



Minutes of the November 20, 2018 Meeting

Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m.
- Review of the October 23, 2018 meeting minutes. Minutes approved without changes.

Principal's Address

- Principal D'Avilar discussed Silent Auction, which broke its previous fundraising record with roughly \$62,000 raised.
- The school plans to start a string orchestra.
- The school administration is addressing complaints about the lunch room and making improvements, including adding music and a microphone and getting rid of the whistles. Lunchroom staff have also been told not to have students line up by gender.

Green Team Report from Ms. Darress

(Email read by Raul Rothblatt as she couldn't be with us at the meeting)

- The school has a new student-led Green Team and a new Sustainability Plan.
- PS9 is now a 2018-2019 Zero Waste Pledge School, one of only 25 in NYC, which means the team will challenge the school to take reduction, reuse and recycling efforts to the next level. There are 3 phases of this work. During the first phase (November 1st- December 19th), we create our Green Team, Conduct a Bin Inventory, Set up Cafeteria Stations. Phase 2 (December 20th-March 15th), continue the Green Team, Complete Waste Investigation, Implement Monitoring System, Provide Student and Faculty Education. Phase 3 (March 16th-May 10th) Engage School Community, Create Year-end Plan.

Girl Scout Presentation

- Efforts have begun for a K-8 Girl Scout troop based at PS9.
- Each of four levels needs two leaders to start the troop.
- Meetings would be held three Sundays a month for two hours between 12 and 5 pm.
- Fees are \$25 a year.

Budget Presentation

- Budget reviewed and approved without changes.
- Fundraising Update:
 - Bounce Back Carnival raised roughly \$20,000, with a net of \$16,000;
 - PTO direct appeal effort is behind last year.
- Update on previous discussion regarding hiring a bookkeeper/accountant:
 - This measure was recommended by the PTO's internal audit committee.
 - The PTO is expected to have a budget of roughly \$250,000 for next year, and with a budget of this size we should consider hiring professionals for tax preparation and bookkeeping services.
 - An accountant for yearly tax preparation would cost between \$750 and \$1,250 per year; that expense will not need to be allocated until 2019.



- A bookkeeper would advise the PTO finance leadership, make sure correct procedures are followed, and basically act as a check on the PTO's financial business. This person might also help out in other ways, such as data entry.
- The cost for a bookkeeper would be roughly \$1,500 a year for three to four hours a month at \$55 per hour.
- A motion for adding a line item in the 2019 budget for \$1,500 for bookkeeper was approved.

Presentation on Civics Education

- A presentation was given on a course that teaches kids the fundamentals of government.
- This course is most suited for the 6th to 8th grade level.

School Leadership Team (SLT)

- The SLT has been discussing the school's new mindfulness program, which addresses the emotional aspects of learning.
- Seven teachers have been trained in the five-component program.
- These programs are known to reduce learning and testing gaps between kids of color and white kids. However, the SLT is mindful of the school's mission to avoid using test scores as achievement barometer.

Committee Update

- Wellness
 - Two years ago the Wellness policy was revised to focus on lunch and recess, with a few other additional activities.
 - The committee is currently working on how to create a better lunchroom:
 - A place not only for eating but also to socialize (Could the lunchroom be made more communal with round tables?)
 - Improve nutrition (What other options are there besides the lunch provided by the school system?)
 - Could we beautify the lunchroom with decorations?
 - Kids need napkins.
 - Should we go back to having a schedule for lunchroom volunteers?

Closing Discussion

- Parents are concerned about the continued absence of the PACC enrichment program. Will it return by January? Raul Rothblatt will try and get an answer to this question.

Meeting Concluded at 8:05 pm