

PS 9 PTO 2015-2016
Minutes of the March 15, 2016 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

- Meeting opened with a comment about communication within PTO meetings
- Concern about tension and tone at last meeting
- Encouragement to speak with kindness and respect

Appreciating Diversity in the Classroom (Ms. Shaw-Murphy and Ms. Verwayne)

- Question posed: “How is diversity addressed within the school?”
- Answers offered by those present: learning styles, ethnicity, language spoken, point of view, economics, religion, among other ideas
- Teachers offered “10 Unifying Social Studies Themes” (available on Engage NY website)
- Mentioned Thinking and Processing Skills (also available on Engage NY website)
- Individual Investigation Model (IIM) used at PS 9; addressed in social studies; research/project based and matched to student interests; resources include trips, experiences, guests, videos, books, etc.
- Diversity in personality is also considered. Mention of Howard Gardener (learning styles; types of learners)
- Input from teachers by grade level:
 - *PreK/K*: share differences in culture
 - *Grade 1*: consider modalities (types of learners), individual talents/differences, differentiation when organizing partnerships and small groups
 - *Grade 2*: foreign languages, sharing of culture, individual holidays, parent visit Bucket Filler (respect of others)
 - *Grade 5*: family dynamics of students; being respectful and sensitive to needs of others (eg. students who are not well off); differentiation in small groups; allowing leadership in small groups
 - *Speech*: cultural competence; awareness of background and home life
 - *ENL*: exposure to cultures featured from around the world; lifestyle; activities and bulletin board
 - *Dance*: exposure to culture through music, dance, etc. around the world

Committee Reports

Lunch

- Ready to pass on the baton

Nominating

- Accepting nominations through May 17
- Flyers handed out on Thursday during drop off

Grants

- Eight Donor's Choose projects were funded by a generous person

Wellness

- Joining Whole Child Network meetings
- Sponsored letter to mayor about universal free lunch

Sustainability

- Assembly planned; robotics announcing

Communications

- Publishing newsletter and website; look out for April issue and mention of Earth Day

Garden

- Weekend volunteers needed
- Beds need to be rehabilitated
- Plant sale approaching

Technology

- Done working to get website updated; needs help

Diversity Committee

- Comprehensive Education Plan (CEP) prepared; includes diversity and family; gay and lesbian parents are named
- Flyer about translation service to go home; supported by DOE
- Presentation with Charmaine's talk to reduce stigma of IEP

Transportation

- Proposal of alternative and street cameras at corner of every public school

SLT

- Planning for Level 1 of AP interview: 20 minutes, 5 questions, ranked; sheet sent to DOE and the Mrs. D'Avilar gives her input and interviews; 5 selected; 3 candidates are down to 2; interviewed by Mrs. D'Avilar and someone from the district
- Math: Drop Everything and Math; every Thursday and Friday; consists of games and puzzles to support math concepts
- Professional Development: math collective; Brooklyn North and with district; also diversity
- Engage NY has videos available for parents; workshops for parents at different levels
- Workshop on reading/writing coming up

Committee/Task Force Addressing Large Class Size

- Issues with large classes; general education and dual language classes blended due to the collapse of a whole general education class; swapping of students among classes
- Sub started March 14 after concern was expressed by parents
- Looking for a committee to form to address this issue
- No updates on situation with large class size was offered to parents; parents had to email to get updates
- Would like more say; asking for more proactive responses
- Interest expressed in parent involvement in appointment of the new AP
- Anne is looking to form a task force on class size
- Mention was made that the classes are not technically overcrowded, but at capacity

Field Trips

- Question about variety of trips offered in the upper grades
- Question about how trips are coordinated
- Parent liaison mentioned that there has been confusion about who books and pays for trips, but that the issue is being addressed going forward
- Will bring up at SLT

Budget

- Request made for Lice Checkers; cost of \$15/child; question about how to subsidize and if it is possible to add to budget for next year
- Request by Garden Committee for \$1,000-\$1,200 to purchase concrete blocks to line beds (will be more permanent) as well as some padding for incidentals; also \$500 for watering system, \$300 for soil and \$350 for tables
- Suggestion to decrease literacy funding to fund the garden
- Lice discussion to be revisited

Events

- Testing Talk on 3/22, Heather et al will meet in Library to discuss opting out, protesting, etc.
- Fundraising Dinner on 4/2: Camille and Jonathan to organize; \$25/plate
- MSOne design: Charette at Brooklyn Public Library on 4/2 at Central Branch
- Barnes and Noble Book Fair: 4/16; Christine Scanlon needs help with wish lists
- Election Day Bake Sale (and Schoola): 4/19; Rodica and Emily will need help and donations
- Jazz Night: 4/30 Ibean(?) Gowanus; \$20/ticket; 50 seats available; PS 9 Dad performing
- Plant Sale on 5/7
- A Night of Words About Dance: 6/3 Sari Wilson in conversation with Iris Wilson; Mary Harris in Book Hive or auditorium

- Brooklyn Half Marathon: contact Alicia; raise money for PS 9
- Cyclones Event: Alicia's husband will do

Brooklyn PTA 5K

- Free Community Event-African Dance Parts; speak to Roald