

## **Parents Association General Meeting Minutes September 24, 2009**

Before the start of the meeting, Francesca Di Mauro informed the parents the guidelines for childcare services (no food in the library, no pulling books off the shelves, 2 children going to the bathroom at one time with a caregiver, no running) there will now be two caregivers and children will be offered a video to watch. Quiet activities such as drawing, writing are also welcome.

The minutes from the June general meeting were approved. Before Ms. Chory's address, she asked Susan Saar to speak regarding the new school yard beautification. Susan Saar wrote a grant 3 years ago to help provide a exercise school yard to promote fitness. 43% of students are overweight. There is a football field, 3 tennis courts, 4 basketball courts and 12 laps equal a mile. The \$200,000 grant was provided by Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer who was present today for the Ribbon cutting ceremony

Ms. Chory started with the vision statement. She mentioned that the school suffered major budget cuts. The GE grant will assist the upper school in Science and technology. The school will be working with three professional development agencies; Smart Goals, Aussie and Math Solutions. It is a renewable 3 year grant for a total of \$1 million. The lower school's library renovations are now complete. The 2 science labs renovations are almost complete. Ms. Chory invited parents to attend the November open house and the Coffee with Chory get-together. Councilmen Robert Jackson gave tickets to the American Ballet for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Ms. Chory praised the high attendance and encouraged that it continue.

The floor was then opened for questions:

**Is the Rosetta Stone Language Program (Spanish) up and running?** It is not running yet. Rosetta Stone is working with Mr. Leone to get the program started. A flyer will go out when it will start.

**Is the Kindergarten curriculum standardized?** Ms. Marrero explained that all teachers have certain materials they must cover each month. There is a "units at a glance" which shows which topics are being covered each month. It will be on the school's website soon. Parents are encouraged to ask the teacher for more specific detail if needed.

**Will the upper school assistant principal be replaced?** With the budget cuts, at this time there is no plan to replace the upper school assistant principal. Mr. Miller and Ms. Coppola are designated as upper school coordinators.

A Presentation by Mirta Gomez regarding Piano School of NY. It is a 10 week program that introduces piano and helps students learn to read notes and keep rhythm. The cost is \$150 for 10 weeks. The class size will be no more than 6 students for 45 minutes to 1 hour. Children will participate in a Jazz concert in Lincoln Center in April, May or June. At the concert, children will receive a

certificate and medal. The music teachers are Julliard graduates. Keyboards will be provided. Private lessons are also available.

Fundraising- Is one of the PA's major activities and it's purpose is to bring enrichment programs to the school. A special thanks to Sue Seitner and Margaret Janik for their assistance on the Clear Backpack fundraiser. Innisbrook orders can now be placed online. Parents would return the online voucher and a check or money order to the school. It can also be done on the order form which would also be sent to school with a check or money order. Other planned fundraisers include an Election Day Bake Sale, Movie Night on 10/30 with a Halloween theme, Picture Day in late October. Schoolpalooza is a work in progress and there are talks to make it work for this year. Teacher Wishlist is given to all the grades and provides the "icing on the cake" to teachers. Fundraiser Proposal Sheets were made available at the PA meeting to suggest fundraisers and what it will fund. The new proposals would be reviewed to ensure that it meets the DOE guidelines. Volunteers are needed the Fundraiser committee.

Carlos Brito went over the PA budget line by line. Carlos explained that this was a prediction of the income for the new budget year. What we have control over is the expenses. Each line was explained. The funding has decreased for the Daniel Gwartzman K-2 Dance program. The PA would need to match \$3000 to keep the program. There was also discussion of getting an F status teacher. The upper school has a full-time Art Teacher while the lower school has a part-time art teacher. If the lower school gets a full-time art teacher they would receive 2 days of art instead of 1. An F status teacher would cost \$13,000. The School Leadership Team will address which programs should be funded and create a list. The PA body can't vote on it tonight because it will be addressed by the SLT first. Hopefully there will be a list for the next PA meeting. A question was asked if the 503C (Friends of 187) can fund some of these programs. Beverly Miller will go back to Friends of 187 and ask if they can fund the Video Project \$3500; F Status Teacher \$13,000; and/or Daniel Gurtzman Dance Program \$3000. If agreed, there will need to be an RFP done before the funds are released. The Budget was approved unanimously with the understanding that there can be changes to the fundraisers and projects that will be funded.

Committees- Francesca handed out volunteer sheets so that people can sign up for the various committees. The first committee meeting will be held on Monday, October 5 at 6:30 in the cafeteria. The Class Representative program was explained by Stacey Linden. The Class Reps will be announced around October 1<sup>st</sup>. Ruth Gatton sent the Grade Parent Rep forms and is still awaiting more responses.

Community Education Council (CEC)- Is a body that looks at District-wide issues. A volunteer is needed to be the CEC delegate for 187. The CEC delegate would be a voting member of the Executive Board. Currently there are two parents from 187 on the CEC Board; Judith Amaro is the President of CEC and Leonisa Ardizzone is the Treasurer. The CEC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Of interest is a subcommittee which is looking at the rezoning of 187.

Currently 187 has 790 students and are at capacity. Class sizes are averaging 25-28 students. Leonisa is on the subcommittee and will try to keep the zoning of 187 the same. Francesca will find out when this subcommittee will meet and encourages parent participation at that meeting.

E-group on Yahoo- The PA has an E-group on Yahoo which helps to answer questions and makes announcements. The E-group is called "PS187PA". In order to access it, you must have a Yahoo email account. Click on groups, type in PS187PA click on join group. The email to the group needs to include your name, child's name and their class number.

Elise urged continued parent participation at the PA meetings and committees which help to raise funds for the school so that they can continue the wonderful programs. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.