \$546 consists of \$510 that has been collected from Franks (pie sales) and \$36 that was received in donations at the Science Fair. The projected figure of \$1,850 was based on the fact that approximately \$1,000 was raised from Franks last year and there were other donations that were classified under that category (such as a donation from a student's grandparents, etc.). Under Expenses, she noted that the Wish List has been granted in its entirety which amounted to \$15,761.

Audit

Ms. Diorio then announced that Chris Kapetanos, the Chair of the Audit Committee would be providing an update. She thanked the audit committee for its patience while the relevant and necessary documents were gathered. Mr. Kapetanos reported that the committee has the receipts and banking records for 2005-2006 and will begin working with that information (Note: At the April 2008 general meeting Mr. Kapetanos indicated that the records they had received were in a box and not organized and for that reason had not been able to begin the work or reviewing them). Once they have completed their investigation for 2005-2006 they will request the receipts, etc. for 2006-2007. He indicated that the committee will try to complete a draft report by May which will be presented to the PA. Jennifer Marciano asked if the names of parents who apparently still owe money to the after school program could be obtained so that it could be verified that they did, in fact, still owe money. Ms. Diorio read sections of the minutes of the October 2007 Executive Board meeting to clarify the amounts that are thought to still be outstanding. Nicky Kram Rosen wondered if there were confidentiality issues with disclosing the names of the parents and whether there might be a need for an impartial person to handle this matter to avoid what might have the appearance of a "witch hunt." Jeanine McAdam reported a conversation she had with Rebecca Alicea from the district office. Ms. Alicea told Ms. McAdam that the PA is following the correct protocol in that the audit committee is doing its work, will report its findings and then ask for help from the district office if help is needed. Judith Michael expressed some confusion about the true amount that is owed to the PA – roughly \$9,000 versus \$5,000. Ms. Marciano indicated that Judy Amaro said that the difference between the \$9,000 and \$5,000 figures was money that belongs to the after school program and not the PA and that this uncertainty is one of the reasons why the audit is being conducted. Ms. Marciano also stated that the PA never had a formal arrangements nor ever signed a contract to accept funds from the city or from a city agency for the after school program. Ms. Brito indicated that she would speak to Ms. Chory about the possibility of getting the names of the parents who still owe money to the afterschool program.

Nominating Committee

Cheryl Martin reported that she, Luisa Diorio and Joey Brenneman have started meeting and setting things up for the PA and SLT elections. The PA elections will take place first followed by the SLT elections. At this time the focus is on establishing the dates of the elections.

Bylaws

Kirsten Cowal reported that the Executive Board decided to postpone the reading of the proposed bylaws revisions to the following meeting because the Board is still discussing some of the particulars. Nicky Kram Rosen asked that the Board to consider the possibility of including a revision to allow for some flexibility in the setting of meeting dates to address the existing and potentially future conflict between the dates of the PA and CEC meetings. Ms. Cowal responded that the Board had considered the issue but decided not to act on it because it was made aware that the dates of the CEC meetings might be changing in the near future and also because it isn't entirely clear whether Robert's Rules of Order allow for such flexibility. Cheryl Martin reported that there is a conflict between the A660 and the bylaws on the dates on which elections must be held. Kirsten Cowal indicated that both issues would be looked into.

Committee Reports

Fundraising/Grantwriting and Nutrition & Fitness Committees

Susan Saar reported that the Bent on Learning fundraiser is still going on and asked parents to make a contribution if they have not already done so. She emphasized that the money that is raised will directly support the program at PA/IS 187. Ms. Saar reminded parents to collect Box Tops and reported that the previous Family Yoga Night was cancelled because the instructor sprained her ankle. The next class will be held on April 11th. The Parents as Arts Partners in conjunction with the Daniel Gewirtzman Dance Company are having a Mexican Dance night on March 25th for 2nd and 3rd graders and their parents. A few spaces are still available. Wilma Lopez asked if other grades could register if spaces were still open and was encouraged to email Sharon Silber to get an answer to that question.

The Materials for the Arts program is up and running and the school representatives – Stevie Ray Dallimore, Luisa Diorio and Denise Rosa, with Ariel Knachmann's help, have been to the warehouse to shop. Among other things, a large collection of cloth of different patterns and colors and large wooden stars were acquired. Denise Rosa is writing the requisite thank you notes. Efforts are still underway to raise funds for the 2nd grade video project. Because time is running out, a decision was made to write letters to two alumni of PS/IS 187 to ask for their support. Ruth Lilienstein-Gaton wrote a letter to Rafael Martinez (who was invited to the school as part of the Principal for the Day event) and Denny Chern-Kelk is writing to the other. Jeanine McAdam asked if remaining PA funds could be used for the project if the letters don't work. The project has a budget of about \$3,000 and the Executive Board agreed to consider the matter.

Ms. Saar reported that she and Ms. Lileinstein-Gaton are working on a Healthy Potato grant as part of Field Day (in which students participate in mostly track and field events) in which healthy snacks would be given to the students as part of a wellness component to the day. The PA has not traditionally had a participatory role in Field Day.

Leonisa Ardizzone reported that the 501c3 committee is on the verge of sending a first draft of incorporation papers and bylaws to a lawyer who is providing pro bono assistance. This individual is a patent lawyer who has experience in non-profit law and who is also the parent of a child in a downtown public school.

Susan Saar mentioned that the school has a new coordinator for school food. Kevin Beckles, who works out of Central, has met with Maria and has some good ideas for raising the nutritional content of the school lunch program at the school. He noticed, for example, that vegetables tended to be overcooked so he is going to show Maria how to use the new steamer to cook vegetables more al dente. Maria is also going to go to "salad bar school." The school lunch menu is set but can be tweaked.

Stevie Ray Dallimore reported that the casting call is out for the Talent Show. Judith Michael is working on the play bill, particularly on the possibility of selling ad space (school spirit ads) in it. Approval from administration is

pending on this question. Jim Corona and Mr. Leoni will help with the technical/audio side of things. Tickets will be sold on the day of the show. Kathy Brito will buy a popcorn popper from Costco (the allocation for the purchase was previously approved).

Hospitality Committee

Wilma Lopez reported that the Staff Appreciation Dinner went very well. The upcoming school tour needs volunteers and Ms. Lopez indicated that she would circulate a sign up sheet. Help is needed between 7:30 and 8:00 to set up. The tour begins at 8:30 and help will be needed for clean up afterwards. Drinks will be set up at the back of the auditorium.

Open Forum

Leonisa Ardizzone announced that she made a proposal to the SLT and has received approval to host an information night for two professional providers of after school programs to make presentations to the parent body. It was agreed that the session could be held from 6:00 to 7:00 on April 17th right before the General Meeting. Ms. Ardizzone also announced that the Salvadori Center will be holding another event which will not be free but will be low cost. She distributed flyers for this event. The recently held event by the Salvadori Center on why buildings stand up was well attended and went well.