**PS/MS 278**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

**01/15/2014**

1. **Welcome**
2. **December 2013 minutes and approval**
	1. 12/20/13 Minutes were reviewed and approved by the general membership
	2. Special General Membership Meeting minutes (12/3/13) were reviewed and approved by the general membership.
3. **Principal’s Report**

(Ms. Guido was unable to attend the meeting but Ms. Gonzalez reported on her behalf)

* 1. **Town Hall Meetings –** Ms. G. will be scheduling Town Hall Meetings with the larger community, starting with the next PTA General membership Meeting in February during which Ms. Reyes will talk about school safety.
	2. **SEM Celebration –** Friday, 1/17, 9:15 – 10:30. Parents are welcome to attend and tour the school-wide event.
	3. **8th Grade Graduation, Retakes and Absentee School Photos –** 1/22.PTA will backpack a flier.
	4. **Kindergarten and 1st Grade Salvadori Project –** This will be an 8-wk. program facilitated by a professional architect, during which the Kindergarten and 1st graders will be studying animal habitats.
	5. **Career Day –** 1/29. See Kristin if you have any questions or want to sign up.
1. **School Event Permit Reminder**
	1. Please let the school know in advance so that it can arrange for the proper security.
2. **Announcements**
	1. **Musical Mondays**: next concert for the children is Monday Feb. 3rd. Make a note of it so that you can ask your kids that evening about the event. They will be singing songs about love and Sheena (mom of 3 kids in the school)’s mother will be visiting from Ireland and perform some Irish folk songs.
		1. Amy B. (Kindergarten parent) said that she has a friend who is interested in performing for Musical Mondays. Annie will help coordinate.
	2. **PS/MS 278 students visit to the Metropolitan Opera**
		1. 30 middle school students attended Madam Butterfly at the Metropolitan Opera. They loved it!

*Also RE: Music programming –* ***the String Program*** *started on 1/15. 12-14 students are participating.*

* 1. **Lunch Room Math Facts**– they need more volunteers. See Newsletter for details
		1. A group of parents are volunteering during lunch period to support 3rd and 4th graders in math facts, now until Winter Break.
		2. It is happening 3x/wk. (Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays), 45 min./day (6th period).
		3. We play fun math games, stuff on the computer, etc.
		4. If interested in volunteering, contact any of the members of the PTA or SLT or Wellness committee and if they are not the right person to assist you, they will get you in touch with the right person.
	2. **SLT Math Help-at-Home Project**
		1. The workbooks that the kids are allowed to take home do not include the definitions and explanations of how to do the math problems that the text books do include but are not allowed to be taken home.
		2. Many parents have reported frustration because they are struggling to assist their kids with the Common Core math homework and would benefit from seeing the definitions of terms and explanations of how to do the math problems that are in the text books.
		3. The SLT wants to help parents help their kids with the math homework by scanning the pages of the math textbooks onto the website.
		4. **The SLT needs parents to volunteer to help them with the scanning.**
		5. If parents have questions/concerns regarding the Core Curriculum, you should give them to Maggie Velez who is a278 parent and the 278 representative on the District Leadership Team.
	3. **501c3 Update**
		1. We resubmitted the application and are now waiting to find out if/when we will be reinstated as a 501c3.
		2. If anyone sees Karen, please thank her for all of the work she did putting this application together.
1. **Upcoming Events**
	1. **Career Day – Wednesday Jan. 29th**
		1. We have a full roster of Guest Speaker volunteers but we need more hospitality volunteers**.** If you are interested, please contact Kristin: kristin278@gmail.com or 646-391-5047.
	2. **Movie Night – Friday Feb. 7th**
		1. Membership voted on what movie to show. The choices were between Epic, Despicable Me 2 and the Crudes.
		2. **The members voted for Epic!**
		3. Carmen agreed to donate the hot dogs.
		4. Susie Fuller is the Captain
		5. Doors open at 5:45. Movie will start at 6pm
		6. There are crafts left over from the Spring Fair in the basement. Susie should look before she buys more.
		7. We need volunteers to sign up to help out at concessions and the crafts tables.
		8. In addition to the hot dogs, Concessions will have popcorn, fruit, water, and juice boxes.
	3. **Middle School Dance – Friday March 7th, in the Cafeteria**
		1. Mr. Tierney is a member of the Anti-Defamation League, which is sponsoring this event.
		2. Annie is the Parent Coordinator
		3. Because it is being sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, the event must cover issues related to diversity and respect for all.
	4. **Spring Book Fair – Friday march 7th – Friday march 14th**
		1. Anina and Seana are coordinating the book fair again.
		2. They are asking for volunteers to sign up for 2 period time slots (1 ½ hrs) as opposed to one period because this will be easier for them to manage.
		3. Contact Anina – psms278treasurer@gmail.com if interested.
	5. **Spring Fair – date TBD (end of May/June)**
		1. Annie is coordinating this event.
		2. The first planning meeting will be happening soon, at which time we will be determining the date of the event.
		3. This is the biggest event we do all year and needs helps from everyone. It is a great opportunity to get involved in the PTA and volunteer.
		4. Carmen’s daughter is graduating this year which means we will need someone to take on the food/cooking. If you are interested in being mentored by Carmen, please step forward and work with Carmen this year.
		5. Joannie (sp?) volunteered to do the baking.
2. **Committee Updates**
	1. **WITS (Wellness)**
		1. **The Wellness Council** meets the 2nd Thursday every month @ 2:30.
			1. They know that this is not convenient for working parents so are considering alternating the monthly meeting times between the afternoon and evenings.
		2. **Wellness Walking Group** – Mondays and Fridays at 8:15am. Everyone is welcome!
		3. **Family Fun Night** (in collaboration with the Title I Committee) – March 14th
			1. Specific details to follow.
			2. Event is catered by Chipotle and is absolutely free and super fun.
		4. **Breakfast Series** – Tuesdays
			1. Meredith from CHALK will facilitate a series of workshops for parents and teachers.
			2. The first session will be about “How to Beat the Winter Blues”. The 2nd session will cover hypertension and diabetes.
		5. We need more parent volunteers to help out in the cafeteria during lunch time (half an hour). If interested see Sarah Townley.
	2. **Title I Committee**
		1. In addition to Family Fun Night, the Title I Committee is organizing a **CPR recertification class**, scheduled for Saturday, March 1st, in the school library, from 8:45am – 3pm.
			1. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.
			2. Anyone can attend as long as they are a parent or guardian of a PS/MS 278 student.
			3. If interested, contact Cassandra.
			4. Capacity is 20 participants.
		2. Also, they are hoping to have a **Self Defense Class** tentatively for 2/27.
	3. **Garden Committee**
		1. The Garden Committee Chair is asking if anyone is interested in taking on this committee.
		2. Monica Barnkow volunteered.
3. **Other Business**
	1. Ms. Gonzalez reminded us to spread the word about the changes to kindergarten registration and to encourage people in the community interested in 278 for kindergarten to sign up using the new Kindergarten Connect system.
	2. Someone did it and said it was extremely easy.
	3. Siblings of 5th graders do not have priority because 5th graders do not automatically get into the middle school. They have to register like everyone else.