

PS 9 PTO 2015-2016
December 15, 2015 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

Community Updates

- Effort to put the T back in PTO; concern about building relationships with teachers
- Planning to meet once a month with teachers during the parent engagement period
- Developed a Parent/Teacher Interface Committee; reach out to Jesse if interested
- Statement of support prepared by Diversity Committee to be of support for Muslim and immigrant school community members
- Jesse will look into protocol for addressing issues related to diversity and tolerance..
- Question about where statement will be posted
- Suggestion to take statement to mosques for feedback

School Program Presentation – STEAM (Ms. Codrington and Ms. Nurse)

- Reflection on STEAM night
- Explanation of what STEAM is and how it work
- Encourages the 4 Cs of 21 century skills (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity)

School Bathrooms

- Discussed at SLT
- Ms. D'Avilar will take concerned parents on a tour to see what specific issues there are to be addressed; Pete, the custodian, will be there.
- Middle school use of basement bathrooms to be addressed
- Submitted grant request to borough president for bathroom improvement; question about whether or not grant was given.
- Need to express bathroom issues at many levels was discussed

Events

- Nutcracker
- PTO is supporting bake sale at intermission (15 minutes)
- Need goods and volunteers
- Money to go towards the dance program
- Suggestion to mention to Ms. Wilson that she can ask the PTO for money. She will need to define need
- PTO was asked to consider adding a line item to the budget for dance.

Committee and SLT Reports

- Lunch volunteers
- Running smoothly
- Coach Marcus received a megaphone.
- Indoor recess is improving.

Communication

- Editing PS 9 website
- Promoting PS 9/PTO events

- Newsletter being developed

Garden

- Working on bedding
- Need help to get mulch from Greenwood

Grant

- Garden grant submitted

Wellness

- Teachers trained
- Active design – enrichments to improve physical activity
- Current leader, Liz, will step down; in need of new leadership

Diversity

- Joint committee; includes SLT (address diversity in curriculum) and PTO (parent engagement)
- Created a report to be released; concerned about how new buildings will be affected by new housing going up (housing forum on February 6)
- SLT will address report

Sustainability

- Fact finding to address sustainability
- Lunch room and garden to be addressed
- Discovered grant application
- Assembly for students in spring concerning recycling

Library Committee

- Resurfacing

SLT Report

- Bathrooms have been discussed.
- Diversity committee has met.
- Comprehensive Education Plan was approved; needs to be edited.
- School budget for '15-'16 prepared; invitation to school liaison at time when parents can ask questions; looking for how school budget affects PTO budget

Budget

Financials

- Remainder of the money due from Silent Auction was addressed
- School wide literacy to be addressed
- \$500 to Union Temple
- Money for second grade trip to NY Historical Society
- Money for food for movie night
- Fiscal year starts July 1; we're halfway through.
- Received \$60,000 during December last year; hoping for same this year
- Matching grant expected this month; need donations from families