

PTA MINUTES – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – 11/14/2007

Attendees: George Sanchez (needs to sign attendance); Jerry Piper; Fran C-Ross; Teri Brajewski; Klara Carames; Amy Sananmen; Ann Biddlecom; Ismene Speliotis; Sharryn Kasmir; Leslie Braiman; Zip Mills; Stephanie Steinberg; Rose Beau; Janet G-Martin; Ramona Fluker;

Items distributed: Groundswell informational and promotional information

The meeting was called to order at 6:21pm. The minutes were reviewed and approved.

Representatives from Groundswell Community Mural Project spoke about their public arts program throughout the City. The Project focuses on social change through art by creating artwork that reflects the mission of a place and uses the collaborative process to engage all levels of children, help strengthen their “public voice” and build leadership skills. Amy spoke about the possibilities at P.S. 261. Options discussed include: a community mural, mural in the little yard (i.e. \$10-40,000 depending on complexity, materials, and length of project) and a cafeteria “make-over” (i.e. 2-week, \$6,000). Amy also mentioned the possibility of summer projects, which uses “partnership funding” and uses teens to complete the mural.

Leslie Braiman and Sharryn Kasmir will take the lead on this project to develop a proposal and fund-raising. Next steps include:

- Groundswell to look at proposed space/concept and outline the scope and cost of the project. This will be given to Leslie.
- Zip will speak to staff about their thoughts for a project.
- The Executive will meet in December to vote on the proposed project.

We discussed the proposal by one parent to host a Special Event to showcase the things about P.S. 261 not represented in the report card “C”. Different views were expressed concluding with the notion that promoting such an event lends too much importance to the report card grade. Members prefer to focus on how we promote and increase the participation of parents in the younger grades. How do we cultivate the next round of active parents? This item is up for continued discussion.

Ann Biddlecom mentioned that Pre-K and K representatives should be in the minutes.

Principal’s Report

Zip identified \$11,000 as the amount needed for a K-teacher’s aide. Participants will vote at the next General Meeting on Dec. 12th in the morning.

There will be a Town Hall meeting for parents to discuss the school yard with staff on 11/30/07 at 3:30pm. Zip will share safety concerns. Janet G-Martin suggested parents may be willing to pay for security.

School Leadership Team

SLT Nominations took place. Kenya won the vote.

We have not gotten the Parent Survey report back. George will e-mail Diana. Alice Peck has the report. There will be an SLT meeting tomorrow. Members at this meeting discussed that the results need to be shared with the larger school community at a General Meeting and in the newsletter.

