

## General Pa Meeting 11/19/09

Motion to approve the minutes was made and approved unanimously.

Thanks to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade for hosting this months PA

**Ms Chory's Report-** Thanks to the many parents who went to "coffee with Ms Chory". Rosetta Stone presentation by Mr. Leone. The software resides on our school server. It has a voice recognition screen. Powerpoint demonstration and after hearing the voice prompts, the student has to choose which picture coincides with the words. First few gives her written cues, then it is all audio. Then she has to give verbal answers. Rosetta is now being installed in 8 and 7<sup>th</sup>. Soon to 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Estimating 20 hours of lessons. Will keep us updated and may request additional funds.

5<sup>th</sup> grade is offered music (instrumental); some classes for half of the year and some for the entire year. The classes are also offered art. Beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup>, it becomes an Art/Instrumental Music split. The teacher's meet and discuss where the student should be placed and why. This is done in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In some situations the students are shared between Mr. Leone and Ms. Torres.

Choir is offered to all intermediate grades, done by Mr. Jennings. Auditions take place in September. It is offered on different days of the week lunch periods.

5<sup>th</sup> grade applications- There will be upcoming meetings once the applications arrive in the building. DOE send parents a green book, if you are currently in our 5<sup>th</sup> grade and wish to remain in our 6<sup>th</sup> grade you must apply to remain in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you don't put us in 1<sup>st</sup> choice, then you might not get a seat. Hope to have workshops in early December to help parents apply for this. DOE makes the decisions, and they handle the applications.

New Victory Theater- Teachers Ms.Kleiner and McCullough- working with New Victory Theater for over 15-20 years. A grant was approved where 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> graders are getting tickets for \$5 and the child (host) is free (limit 4) coming out in January.

Open school week, parent/teacher conferences, coffee w/Chory. Lots of participation and that was great. Considering doing this once a month. Tomorrow there will be last Coffee with Chory at 7:45am

Thanksgiving can food drive for families in our community. Penny harvest up until 11/25 we are thankful for the partnership that is growing between the parents, school and community.

Parent question about the children receiving too little art (music/art). Chory said that if children want more, its available and they can also get help afterschool.

Parent question of bullying- Chory had a tentative date for a workshop by police and is hoping for December. The police officer would meet with different grades separately. There needs to be a differentiation on bullying and teasing. Grades where it is happening most (3,4, 7<sup>th</sup>). In middle school, it is handled by the grade advisor; in elementary it goes to Ms. Marrero and may eventually go to Ms. Powell, the Guidance Counselor. There is a plan to develop an on-going program. Suggestions will be brought to the SLT to see if there are established programs that can be used. Parent feels that it should be brought to school-wide attention instead of targeting her child only.

Parent Coordinator Denise Rosa is working on coordinating a parent workshop to address bullying and racism, called "Respect for all Parent concern that the SLT meeting was changed without due notification. Ms. DiMauro said that there was notification (PA Website, Parent Bulletin, glass bulletin outside the school and in Main Office) and the SLT at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be discussing further ways to communicate with parents. Flyer was handed out at the General PA that included all the SLT dates for the year.

**Treasurer's Report-** Carlos Brito went over the income made in the last few months. Income is \$27,593.10, expenses were \$ 9,676.40, net income is \$17,916.61. If you add what was already in the bank from last year (11,237.14) the total net income is \$29,153.75. The dues, candy sale and picture sales, would cover the wish list.

**Fundraising Report-** thanks to Judy and her team for handling Innisbrook which was a mammoth and complicated. And thanks to Kathy for the pictures, no complaints this year. Bake sale made over \$600 which was not expected. Thanks also to Vicky Taylor for Movie Night promoting and taking care of all the details. Had over 310 in attendance; "suggested donation" instead of set ticket price made people more generous. Thanks for pep rally staff. Gideons got about 50 coupons back. Looking for another nutritious coupon offer for after thanksgiving for the next pep rally. Thanks to all those who helped with Innisbrook.

Francesca shared the list of the school needs:

Gwartzman- has been finalized for the K and 1st grade

SmartBoard- for each classroom a smart board right now it is about 2/3. Each one is \$8000.

