



Minutes: General Board meeting Sept 20, 2011
The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Zip Report: School started off very well with happy healthy kids. We have more of them than we had last year so the classrooms are crowded. It is good that people want to come here, but it makes for some new challenges. City Councilman Steven Levin has given the school \$100,000 for capitol upgrades. This will be used for a much needed auditorium overhaul including lights and a dance floor and soundproofing.

AT&T has given an "anonymous" person a \$10,000 grant for the school. We are attempting to match the funds with direct appeal and give our science lab a \$20,000 upgrade

Nurse Mary Transferred closer to her home. We have a temporary nurse, Nurse OLA who was with us for several weeks last year. She is up to speed and we hope to have our permanent nurse assigned in October.

Curriculum week will take place during the days the first week of October. Oct 3=Kindergarten, Oct 4=1st grade, Oct 5= 2nd. Oct 6= 3rd, Oct 7=4th and the Fifth grade will be on Oct 12th. The Core Standards have changed and the teachers will share that and how we as a school fit into the new standards.

There will be a town Hall meeting on Sept 27 for pre-K to 1st grade families to share any questions or concerns about the school or community, no personal questions please.

Playworks: With school budgets under such strain, we have had cuts on aides and personnel so the PTA has stepped in the area where most incidents occur, recess. A person has been hired as the "recess coach" and Playworks coordinator. His name is Alex. He is a very qualified young man with a teaching certificate in PE. He will be paid through the after school and the PTA will reimburse the after school for the hours used during school. This was put up to a vote: seconded and all said YEA. There were no Nay's. We hope he will give the kids the tools to "play hard and Play fair" as well as helping diffuse any negative situation that may arise. The Playworks trainer has 2 more sessions scheduled, one in October and one in November. There are a total of 40 hrs training and 20-observation hrs. Playworks was paid for by a \$5000 grant from the Brooklyn Community Committee. Thank you!

Comments: There will be a tangible measure of success in the form of surveys taken and the program will be held accountable. Donald and Karen are a part of the training so the kids can learn games in class time to be played during recess. These are optional but they allow kids who want or need structured activity access to it so their energy can be channeled in a positive way. Alex is currently mapping out areas for play. Perhaps in the near future we will need a PTA "recess" committee to support and oversee the activities for rainy days as well as sunny ones.

Grade Reps. This year we are not having grade reps as it proved to be an ineffective means of communication between the PTA and the classrooms. We will have one person from each class as the PTA rep for the class who will receive the e-mail and be responsible for communication to classroom parents. Please volunteer. You need E-mail for this position.

Treasurer: The draft budget was passed out and approved with no nays. The budget has been rewritten to reflect actual spending. There was a surplus from last year. We are increasing grade specific spending and teacher/ specialist supply allotments to counter even more budget cuts.

After School: After School meets every day even ½ days for \$15/ day and has a healthy scholarship fund. It is on a trimester system in terms of classes you can select. There are two new programs: fencing and fashion. Michael Jasmin, the director of after school is restructuring this year to make it more efficient. There is also an after school committee and we need talented volunteers, specifically now a graphic designer. The After School committee meets once a month. Thank you to Rose Beau for stepping in to fill a vacancy.
Question posed: When is the play? Answer: this spring.

Fund Raising Chair We are in need of a fundraising chair. This is largely a clerical position. You must write tax thank you notes to the people who give money directly to the school not through the computer and for the corporate donation-matching program. Most money comes through NY charities and they generate the notes or through specific events each of which have their own chairs. PLEASE volunteer!

Antic: We have tables and are all set. We will ask face painters and set specific prices. Lisa's husband John will walk stilts and make balloons and it will be a great event.

Fall Fest Chair is RO Johnson. Last year was very successful so we will follow the same format with a few tweaks in the rain plan.

5th grade report: There will be an information meeting the first week of October. Flyers were sent home today in backpacks. Jackie and Gerry will run the middle school information sessions instead of Christina this year. Finally there will be a specific fifth grade page on the website so look out for it!

Volunteer Opportunities:

Atlantic Antic contact heather Weston we have 20' between Hoyt and Smith

Fall Fest contact Ro Johnson October 22. First planning meeting this Thursday morning.

Wine Tasting November 10

Winter Book fair, we need people during the day contact Rose Beau and Stephanie Morris

Newsletter welcomes articles! Contact Melanie Hoopes

Learning Leaders: We have 65 trained volunteers helping in the classrooms! The most in the entire city!

GO US! It makes a HUGE difference in our children's ability to learn! Contact: Gerry Piper.

There is a calendar on the website. We had a great biking event last fall and it is scheduled to happen again in November. There were several stoop sales to benefit the school. If you have any ideas for fundraising and/or activities-- make them happen!

Again this year there is no library. If you are interested in opening it before school, contact Yvette.

Next General PTA meeting October 28 8:30 am before the Character Parade

Next Exec. PTA meeting Oct 18 7:45 am

Meeting adjourned 7:21 pm