



Minutes of the November 15, 2016 Meeting

Opening & Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.
- Approval of October 2016 meeting minutes tabled due to lack of copies

Whole Child Network Presentation

- Presentation by Ms. Darress, Ms. D'Avilar, Ms. Derrell-Jacob and Junior Coaches on PS9's approach to promoting safe children & staff
- Next month's presentation will be on engaged children

Discussion re: Multicultural Feast – Ms. D'Avilar

- Scheduled for November 22, 2016 -- expanding to a full-day celebration of multiculturalism
- Request made for parent volunteers who speak languages other than English to take turns reading a message of inclusiveness over the school PA system the morning of 11/22/16

Discussion re: Testing Trips

- Carolyn Cryer presented on status of efforts to improve processes for scheduling and implementing testing trips
- Call for additional ideas on how to achieve goals of maintaining a quiet building during testing periods while not keeping lower grade students inside their classrooms all day

Budget

- Revenue report
 - Election day bake sale netted around \$2,300
- Capital project updates -- Dance room renovations; Computer lab; Auditorium; Bathrooms
- Annual appeal
 - Discussion re: ensuring donors receive thank you letters
- Budget requests
 - Request by Ms. Wilson for funds to purchase costumes for the Nutcracker ballet. Total cost is \$920, \$200 of which will be covered by the school. Motion to approve expenditure of \$720 made, seconded and passed.
- PTO expenditure report reviewed and approved



Committees

- Renewed call to organize new committee to plan for PS9's 150th year celebration (2017-2018 school year)
- Gardening committee update: great experience with Domingo, an expert on compost
- Communication committee update: chair Susanna Flores asked if parents are getting the newsletter, most present said they were
- Diversity committee update: call for parents from different lower grade classes to volunteer to answer questions from prospective parents during PS9 tours; discussion on Border Crossers program
- Call to form a new committee to address traffic and transportation issues around pick up and drop offs at PS9 (Chrisophe)

SLT report

- Recent court rulings require SLT meetings to be open to the public
- PS9's SLT meetings have always been open
- Discussion on relationship between SLTs and CECs (separate entities)

Discussion re: Tutor Referral Website

Upcoming Fundraising Events

- Silent Auction – request for volunteers
- Jazz Night tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2017 – venue: Littlefield in Gowanus. Discussion of sliding scale ticket prices.
- Movie night 12/2/16 will be a pajama party/holiday themed celebration

Discussion re: Program to Combat Lice in Classrooms

- Carol Sheldrake Hernandez presented a plan to hire a vendor to visit PS9 three times during the school year to screen for and treat lice
- Each visit would cost approximately \$1,800. Discussion of having parents pay \$10 for each child with any deficiency made up by PTO funds
- Carol to make a formal proposal to PTO budget committee

Discussion re: Books

- Book Hive unveiling 11/17/16 – celebrating new books in library obtained from various sources, including PTO, other donations
- Discussion re: ongoing need in some classrooms for adequate grade-level-appropriate books

Meeting concluded at 8:33 p.m.