

PA General Meeting 10/22/09

Approval of minutes as amended- correction was that Friends of 187 is a 501C not 503C. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Principal's Announcements

Mc Chory's announced that teachers are in professional development in the GE Grant. Parent Conferences will be 11/9 at 5:30- 9pm and 11/10 grades PreK-4 12:30-3:15pm and grades 5-8 12:15-3pm. For Middle school Parent/Teacher conference, go to the auditorium to see the grade advisor who will give out report cards. Get a flyer that will list the teachers and their room numbers. Then sign in with the teachers and have the conference.

Ms. Chory thanked Ms. Rosa for the PJ Literacy afternoon and **Navi Stoller**, a parent for starting the Parents as Arts Partner, started to help in the kindergarten class. October 30th will be crazy hat and hair day. A parent asked how Bullying is handled in school. Ms. Chory answered that if it's between 2 children, it's handled by Ms. Marrero (lower grades) or the grade advisor (upper grades). If it happens with a larger group, then it is handled by Ms. Powell, the guidance counselor. Ms. Powell has several workshops on Bullying called "Don't laugh at me" or "Tribes" The workshop groups can be done in class or with a small group. Bullying seems to happen most in the fifth grade.

NYC is offering the H1N1 vaccine for students in PreK-5th grade because the majority of those affected are children under 10. The approximate launch date is November 4th but the school doesn't know when the vaccine will arrive. For older students, the vaccine date is still unknown but it will be offered at George Washington H.S. Parents who want the vaccine, should complete the form and place it in a sealed envelope for the school nurse because the information is confidential. The school will follow DOE regulations.

Ms. Chory wanted to thank the Hospitality Committee, Donna and Ana who hosted the School Tour. Also thanks to the last minute parent volunteers for the middle school trip so that the kids could go on the trip. Thanks to Diego Valentine for his help on technology. Thanks to the PA for another amazing turnout.

Regarding Rosetta Stone- Mr. Leone and a parent volunteer are working on fixing the technical glitches. There isn't an update yet on the status.

There was a question whether the school library can be opened after school. Ms. Chory would like to, but can't make any promises because the budget is limited. Ms. Chory and Ms. Marrero then left the meeting.

Francesca started the meeting by thanking several people

Judy Prosper and her team- for fundraising and Innisbrook

Donna and Ana from the Hospitality Committee- for the beautiful spread and school tour

Tuesday's Pep Rally to plug the PA meeting

Kathy Brito- for organizing picture day. A parent stood up and wanted to thank Kathy for encouraging the Spanish-speaking parents to participate.

Vicky Taylor- for coordinating the Movie Night

Susan Saar- for sending all the flyers and backpack news

Jessica Shapley and Stacey Linden- for organizing the Class Parent Representatives

Judy and her volunteers for the Piano lessons because it is working beautifully.

Fundraising

Frank's Market got 90 coupons back from the Pep Rally morning.

Innisbrook- initially online ordering was difficult and there wasn't good support from Innisbrook, however there was \$17,817 in catalog sales and \$2,323 in Internet sales for a total of \$20,149. Approximately \$10,000 will go back to the school.

Picture Day- flyers went out today. There will be two backgrounds (books, smoky gray) Sibling pictures will be an option, parents should sent a note to bother teachers with the class numbers to request that. There will be 5 photographers in the Auditorium. Volunteers are needed to help.

Movie Night- Vickie said that they need volunteers, children can come in costumes, they need donations and they can be left in the cafeteria

Election Day Bake Sale- school will be closed, but donations of items that can be sold for \$1 are needed as well as volunteers to sell the items from 7am-9pm.

Piano Program- It wasn't know that the \$20 registration fee is actually a fundraiser. The money can go to the PA or school administration. 30 students@ \$20 will net \$600 for this semester with about \$150 being used for supplies for Piano students (refreshments, music sheets, markers, pencils). **It was recommended that these proceeds of about \$1350 be used for Piano Program – related expenses first such as snacks, copying of music sheets, etc. and then for PA music-related events like tuning the piano, etc. A motion was made that a vote be proposed to allocate these proceeds to the Piano Program and to music related PA events (Schoolapalooza, Jazz concert). Passed.**

The PA body needs to allocate the proceeds of Movie Night and the Bake Sale. Suggestions were made in favor of a "Fun Fund" to be used for community building events, also allocating \$200 of any proceeds to cancer research in the name of a student who died in 2007. Objections arose, stating that before we can party we should focus on any school needs, the pending art program for grades K – 2 (Daniel Gwartzman), SLT recommendations, and making sure that all grades get some PA funds.

