**PS/MS 278**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**12/19/2014**

1. **Welcome and reading/approval of November minutes**
   1. November Minutes were not available to be read/approved.
   2. Tabled for next month
2. **Treasurer’s Report**
   1. We still don’t have the official count of how much money was raised by the Walk-a-thon but we are working on it and will have it for next meeting.
3. **Old Business**
   1. **Copier Update –** We have the copier but there was an electrical problem which has since been resolved. Copier is now up and running! – just in time for the Winter Packets.
4. **New Business**
   1. **Kindergarten Handwriting Without Tears** 
      1. Handwriting was removed from the kindergarten curriculum by the DOE.
      2. The PTA EB agreed to purchase the curriculum for the kindergarten classes at $449.11 (incl. shipping) for 50 workbooks out of the classroom support line item in the budget.
      3. While some might feel that this is a disproportionate amount of $ to spend on one grade, the feeling was that investment in handwriting skills at kindergarten can impact a child’s entire education.
   2. **Vote for Title I Committee or Chairperson**
      1. Membership nominated Cassandra Callazo to continue as Chairperson/Representative of the Title I Committee.
5. **Principal’s Report**
   1. The school had its Quality Review on Tuesday, Dec. 16th and it went really well. We exceeded expectations. The review covers 5 indicators and rates us as Well Developed, Proficient or an Area of Focus (meaning an area in need of improvement). PS/MS 278 received the following results in each of the 5 indicators:
      1. Planning – Well Developed
      2. Assessment – Well Developed
      3. Teacher Teams – Area of Focus
      4. Communication – Proficient
      5. Culture of Learning – Proficient
   2. Teacher Teams was the only indicator where we scored an Area of Focus. Ms. G. said that she will schedule more time for teachers to work together in teams to address this concern.
6. **Upcoming Events**
   1. 12/23 – Musical Mondays Holiday Sing-Along (except this is on Tuesday)
   2. 1/14 – SEM Celebration Day
   3. 1/28 – Career Day
      1. Fliers have gone out and emails have been posted to recruit volunteers for the event. If interested, contact Kristin Borhofen.
   4. 2/6 – Movie Night
      1. See Susie Fuller if interested in helping out.
7. **Committee Update**
   1. **SLT**
      1. Developed goals for the year which are available in the Main office if anyone is interested in looking at them.
      2. For the first time, we have a Wellness Goal that will reintroduce Health Education into the classroom for all grades – age appropriate.
      3. Parents are welcome/encouraged to help out in many ways such as volunteering to read to children, run Math Facts during lunch, etc.
      4. Regarding curriculum – a concern was raised that the writing assignments coming up from Ready Jen are not clear. Parents have expressed frustration not understanding what the assignment is or what is expected of their child. Thus, through SLT, Teachers agreed to send home more detailed explanations of the assignments.
      5. SLT is asking parents to continue give feedback that they can bring to the teachers to help improve communication at the school.