

## **PTA MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING – 09/26/2007**

**Attendees:** 54 parents, including members of the Executive Board; Zip Mills; Carmen Perez; Lena Barbera; and several teachers

**Items Distributed:** Agenda, Proposed Budget, Nomination form for SLT

The evening began with a half-hour SmartBoard presentation to parents held in the school library and led by Chris Peyser. The General Meeting followed and was called to order by Co-President, George Sanchez, at 6:43pm.

George explained the role of the School Leadership Team as being an advisory group examining issues specific to the needs or functioning of the school and things pertinent to the school's future direction. The SLT meets monthly and reports back to the PTA and principal. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will be held on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. George distributed nomination forms and invited parents to complete and submit them in time for the next General Meeting on November 8th at which time candidates will be announced and a vote held to elect SLT members.

The Proposed Budget was distributed, explained and discussed. The budget was accepted. Direct Appeal was discussed and described as money raised by parents that serves as the "cash flow" for planned activities; activities that often result in raising additional funds.

### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- Zip Mills talked about the large transition of staff and hiring of several new, yet experienced teachers at different grade levels. Attendees at the November 8<sup>th</sup> General PTA Meeting will have the opportunity to meet new teachers and enjoy a Potluck Dinner.
- The playground is 95% complete. All children are expected to have access to the entire playground by mid-October.
- Parent volunteers are needed for Lunch Clubs between the hours of 11am and 2pm. Parents interested may sign up – directions are posted on the website.
- Zip discussed the dedication of the playground to a deceased and well-loved office staff member. She appealed to the PTA for the over \$600 for the plaque.
- Zip explained the "No Lice" policy newly instituted by the Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Health in collaboration. This is a change from the "No Nits" policy. Students will not be examined for nits in a lice break-out. Parents will be called to pick up their children from school if they are discovered to have lice.
- Zip thanked and congratulated parents for cooperating with school procedures during morning and afternoon transition into and out of the school day.
- Zip discussed the October school-wide Literacy Assessments. Students in all grades are being invited by teachers to come in between 8am-8:30am for assessment of their skills in reading, writing and math. The intention is to use these assessments to tailor the curriculum to the needs of all students.

- Chris Peyser has opened the library to motivated student readers in the early morning.
- P.S. 261 is putting a movie screen in the auditorium. Dance is temporarily being conducted off stage on the floor of the auditorium.
- P.S. 261 received funds to purchase kilns. Students will be exposed to Pottery as part of their arts program this year.

**Parents raised 2 concerns:**

1. Concern: Needing more shade in the playground

Response: The school planted trees with that purpose in mind and plans to add some picnic tables with umbrellas by the pre-K trailer.

2. Concern: There were no nomination forms distributed or mention of the need for a pre-K or K class representative. Is the pre-K being left out of the loop on school activities.

Response: The forms were supposed to be distributed – there was a mistake made. Parents were encouraged to come forward and nominate.

George discussed the important role that parents play in the current functioning and future well-being of the school. Events are posted in such a way as to inform all parents and invite the participation of the entire community. This year the school will focus on expanding parent involvement.

- Fall Fest – October 13th; Features a variety of programmed activities, such as pony rides and other classic Fair games; mask-making; poetry-reading; dedication of the playground and more
- Afterschool: Chair of the Afterschool Committee talked to parents about the Afterschool program which operates on \$650,000 and it's current low enrollment of pre-K children
- Candy Sale: running through October 9<sup>th</sup>, volunteers needed to assist
- There is a Girls Scout club in Afterschool on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30pm; Co-leader needed for outdoor activities
- Fund-raising – plea made to parents for fund-raising ideas; parents should address suggestions to the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative or the Fund-Raising Committee chairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

**Next General Meeting + Potluck Dinner:** November 8, 2007 6:15pm