

2019-09-18 - PA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Attendance: M. Kessler, J. Zimmer, L. Fu, J. Roseyro, M. Gonzalez, G. Kirton, + 34(!) parents

Minutes: Welcome to the new parents! Minutes reviewed and approved. **Principal's Report:** A.P. Sforza. Students have settled in nicely that first Monday AM. Please fill out emergency blue cards & maintain throughout the year. MeadowFarms fundraiser. School gets 40% of what's collected. No school pickups after 2PM or during lunch hour, kids are mustering for release. Please don't doublepark on KewG Rd & 83rd, Lefferts. Three lockdown drills. Emergency procedures are fine. School Performance up! 68% ELA 71% in Math. CASA Program for 5th grade has been renewed, they partner w/Queens Museum of Art. Additional grant for Grades 3 & 4 with music. New gym floor is in: Basketball team and soccer team are looking forward to it. Construction update: 15 months ongoing! Everything to be done by October. Q: Schoolyard open after hours? A: No, unfortunately. Custodial division frowns upon that. Q: Annex schedule for yard- each kids official once a week, then other days the teacher can take them out one period. "Move to improve" system. Mr. Red brings someone outside with him. 5 paras plus 2 school aids. Q: Donate directly to PA or School instead of fundraiser? A: Talk w/Christa at the main office. You can write a check to PS99. Q: Does school partner w/any big companies? A: Not for fundraising, but looking for grants from tech companies for iPads or something else. The budget is tight, we don't get sub money or supply money, etc. We usually win appeals. But then have to give the money back if anything breaks our way during the school year. Typically each year is one school goal for the community to try and make happen. Q: What pressing needs for the school? A: Hard to pin one thing, we'll brainstorm w/the PA. Q: IF parents would like to improve certain things, do you gather money & then decide? A: Yes we disseminate funds b/c it might be unfair to help one room specifically. Q: Do the two Assistant Principals have specific grades? A: No, we supervise different departments between both buildings. Can come to either of us. Q: Request for consistency of bilingual communications. A: We've done it before. But can expand quickly and become time consuming, so it doesn't always happen. Q: Who's in charge of planning the 6th grade prom? A: School does the graduation and PA does the prom. 6th grade committee Q: Any options to teach in other languages? A: Not here, that's more of a middle school curriculum. Our afterschool program has Spanish languages in 1st through 3rd grade, but more of a hobby. Q: Spanish for Kindergarden afterschool? A: No, Kindergardeners are all together w/Ms Connell & Ms Casey. Q: Any bilingual classes? A: No. Q: Glad to hear school was improving- we're at a 7/10. How much more to get to an 8? A: Our goal isn't to be recognized, just get a well rounded child who knows arts and physical activity, respects the community, love of learning & love of reading, etc. The accolades are pats on the back. Good conversational skills- our main goal right now is promote classroom discussion (in math or literacy). Q: Plz address the TV time. A: A lot of comments about annex TV time. I find it frustrating. Only time a film is put on is for 10mins at the end of lunchtime so we can clean the lunch tables. No TV is watching at a class time. **President's Report:** Next month for MS application process. Welcome and thanks for everyone!! Some people were asking about donating. PA is very happy for time or \$\$\$. If you visit our website ps99parents.org you can sign up. Barbara is restarting an internal "Learning Leaders" program for outside volunteers, would be 2-4hrs/wk for 1 year committment. Field Trip Chaperone team for kids need medical attention. If you have any medical background, that'd be very helpful. **Budget Review:** Note 2nd grade party is potential. Any events (5th grade?) that aren't on here, we can put together a proposal. Dues discussion. K moving up ceremony is potential. Budget APPROVED. **SLT Elections:** Describe the system. Ballots handed out, names posted on the board.

