



Minutes of the December 13, 2016 Meeting

Opening & Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.
- October and November 2016 minutes approved

Principal's Address/Whole Child Network Presentation

- Presentation by Principal D'Avilar, Ms. Henriquez, Kirsten Cole & Ms. Derrell-Jacob on PS9's approach to promoting student engagement through various programs including OMNiLEARN, teacher inquiry teams, the open school week, the arts curriculum, and other initiatives
- Next month's presentation will be on ensuring that children are challenged

Discussion re: Border Crossers – Kirsten Cole

- PTO funded initiative offering training on race and racism. Teacher trainings scheduled for January & February 2017
- PTO to consider funding a training for parents. Cost is \$1,500 for up to 50 parents. Kirsten to make a formal request to the budget committee.

Discussion re: Testing Trips

- Clarification that lower grade teachers are not required to vacate their rooms during all testing days (though, if they chose to stay in the building they may be temporarily moved to different rooms)
- Status update: trip planning proceeding

Discussion re: Lice Prevention Program

- School will fund a school-wide lice check and prevention program before winter break
- PTO may be asked to fund two additional checks later in the year
- The notion of asking all parents for a voluntary payment of \$10 towards the cost is discussed and rejected

Presentation re: Keeping Children Engaged Over Winter Break

- Ms. Derrell-Jacob presented ideas on keeping students engaged during the winter break and provided a list of free or low cost cultural and other institutions
- List to be circulated to the PS9 community



Budget

- Fundraising events report
 - Silent Auction netted approximately \$17,000
 - Nutcracker performance coming up December 16, 2016
- Annual appeal
 - Fundraising is currently lagging behind this point last year. For context, it was noted that this is likely a function of starting communications with parents later this year; expects that over time the difference will be made up
- Budget requests
 - Request for depository safe in the PTO office. \$400. Approved.
- PTO expenditure report reviewed and approved
- Budget Priorities Discussion:
 - Ashley Salmon-Wander gave a brief overview of a project to review PTO and school spending priorities with an eye to helping direct a more focused budgeting process in the spring
 - To be discussed further at future meetings

Discussion re: Post-Election Stress

- Discussion of stress manifestations in children re: uncertainty on the post-election treatment of immigrants

Meeting concluded at 8:09 p.m.