

PS 9 PTO 2015-2016
Minutes of the November 17, 2015 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

Introduction of those present

Review of the agenda

Approval of the minutes

School Program Presentation (Whole Child Network)

- Core team consists of Ms. D'Avilar, Ms. Henriquez, Ms. Hernandez, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Darress, Ms. Velazquez, and Kristen Cole
- 2012 grant written by Kristen Cole for an improvement tool; provided umbrella under which many activities could be grouped
- Only school in NYC to receive grant
- Grant came with money and an approach to speaking with children as well as ways to give voice to children and encourage family involvement.
- Used to help create a culture at PS 9
- Five tenants: healthy, safety, engage (interactive), supported, challenge; ten disciplines addressed within each tenant
- Each year since grant, a different focus has been addressed:
 - 1st Year: addressed play time; some of grant used to fund Playworks; noticeable results
 - 2nd Year: support of teachers; focus on "healthy" tenant: book clubs, school wide guide for healthy eating, introduction of salad bar and water jet; won Michell Obama bronze award for wellness; Nutured Heart
 - 3rd Year: incorporated five tenants, lots of surveys; saw a need for more rigorous work; involved in Learning Partners Plus (professional development program); looking at transference this year
- Three-year partnership with ASCD is done, but remain life partners
- Have a brand: umbrella over children held up by stem, bucket included from concept of filling buckets
- Worked on noise level, trying to not raise voices and holding children accountable to "adding to the community"
- Tenants and sustainability on walls of every classroom
- Working on application for visionary award offered by ASCD
- Can email Ms. D'Avilar for more information
- Can look up www.wholechildeducation.org or ASCD website for more information

Committee and SLT Reports

Lunch volunteers

- 57 active volunteers
- Coach Marcus organizes transition.
- Some areas for improvement:
 - Indoor recess: coach needs more help setting up gym and auditorium; need to balance between structure and free time; less waste of food; asking for donations for the holidays for lunch aides.

Communications

- December issue of newsletter to be shared
- Plan for Dinner With the President
- STEAM

Gardening

- Needs serious upkeep
- Pumpkin smash was a hit
- Daffodil planting by Pre-K

Website

- Major overall of website underway

Wellness

- Active design workshop for teachers for encouraging physical activity
- Looking for members and new leadership

Diversity

- SLT subcommittee: looking at curriculum and how it addresses diversity
- PTO committee: looking at parent engagement: translators, etc.; looking to participate in housing conference in February

Sustainability

- 1 planning meeting
- want to expand recycling, composting and student engagement

SLT Report

- Considering workshops for parents on reading, writing and math programs
- Discussion around explaining numbers on report cards and what they mean
- Discussion of budget and the effects of increased registration
- Discussion of new dual language model
- Question about quality review
- CEP submitted by Ms. D'Avilar

Events

- 11/24 Multi-cultural luncheon
- 12/7 Hour of Code (week long); different events including Code Brooklyn
- 12/8 Dinner with principal and president to be re-scheduled
- 12/9 STEAM night
- 12/12 Barnes and Nobles Fair moved to a possible spring date
- 12/15 PTO Meeting
- 12/18 Nutcracker (to be held at John Jay; considering selling refreshments at intermission, suggestion to tap into Material for the Arts)

Budget

- Detailed explanation of Schoola: how school became involved in program, explanation of the commitment to use the funds received for trips, how funds are awarded, plan for the use of funds in the future
- Treasurer's presentation: request for people to pay for their Silent Auction winnings; proposal to pay for printers and ink; budget request form given to teachers to request needed items; discussion about what to do with money in excess of proposed budget; discussion of teacher re-supply