

PS 9 PTO Minutes
February 9, 2016

Committee Updates

Diversity

- Would like to offer interpreter's services; flyer being prepared to go out to families
- Would like to recognize the gay and lesbian parents in the community

Wellness

- Will merge with whole child and with members of the SLT

Sustainability

- Sorting garbage in classroom
- Someone is working on organizing an assembly

Communications

- Working on newsletter; look out for it.

Garden

- Professional Development is being organized for the teachers.
- Planning for garden renovation

Lunchroom

- Need for volunteers and help with coats at recess

Fundraising

- Direct Appeal-decreased slightly
- Pictures brought in \$2,800.
- Schoola- earned \$1,800 for current quarter (first for 2016); will need to have another clothing drive
- Bake sale tentatively scheduled for primary day, April 19

Principal's Address

- The school gained \$175,887 to the budget, much of which goes to staffing.
- Many children require one-on-one paras.
- \$26,000 –non Title I funding
- have two full time subs working as classroom teachers; DOE refused to pay; needed to fight to get the money to pay these two people; recently added one more; will need to apply for permanent positions for the fall
- mid-year adjustment made once the number of students is determined to have been maintained
- will use some of the money for suppling the teachers (will supplement the PTO re-supply)
- question asked about where are the needs now that the mid year adjustment has been made
- answer: bulk of the money used to cover subs for teachers and supplies for the teachers (\$8,000)
- \$10,000 used for after school intervention

- \$10,000 used for eight cubbies in second grade
- Mrs. D'Avilar hopes to buy new chairs.
- Budget committee will meet with Mrs. D'Avilar after the break.
- Meeting with Alicia on Friday to discuss program.
- Musical theater added two sessions; will pay for this with a grant from Noel Pointer program and another grant from another source.

Class Size

Numbers of sections, to date:

Kindergarten – 7

First Grade – 6

Second Grade – 5

Third Grade – 5

Fourth Grade – 5

Fifth Grade – 5

- Mrs. D'Avilar was asked to open a new dual language class. She used to get the money through a grant. Never got the money for new class.
- Will have one DOE dual language class and one from Mrs. D'Avilar
- PS 9 is a dual language school, but receives no extra funding.
- Projection for future:
- Pre-K: 5 sections; 2 dual language; 18 students, 2 adults
- Kindergarten to Grade 5: Trying to move to ICT model, no self-contained classes; 25 children with 1 adult
- Question about the dual language program and the number of children who don't speak Spanish who entered in classes above kindergarten; response was that classes have to be balanced-can't have 33 students in a gen. ed. class and 17 in the dual language; suggestion made to offer intense Spanish to English speaking students who enter the dual language class in upper grades

Students Providing Extra Hands in Classrooms:

- Sean explained that 4-5 days afternoons per week, high school students go into the classroom. They get the service hours and provide a bit of help for the classroom teacher.
- Ivana also spoke about high school interns in the classroom. The classroom teacher must monitor these students. They try to match high school students to classes with children who speak the same foreign language. They always check in with teachers who can accommodate these interns. The interns go into school for ten weeks.
- Students from Prospect Heights H.S. are sometimes there 2-3 days after school.
- Kristen has college students in teacher education courses who need to complete field or observation hours- 10 hours; student teachers are in 5 days a week all day for 15 weeks
- Though high school students and teacher education students in the classroom can be helpful, this is not a solution to over-crowded classrooms.

Craft Fair

- Needed to be cancelled

Financials

- \$106,000 from the direct appeal
- \$800 grant from a garden grant
- issue with \$100 for Lego robotics supply, needs to be settled with the company
- requested money for sound panels; received; money is in the bank; now, concern about installing sound panels while waiting for money for the AC to be installed.
This is an ongoing conversation
- Participatory Budget Money Available
- will be on the ballot; will combine with PS 316 to share project.
- \$150,000 for bathroom renovations
- Maggie needs help to put together the project and get others out to vote.
- Money coming from Laurie Cumbo's office; can vote if in her city council district, due at the end of March
- There will be an expo of all the projects around the district; voting will take place the last week of March.