

Parents Association General Meeting, May 20, 2008

Administration Report

Ms. Chory announced the dates of Field Day for pre-kindergarten to 2nd grade (May 28th) and 3rd and 4th grades (May 29th) and indicated that donations of juice, water and snacks were needed. Other dates she announced include:

- June 2 – kindergarten celebration and clerical half day school closing
- June 3 and 4 – social studies exam
- June 5 – no school, professional development day
- June 6 – County Fair, Stevie Ray Dallimore coordinating volunteers
- June 12 – 4th grade moving up ceremony, clerical half day school closing
- June 19 – final Parents Association general meeting
- June 20 – 8th grade graduation
- June 23 – pre-kindergarten moving up celebration
- June 26 – last day of school

Ms. Chory told the PA that very early morning drop off of children was increasingly problematic. Children are being dropped off as early as 7:00am and there is no one in the school until 7:30am other than the security guard. The school doesn't have the staffing resources to properly look after the children. Ms. Chory asked that the PA think of ways in which it might be able to reach out to and help these families.

In the course of the question and answer session it was made known that parent volunteers are not needed for Field Day.

The first order of business after administration left the meeting was the review and approval of the previous meeting's minutes.

The floor was then opened for nominations for the PA and SLT elections. Joey Brenneman and Cheryl Martin indicated that the nominations submitted in writing prior to the meeting were from Katie Lorenzo for President and Kirsten Cowal for Recording Secretary, and Leonisa Ardizzzone, James Goldwasser and Peg Cummings for the SLT. The following individuals nominated themselves or were nominated from the floor:

Wilma Lopez – School leadership team

Francesca Di Mauro – President

Kathy Brito – Vice President of Intermediate School, School Leadership Team

Carlos Brito – Treasurer

Susan Saar – Communications Secretary

Ivelisse Suarez-Levine – Vice President for Elementary School

Chris Kapetanos – UPA/CEC delegate

All of the individuals who were nominated by someone other than themselves (all except Wilma Lopez for SLT and Kathy Brito for VP and SLT) accepted the nominations.

Nominations were closed at 7:30pm.

Kathy Brito presented Jennifer Marciano with a commemorative certificate in recognition of her service to the PA and the school since her only daughter is graduating this year.

Luisa Diorio gave her bi-monthly financial report. She noted that the School-a-palooza fundraiser brought in \$3,911 and that there were roughly \$1,000 in expenses. \$2,817 will go towards classroom libraries.

Kirsten Cowal discussed proposed changes to the bylaws. She distributed a handout summarizing the proposed changes and listing the specific proposed changes in the relevant articles of the bylaws (see attached). She read the changes and indicated that they would be submitted for a vote at the next meeting. It was also indicated that any discussion that was needed or desired would take place at the next meeting.

Francesca Di Mauro then presented several funding proposals to the membership. The first discussed was that of paying for two buses for the 8th grade trip. Each bus costs \$1,500 for a total of \$3,000. It was discussed and clarified that the PA has already approved and allocated funds for one of the three buses for the 8th grade field trip. The membership was told that Ms. Chory had requested whatever financial assistance the PA was able and /or willing to provide to pay for the other buses. In response to a parent's question, it was indicated that last year the PA gave \$1,000 toward the cost of one bus. Another parent asked if it was necessary for the 8th graders to go on a trip that was so costly and if there any other less costly alternatives. Jennifer Marciano reminded parents that the students were unable to raise funds for the trip this year because they were not allowed to sell candy bars as they have done in previous year. Nicky Rosen stated that the PA and administration could have been more proactive in encouraging students to engage in other fundraising activities. Judith Michael mentioned that each student pays \$180 for graduation related expenses and festivities so it is not like they are getting a free ride. After some more discussions along the same line, the Executive Board asked for someone to make a motion. Cheryl Martin made a motion to approve the allocation of \$3,000 to pay for the cost of two buses for the 8th grade trip. The motion was seconded and passed with 5 opposing votes.

The next funding proposal was for the choir trip to see a Broadway show. Mr. Jennings, the music teacher and choir director has purchased 50 tickets at \$32 a piece for Gypsy and is asking the PA for any financial assistance it is willing and able to provide. Katie Lorenzo asked if other classes have gotten trips and was told that they have through the wish list. The Executive Board indicated that it was proposing an allocation of \$800 to defray some of the cost of this trip. Elise Kagan stated her opinion that cultural trips of this kind are particularly needed and welcome given the general inability of parents to provide these sorts of opportunities for their children either through lack of time or money. Cheryl Martin raised a motion to approve the allocation of \$800 to cover some of the costs of the choir's trip to see the Broadway show Gypsy. The motion was seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

The final funding proposal that was discussed and voted upon was that of donating up to \$500 to cover any necessary costs associated with the County Fair. Such expenses might include materials for booths or activities such as face painting. Chris Kapetanos made a motion which was seconded and passed without any negative votes.

The Candidates Forum ensued in which each candidate spoke briefly about his or herself and his or her motivation for running for the position in question. The members of the nominating committee were thanked for their services. A reminder was given to parents of the need for volunteer help on the days of the elections.