Fulltime or Pt Tech Person- Mouse a tech support (student powered) where students and teachers work as a team to help develop tech support skills to manager help desk. Require two teachers to be team leaders. Cost is \$1000. School found the money and it will happen for the upper school to fulfill the technology requirements.

FT/PT Language or Art teacher

Afterschool enrichment program- before school paid teachers to stay later, but can't support anymore

Classroom Libraries- replacing the in-class library books

Toner- for the classrooms. Each class has a printer and maybe class rep can coordinate this with parents

**Notes that are needed:**

Daniel Gwartzman- foundation will pay \$3000 expecting the PA to match it. For \$6000 7 sessions for K and 7 sessions for 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Kindergarten will start now and next year the 1<sup>st</sup> grade will have their sessions. Discussion whether other grades will get it and if there can be more sessions. Right now it can't be offered for other grades or more sessions. Jeanine reminded that when Gwartzman was brought to the school it was because there was no physical ed teacher and now the school has one. This would be funded by the Movie Night and Bake sale. Question asked how much it would cost to add another grade (2<sup>nd</sup>) and the answer is probably another \$3000. Motion was made to approve the Gwartzman program, it was unanimous. Francesca will inquire about adding the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

Schoolapalooza- in April. Budget was handed out. Executive board has approved the budget. Projected expenses look high, but the production committee said they will take their expenses from the Ad sales and that they will not spend over the Ads sale, so the PA will not have to shell out any money. The production committee wants the proceeds to go to what the teachers want to fulfill. Two teachers are polling the teachers and what the needs are. Discussion included looking at the Schoolapalooza budget from previous years. Ariel said \$2643 in expenses and \$7847 in revenues. Planning on getting more assistance during the shows (walkie-talkie, recording equipment to sell DVD) A motion was made to approve this budget with the proviso that the ad sales will fund the schoolapalooza. And the proceeds going to Teachers directed needs outside of the wish list. Motion was approved.

Jazz at 187 concert- Kindergarten parent Tony Tedesco who is in John Pizzarelli's quartet and would like to donate a concert from 3-5pm. Full concert 45 minutes intermission and 45 minutes. Hope to sell all the 520 seats in the auditorium. Adele will chair the concert committee. Band is performing for free, only requesting

car service and a parking space. Budget expenses are for sound. Review of the budget. TicketLeap (non-profit ticketing site) \$25 ticket price, location where people can buy the tickets. \$10 tickets for children. It hasn't been decided where the proceeds would go. It should be tabled until future meetings. Discussion ensued about improving the current music program at the school (taking instruments home, having more lessons a week -currently 2x week), lowering the proposed concert ticket prices - perhaps having 2 tier ticket prices. A motion was made to approve this project with a tentative budget and with more meetings to follow. The proceeds to go towards the arts and it was approved.

Chris Jennings- generously donating his CD's at the Winter Music Concert. This is music that the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sang last year and will sing this year. Approved by the legal department as long as there is no advertising. Proposal is that the PA puts money to make copies of the CDs and it would be 30, expenses would be \$300 and sell at \$10 a piece. A motion was made and it was approved.

Piano program- \$600 registration fee profit. Currently, the lesson is 6 students, 1 teacher, 1 keyboard. To use the proceeds to buy 2 keyboard (\$100) benches, music books. Music teacher agrees that more keyboards are manageable. No vote was made because in the previous general PA meeting it was agreed that the registration fee proceeds would go towards PA Music related expenses.

### **Committee Reports**

**SLT-** James said they met on Tuesday, spoke about SLT roles. They elected co-chairs Tory Frye for parents and Tara Robinson for the teachers. Miller gave a presentation on safety plan. Heard from two sub-committees; Needs Assessment to revamp the survey process to determine needs. They are completing a new kind of survey that would survey parents, teachers and students. Ms. Chory discussed the GE grant; up and running and going strong. Some SMART goals from the GE grant are that 93% will be performing at or above in their writing skills, building a professional community, and improving science and algebra grades. One specific item to be funded for professional development for K-2 teachers is for handwriting. Would like to give a presentation at the next meeting about what the SLT does. The SLT minutes will be posted on the PA website. SLT calendar was handed out at today's meeting.

Due to time constraints, items from the agenda not covered today will be placed on the top of next month's agenda.

Minutes taken by Ana Cecilia Hernandez, Recording Secretary