

PTA General Meeting, September 22, 2011

Denny Kelk reminded parents that the Parents Association was changed to a Parent-Teachers Association. She introduced the members of the Executive Board and indicated that Angela Garces is the CEC representative and that Kathy Brito is the Title I representative. She announced that the fall fundraiser will be starting next week and that the class pictures will be taken in the next few weeks and that there will be a movie night in the near future.

Denny described the committees that still need chairs - Environmental, Community Liaison and Hospitality. She announced that the Fundraising committee is chaired by Kathy Brito and John Kelk and the Wellness Committee by Susan Saar.

Denny gave the floor to Ms. Chory.

Ms. Chory mentioned recent events at the school including the food sampling expo and high school night. She announced that 52% of students tested at or above grade level, the same as last year and that 72% were on or above grade level for math, a 7% increase from last year.

She indicated that the Parents Association funded 18 days of professional development for teachers which will focus on helping bolster children's critical thinking and problem solving skills. Work has already begun with a literacy consultant and work will begin next week with a math consultant.

Ms. Chory mentioned the programs funded by Friends of 187 which include F-status teachers for art in kindergarten, science in grades 1 and 2, Spanish in grades 5 and 6. Friends of 187 is also funding several enrichment programs.

Ms. Chory reminded parents to return the blue contact information forms and the lunch forms, which are especially needed to determine Title I funding formulas. The lunch forms can be filled out online.

In answer to questions about how to pay for school lunch, Ms. Chory indicated that information on lunch rates will be included in the next parent bulletin. Parents should not send money with their child on a daily basis. Payment should be sent in an envelope and determined on an honor basis.

Ms. Chory underscored that the school is going to face many challenges this year and in the coming years and that the only way we are going to succeed is by working together.

Denny took the floor again. She indicated that in future meetings teachers will be invited to present.

Adele Tedesco spoke about the class parent representatives program. She reminded parents that the class parent representative is an important role in the school and indicated that efforts are underway to make it more than just an email list. Last year some grades raised supplies through the CPR. Forms have gone out for the elementary school and Ivelisse Suarez-Levine will reach out to Ruth Lilienstein about the CPR in the upper school.

Elizabeth Chang distributed copies of the PTA budget. She reported that there is approximately \$17,000 in the bank account. The budget she presented had a 5% increase in fundraising numbers from the previous year. Liz reminded parents that all expenditures were voted on by the parent body.

A parent asked if teachers would be asked to pay dues and Denny replied that there was no reason not to ask for contributions since they are voluntary.

A motion was made on the floor to accept the budget. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Sue Seitner talked about the School Leadership Team (SLT). She explained that it has an even number of teachers and parents, meets once a month and that its biggest function is to develop the Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) and conduct a needs assessment that serves as an input to the CEP. She indicated that any parent is welcome to attend meetings and observe.

Denny turned the discussion to the PTA committees. She explained that committees generally meet on the first Monday of the month and that meetings have to be held in the school. Angela Garces volunteered to chair the hospitality committee.

Susan Saar introduced the wellness committee which focuses on fitness programs and nutrition. In response to questions from parents, Susan indicated that Mr. Diaz is responsible for the Road Runners program and that Family Yoga Night could come back depending on interest. She asked parents with ideas to contact her.

Denny asked parents to be mindful of and spread the work about safety at the school and the need to supervise children during pick up and keep dogs away from the entrance and school yard.

Elena Deutsch discussed Friends of 187, a non-profit organization that raises funds for the school and indicated that it raised \$100,000 last year. Parents were reminded that the PTA, SLT and Friends of 187 are linked and work together to establish priorities.

Denny Kelk invited Martha Agosto-James, a 5th grade parent, to speak about an after school program for middle school students called Sports and Arts in School Foundation. She described the activities and programs it offers and indicated that she is working with Ms. Marrero to bring it to P.S./I.S. 187. Ms. Agosto-James was informed that she would need to work through the School Leadership Team and was invited to report on her progress at future meetings.

The representative for Roads to Success was not present at the meeting and therefore there was no report.

The meeting was adjourned and the expedited School Leadership Team election was held for two open positions.

The following individuals were nominated or self-nominated: Farzana Kapadia, Ana Hernandez, Luisa Diorio and Angela Garces.

The candidates introduced themselves and then ballots were distributed. Ms. Como was present at the meeting to verify the status as school parents of all who voted. Ms. Whittner and Ms. Hirsch tallied the votes.

The winners were announced: Ana Hernandez and Farzana Kapadia.