Minutes from the 278 PTA General Membership meeting

10/24/2014 at 8:15 am in the Library

**Welcome** - Anne S explained to the membership that Danielle F could not be at the meeting and she introduced the members of the EB who were present – Seana W, Nely Q, and Karen J.

**September Meeting Minutes** - the reading and approval of the September meeting minutes was postponed to the next meeting because both secretaries - Diane H and Danielle S were not present and the minutes needed some slight revisions.

Treasurer’s report - an abridged oral version of the report was presented. The pat has not spent any money this year so far, so the bank balance remains the same since the last meeting in September. The bank balance remains $41,034.

**Old Business** - **Vote on a PTA Copier** - Anne S presented on the membership vote for a school copier. The Executive Board met with representatives from Xerox and several lease and owner packages were discussed. Given the nature of the copying and the amount of copies we will probably make, a lease package was discussed. The details of the package are that it is $4k per year for 5 years. The package includes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ copies per year (which amounts to approximately 200 copies per student per year) and all maintenance. It should be noted that Xerox told the EB that if we call for maintenance before 12pm on a weekday, that maintenance would be done the same day. If we exceed the allotted number of copies – the copies will be $.007 per copy. The membership was then asked if they had questions and several comments and questions were raised including the following.

* Is the copier an overflow copier or would the teacher and staff have access to it?
* Is there a way for the PTA to take over the existing leases or have the copiers in the school fixed instead?
* Are we certain that the lease covers all repairs?
* What happens when we go over the allotted copies? Will membership be informed? Can we see the report of copies made at each General Membership meeting so we can keep track?

The membership agreed to a stipulation that made the process for making copies (through one person in the office) and the purpose of the copier clear to the school. The copier would be an overflow only copier and should only be used when the existing copiers are out of service. Also, once we reach the allotted number of copies, the copier should be shut down and the membership should vote on how many additional copies we will incur for the school.

The vote was made and we had 10 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstain. The vote was passed to lease a copier for the school from Xerox.

**New Business** – **Music Teacher situation -**  Mr. Salyers, who was hired to replace Mr. Quinto – left 278 on 10/17. Because he gave so little notice, the school and parents have come up with a contingency plan to keep the music programs moving forward.

* Band continues with the MSM staff person leading it
* Anne S has taken over the Chorus for now
* Siona L will continue to help with the Violin Ensemble
* Tom Nelson has volunteered to help Mrs. Kaufmann with her SEM (“Seusical the Musical”)

**New Business** – **Class Parent update** – all of the class parents have or should shortly be sending a letter asking all parents for their contact information. We will also have sign up sheets at the PTC in November to catch the people that have not yet provided their information.

**New Business** – we need **daytime volunteers** for the following areas in the school.

* Cafeteria assistance
* Library - shelving

**Farmingo** – is an on-line farmers market that will deliver fresh food to 278. Families can sign up at Famingo.com and 10% of proceeds will be donated to 278. Seana will add an announcement on the website to this in addition to the paper notification that went home. Mrs. Saint Albord (5th grade teacher) is contact person for Farmingo.

**Other Business**

* Parent Workshops continue at the Allen pavilion – the November workshop information will be posted on the yahoo, website and calendar shortly. The topic for the workshop is Mental Health and Wellness as caregivers
* Walking Group is M, W, F weather permitting at 815am – the group walks in Baker Field and meets at the front door on the appointed day.
* Tulip bulb planting is today – if anyone can stay after the meeting and help, let Danielle Strauss know. Dave Thom put the bulbs together and classrooms signed up individually to plant the bulbs.
* Mrs. Guido is now (along with Maggie Valez) part of the District 6 Leadership team.
* Picture day is Wednesday 10/29 and volunteers are still needed – please contact Seana W or Diane H if you can help that day.
* **Wellness Grant**
  + The 278 Wellness committee applied for and won a $2,500 grant for a 20 week fitness program for the middle school. Mr. Klein (teacher) and Sarah Townley were grant champions. The $2,500 will go toward paying for teachers to stay after school and run physical education classes (Zumba, yoga, etc.) for the middle school students.

**Principal’s Report**

* Music Teacher situation was very upsetting for her, but the parents are covering the after school programs and she has hired a substitute teacher to cover the classes.
* Councilmember Espaillat came to visit the school and was very impressed – he said that he used to have requests from the community for help getting into PS 187, and now, people ask him to help them get into 278 ☺ She also asked him to help her in her initiative to get the sibling policy changed so that the siblings of students entering or in MS will still be considered priority 1 for admissions. Espaillat also said he wanted to help the 278 PTA fundraise because schools like 187 raise 100K or more each year. Espaillat also said that he would ask the city to do a traffic study around the school and consider another crossing guard at 220th and/or making the streets around the school (219 and 220) one-way. Mrs. Guido then asked the membership what they thought of dismissing the little kids (K-2) from the auditorium. The conversation around that question then turned to how the older kids would meet up with younger kids and the bottle neck that dismissing in the auditorium inevitably becomes. Mrs. Guido said she would discuss the issue further with Mrs. Reilly.
  + Mrs. Guido then mentioned all the programs that Coned pays for – they have been very generous with 278
    - Mouse Squad
    - SEM on computer coding – Ms. DiMiri is training for this SEM
    - Salvadori
    - Field day T-shirts
* The first school tour was Tuesday 10/21 and 15 people attended. 18 people are scheduled to attend the tour on 10/28.
* Title 1 update – title 1 funds are on their way out – 46 lunch forms have not been returned
* DOE Parent conferences for MS, Elementary and HS are in November and December – Carmen Farina is the speaker at each. Information will be posted to yahoo and the website next week.