**PS/MS 278**

**General Board Meeting Minutes**

**12/20/13**

1. **Reviewed and approved minutes from previous meeting**
2. **Update on nonprofit status**

* Karen Joculier summarized what she reported at the previous week’s special general meeting during which the PTA voted on and approved the request to re-submit our application for nonprofit status and pay the $850 application fee.
* In addition, Karen reported that we received a technology grant for $35,000 from the City Council.

1. **Chef Anne and WITS update**

* Chef Anne reported that this is 278’s 3rd year working with WITS. This year, rather than doing Café Days which were not that successful in the past, she has been going into classrooms and doing more one-on-one presentations with the students. She reported that this strategy has been much more successful for the 278 students.
* Regarding the WITS school lunch, Chef Anne reported that she did her own data collection and said it was better than she thought it would be (meaning that more kids took the school lunch that she thought would) but that still our numbers are low.
  + 50-60% of the students got some vegetable and that nearly all of the students drank the milk.
* Ms. Guido reported that we may not be able to continue the WITS program in the cafeteria because the Kitchen Manager recently resigned and the new one is refusing to continue the program unless we can get PS18 on board.
  + Right now, because PS 18 is not using the WITS menu, the Kitchen Manager is responsible for preparing 4 complete menus per day. This is too much paperwork for one person to manage.
  + PS18 refuses to go to the WITS menu and will not negotiate a compromise.
  + Ms. Guido also noted that 278 has an enormous number of students who bring lunch to school whereas more PS18 students take the school lunch.
  + **Thus, we may not continue the WITS program in the cafeteria** and go back to the traditional school foods menu but Chef Anne will continue doing her work in the classrooms with the students individually.

1. **Principal’s Report**

* Ms. Guido reported that Ms. Smith, the School Librarian, attended a professional development training during which she reported to the DOE that our library was not automated. As a result, **we received a grant of $400 from the DOE to automate our library**. DOE will be doing all the work, including removing books that are outdated and replacing them with new books. The project should be completed by June 2014.
* Word Up Bookstore on 168th St. is invited local schools to visit the bookstore and will order books for the schools as well as come into classrooms to discuss books.
* The school also received a grant from “My Own Book”. Both 3rd grade classes visited a Barnes & Noble bookstore and each student was given $50 to spend on books.
* The auditorium upgrade is almost complete and looks and sounds great.

**5. Title I Committee Update**

* **The Title I Committee is planning a 6 wk. program for parents that will teach them how to cook healthy and inexpensive meals with and for their kids.**
  + The program will be on Tuesdays, after school, starting at the end of February through March.
  + At the end of the program, each participating parent will receive a cookbook with all of the recipes they covered in the class.
  + They are trying to arrange for childcare for younger siblings during the class.
* The Title I Committee is also working with Meredith from CHALK to plan a workshop on “How to Beat the Winter Blues”
* **Family Fun Night will be on March 14th @ 6:30pm**. Activities will include yoga, zumba, soccer, math facts, and dinner provided by Chipotle.

1. **SLT Update**

* SLT is trying to figure out how it can provide more support for parents to be able to help their kids with math HW, based on the new techniques being taught in the Common Core curriculum.
  + **SLT will be placing on the website the first 2 pages of each chapter of the math textbook for each elementary class. The first 2 pages of the chapters include the vocabulary.**
  + Once on the website, parents will be able to easily access them in order to be able to better understand the math concepts the students are being taught in class.
  + SLT is not concerned about copyright because the school purchased the texts and this is considered fair use in order to help get the information out to the community.
  + The SLT is requesting assistance from parents to help scan the pages onto the website.
  + SLT also asked Maggie, who is the school’s representative on the District 6 Council, to raise the issue that the books need to be updated, recognizing that they were printed quickly in order to be ready for the beginning of the school year but that there are a lot of mistakes in them.