Clarification was asked re projects in need of funding as discussed by the School Leadership Team. The list includes: An F-status Art Teacher, Afterschool programs, Technology (F status Technical coordinator, and more) Daniel Gwartzman for K-2 and the 2nd grade video program. Friends of PS 187 has allocated \$13,000 for the F status art teacher; Daniel Gwartzman- is in the works; currently in proposal writing; 2nd grade video is on hold because there is no program; and in regards to Afterschool programs, the middle school got a grant for afterschool sports. Technology is now on the top of the list, but it's a vague and Francesca is waiting for Ms. Chory to give us a clearer picture of what Technology equipment or programs the school needs/would like the PA to sponsor. Since Daniel Gwartzman is the only pending program in need of funding, a motion was made for the funds to go to Arts Program for upper and lower grades, and was passed.

We have planned several spring fundraisers, in November the PA body will vote on them. In the meantime, based on several needs assessments the SLT determined that Technology is high on the list of priorities. Some ideas are: a non-profit program called Student Powered Technical Support Squad that will train 2 teachers who will show the students how to provide technical support -- it fulfills the technology curriculum and costs \$1000; another idea would be the creation of grade-wide websites where parents can get information on homework assignments and what is happening in the class and the grade curriculum.

Committee Reports

Hospitality Committee- still needs more volunteers

Fitness Committee- planning a health fair in the spring on Saturday May 22 from 11-3pm in the school yard. They are collaborating with Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, Con Edison and others. They will have mini exercises, relay races.

Environmental Committee- will plant more tulip bulbs. There is a grant that donates as many bulbs as people are willing to plant.

Grant Writing- will suspend the meetings at this time because all the members are in other commitments but if there are any new volunteers who want to take up writing grants, they are welcomed. There is a \$8000 grant for afterschool sports (Basketball, Flag Football, Frisbee and Aerobics) taught by teachers.

Friends of 187- Elise Cagan is new board member and presented for them. They are raising significant funds. They interface with the PA, SLT and administration. They will have a funding priorities meeting. Mark your calendars, Sunday December 6th from 4-6pm afternoon tea at Hudson View Gardens with author Steven Schrader (former PS 187 student) who will read from his collection of short stories about the neighborhood & the school) 2nd Annual Gala planned for January 2010.

E-Group Policy - Judith Michaels talked about the need to set a policy whether or not to allow announcements of a commercial nature. PA was asked to consider leaving things as they currently are, with limited intervention by moderators, or setting that no emails of commercial nature are to be posted unless they relate directly to 187, PA, Friends of 187, and are free of charge and not trying to raise funds. A discussion ensued and it was decided that no changes be made at this time.

SLT- Principal Chory was not at the last SLT meeting. They looked at the school compact document and the school comprehensive plan. They will set up committees shortly to develop action plans and goals. Set up meetings will be at 3:15pm or 5:15pm or 7:15pm, this would allow for more people to attend. Now that there's a schedule their will be more notice prior to the meetings and that way more can attend.

Title One – We are a Title 1 school so all parents are Title 1 parents even if they don't meet the income criteria. School gets about \$450,000 for Title 1. \$3000 is for parent involvement and it was voted that this money be administered by the PA. This money will go towards funding Babysitters, Refreshments, Translation, Copy Paper and Copy Machine. The delegate for Title One is Haydee Lorenzo.

Francesca brought up a petition from Washington Heights Academy PA. They reached out to our school to help get signatures to ask DOE to enforce the agreement that their school become a K-8 school. They were a charter school and now they are PS 366. A school building is being built in Inwood. Currently the school is a K-5 and in 2010 there were suppose to be 2 6th grade classes. They are appealing to all the District 6 schools to help sign the petition. The petition has been approved by 187 Administration and it gives parents another PA General Minutes 10/22/09

middle school choice. Ivelisse Suarez will stand outside to collect signatures and Francesca asked for more volunteers.

Movie Night- Vicky made an appeal that she currently has no volunteers to help or donate and she is asking for help to spread the word. She needs about 15 volunteers.

Parent of a child in 4th grade said that there should be workshops on bullying and intimidation. She said that children are not interacting with other races. She mentioned that there are two pamphlets on bullying and respect for all. It was suggested that Parent Coordinator Denise Rosa hold a workshop on Intimidation in Early November for all parents and that they work directly with lower grades.

Kathy Brito reminded parents to volunteer on school trips. If there are not enough chaperones for the trips, then the trips will be cancelled which almost happen this week.

Francesca reminded everyone to enjoy the refreshments in the cafeteria and participate in the Raffle for Swim Jim.

Written and submitted by Ana Cecilia Hernandez