

## General PA Meeting on December 10, 2009

Minutes were reviewed and approved

**Gabriella Napoli- 4<sup>th</sup> grader Bronx VA Book Drive-** She goes to the Bronx VA for the holiday party and she thought it would be a great idea to have a book drive. She is asking for any paperback books because they are easier to carry and no War(World War 2 or Vietnam stories) Books will be collected until 12/18 in the cafeteria. Nonfiction preferred.

**Aryn Chapman- Book drive for African Library project-** Schools and community groups couples themselves with a school in Africa to provide them gently used children's books. No schools in NYC are doing this, 187 would be the first. They would like to collect 1000 books and \$500. The money will cover the shipping. Spoke to Ms. Chory and Ms. Neidish and they are excited about this project. 187 has been coupled with an elementary and junior high in Szwaziland. In March, the collection will begin of like new, paperback children books.

**SLT-** Next meeting is 12/15 at 5:15pm. Elected co-chairs Tory Frye and Tara Robinson and have developed a model for the agenda so that it focuses on the Comprehensive Educational Plan. If there are any concerns, it should be brought to the SLT members, who will take it to the co-chairs and they can see how it can be added to the agenda. CEP is a living document that continues to be modified to meet the needs of the school. There is no finished CEP. Much of the work of the SLT is through subcommittee (current: Differentiation of Instruction and Needs Assessments) James Goldwasser is on the Needs Assessments subcommittee and they are working on 3 surveys (parents, teachers and students) Tara Robinson will be working with the 8<sup>th</sup> graders to help develop the student survey. They have drafts on two surveys and the plan is for them to be distributed after the winter break. Everyone is welcomed to attend SLT meetings which occur at various times to accommodate everyone's different schedules. Meetings schedule was distributed.

**Friends of 187-** Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> will have a Gala; the big fundraiser. Committee already working on organizing the Gala. Will honor Scott Stringer and two parents from 187; Kathy Brito, Jeanine McAdams. Steven Schraeder did a book event on 12/6 and it was well attended, no figures on the event yet. It was a good community building event and has gotten more people interested in Friends of 187.

**Winter Fundraising Events-** Jazz concert—final ticket pricing is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. Adele Tedesco is the Coordinator for the event and the \$25 tickets will be available on TicketLeap. They will reserve some tickets to be sold through the school. Tickets will be on sale simultaneously but if more are sold through TicketLeap, then they will release school tickets to TicketLeap.

**Multicultural Dinner-** foods from around the world and Community awareness and building event. Tentative date is January 22 or 29<sup>th</sup>. Both dates have been approved by Administration. Bring our favorite food and they need two coordinators to handle this. Daisy Grullon and Kathy Brito volunteered. Not a fundraiser.

**Movie Night is February 5<sup>th</sup>-** Vickie Taylor has agreed to be the Coordinator. Will have a friendship theme, and we asked for suggestions of movies. Vicky brought a proposal for the Movie Night expenses. Explained that the reason the budget is higher is because donation offset the licensing costs in the previous movie night. People can email Vicky with movie suggestions. Her email is vtaylor99@msn.com . Proposal was approved by the General PA.

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Minutes taken by Ana Cecilia Hernandez, Secretary

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Music Show-** Kathy is coordinating the Bake sale. Mr. Jennings has donated CDs of the show's music to the PA so that we may sell them to help the school. This has been approved by Ms. Chory and the DOE's legal department, provided the sale is not advertised. **Committee reports-**

**Fitness and Nutrition-** Health Fair. The purpose is to bring attention to wellness, obesity prevention and healthy eating. Health fair is going to be fun and hopes to be ongoing. Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Teachers are getting involved. They need more parents to get involved. Some activities will be to get children to try new sports like double-dutch. Trying to figure out a name for the "Health Fair", let Susan Saar know if there are any name suggestions. Have providers on board like CHALK (Choosing Healthy and Active Lifestyles for Kids) Roadrunners program, Capoeira Abad? (Freddy Correa), trying new foods, watching videos. Any volunteers should contact Susan Saar.

**Fundraising-** latest figures for Dues is \$11,230.00 and they are still coming in. Pictures sales were \$12,441 which is above the projected amount of \$10,500. Innisbrook sales were \$17,554.50 with a net profit of \$8572.40 however that doesn't include the internet sales (could bring it up to \$11,000 plus)

**Bent on Learning-** presentation / appeal by Stacey Linden, a parent who is also one of the two Yoga teachers who come to the school and teach the 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> grades. BOL t-shirts available for sale. Tten classes for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders cost about \$70 per child. Doing a fundraising drive that can be accessed via PS 187 or Bent on Learning. They would like to raise about \$35 per child for 90 students (\$4000 approx). If the fundraising is high, then Yoga instruction can be offered for more grades. Brochures on information on how to help the campaign was distributed. Be careful because the website isn't user-friendly and if you go to Bent on Learning website because your donation might not go to 187. The reason it is offered to 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> grades are because they were underserved as well as provide a stress release since they are having standardized testing. Initially it was for the middle school and if more money is raised it can be offered to the middle school again. Stacey clarified that the Yoga lessons are strictly exercise and fitness not religious in any way.

**Holiday Gift Procedures-** Strict and clear guidelines on the Chancellor's Regulations. They will be available on the list\_serve. Gifts of value should be of small monetary value. No collection of money can be done on school premises. This information has also been given to the Class reps. If a collection is made by the class, every parent whether they contributed or not should have the opportunity to sign the card.

**Soccer Night-** up in the gym and will take place at the same time as the Executive Board meetings and Yoga nights (mostly Mondays and because of permit hours) Insurance is covered under the PA. Every parent must sign a consent form, will have First aid kits available. First one on Monday 12/21 and the next one is January 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8pm. This is free. Since of the late notice, flyers won't be done but they will ask Class Reps to help spread the news, egroup, poster and word of mouth. Parent must be with the child in the gym. Mostly scrimmage and low-impact. Open to all grades. Ariel Nachman and Abe Alaracon are the contact people. A suggested that the school get a bulletin board which could show all the school activities.

**Hand Sanitizers-** suggested that there be dispensers throughout the school. Discussed with Ms. Chory and the concerns are who will refill, cost, and maintenance.

**Bullying Workshop** took place today and it opened a dialogue on this. Will continue to have parent discussions with the Parent Coordinator. It was suggested that the meetings take place a different times so

more parents can attend. Suggested that Bullying be addressed at the Health Fair in May or having actors role play for children. Abe will provide the information of curriculums that are available in New Jersey on Bullying.

**Differentiation Instruction**- workshop is tomorrow and flyers have been circulating.

Comment that per Chancellor's regulations the PA minutes need to be translated into Spanish. The DOE does translation but it takes forever so we need parents to volunteer. Abe Alaracon agreed to translate the agenda and possibly Roberto Fernandez to translate the minutes. Daisy Grullon will look into the costs of hiring a translator.

Regarding outreaching to Spanish parents it was suggested that parents call 5 parents so that more parents attend the PA meetings. Spanish parents don't attend because they feel that they aren't welcomed and the poor quality of the translation. Suggested that some money be set aside to pay for a translator and creating a committee on translation.