**PS/MS 278**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**1/21/2015**

1. **Welcome and reading/approval of November/December minutes**
   1. Minutes were read and approved.
2. **President/Treasurer’s Report**
   1. **Budget issues**
      1. A revised budget was distributed with updated numbers from the Walk-a-thon. We raised nearly $26,000 this year which means we have enough money to cover the 92nd St. Y Dance program for the next 2 years.
      2. We don’t have final numbers from Picture Day yet
      3. Otherwise budget is updated. If members have questions after reviewing it, they should contact a member of the PTA EB.
3. **Upcoming Events**
   1. **Career Day –** Wed., Jan. 28th
      1. Kristin said everything is under control but if anyone is interested in helping out, she could always use more hands day off.
   2. **Movie Night –** Feb. 6th – See flier that is going to be backpacked shortly.
      1. Susie Fuller is in charge so reach out to her if interested in volunteering.
      2. Classroom parents will be emailing out signup sheets for volunteers
   3. **Read-a-thon –** Will begin right before the mid-winter break.
      1. Danielle F. and Annie are meeting with Ms. G. on Friday to work out the details.
      2. All $ raised from the read-a-thon will go to Pediatric Cancer Research (Dr. Cairo’s program).
      3. Right now they are considering the possibility of selecting an age appropriate book related to cancer for each grade for the kids to read but they are not sure about that yet. Alternatively, the kids go to the library and pick their own book.
   4. **Spring Book Fair –** Week of March 16th
      1. We did not have enough volunteers for the Book Fair in the Fall. We really need more people to step up and take a shift. Membership was asked to spread the word.
   5. **Spring Fair –** May 30th
      1. We are discussing how to make this Spring Fair this year bigger and better, including possibly getting a street permit to close of 219th St. for larger activities that would attract more Middle School kids.
      2. We need a lot of volunteers for this event as well.
4. **Wellness Council**
   1. **Chef Annie** – Chef Annie from the WITS (Wellness In the Schools) program updated the membership on what’s been happening with WITS.
      1. WITS encourages healthy eating in the cafeteria and educates about health eating in the classroom. This year so far they have provided several labs (called Café Days) in the classroom, reaching every elementary grade so far. The 3rd/4th graders made apple crisp and served it in the cafeteria during lunch. K-2nd graders made salad dressing. “When kids get to experience the making of a dish, they are more excited about trying new foods and liking them.”
      2. WITS has partnered with CHALK (Choosing Healthy and Active Lifestyles for Kids) to help reach more kids and more classrooms.
      3. In March they will have a special program for just the 8th graders with /resident Chef Gabe Thomas. He will teach the kids how to make meatballs.
      4. A request was made that we invite Chef Annie to next year’s September PTA meeting or Back to School Night to share samplings of the WITS menu with parents so that they can get a better idea of the food that is being offered our kids in the cafeteria.
         1. Someone needs to remember to invite her at the beginning of the year.
   2. **Farmdingo –** Sarah Townley spoke about Farmdingo, which allows parents to order fresh food from the farm that gets delivered to the school and can be picked up Wednesday at pick up. If we order over $500, the school can get a cut.
      1. For parents who work and don’t do pick up, if they are interested in participating in this, the afterschool program agreed to hold the food for them so that they can pick up the food by 5pm.
      2. This will expand the option to those whose kids attend the afterschool program plus parents who can pick up their food by 5 but most working parents don’t get home until 6ish.
      3. Ms. G. said that if people order non-perishable food, it is possible that they could pick up the food the following day.
      4. Some of the logistics still need to be worked out.
   3. **Parent Workshops –** Will resume in February. Look for a flier in your child’s backpack.
   4. **Volunteers –** Wellness needs more parent volunteers also, specifically parents who can volunteer during the day in the cafeteria and recess.
5. **Principal’s Report**
   1. Ms. G. reported that the school and Mr. Reilly received a plaque from the CHAMPS program honoring both the school and specifically our flag football team.
   2. The Lego Champs went to the Lego Expo in Brooklyn and received a plaque as well.
      1. Lego Club meets on Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30 and is run by Anina.
6. **New business**
   1. **2015 Education Council elections**
      1. Maggie Velez reported that members interested in being on the CEC will have an opportunity to apply by Feb. 11th. If they are interested, they should check the website and fill out an application.
         1. There will be an information session on Jan. 26th
         2. The commitment is 2 meetings/month plus subcommittee meetings.
         3. The meetings arelocated at PS 48 (187th St. and Broadway) from 7-10pm.
         4. A lot of change is happening at the CEC and BOE and being on this committee will be a great opportunity to be at the table. The meetings are very informative about our kids’ public school education.
         5. If interested, Maggie strongly encouraged folks to attend the next public meeting to learn about what goes on there.
         6. Elections will be in March. Our school’s EB will elect the members representing 278.
         7. One member should be a parent of an English language learner and the other should be a parent of a special needs child.
         8. The PTA will post information about the CEC and the upcoming elections on the website.
7. **Important Dates**
   1. Jan. 26th – Open Dance Class & Progress Report Week
   2. Feb. 4th – Multi Cultural Concert
   3. Feb. 16th – Mid-winter Break – school closed all week
   4. Feb. 27th – Next General PTA meeting, 8am