**PS/MS 278**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome and reading/approval of February minutes**
   1. March minutes were reviewed.
2. **Treasurer’s Report**
   1. We have about $61k in the bank with a lot of expenses to plan for, for the end of the year.
   2. What’s great about this is that we are spending as we need to. In the Fall we may need to fund more arts programs than prior years.
   3. We are in a great place financially and we are in constant communication with the School Administration on how best to spend the funds.
   4. Thus, we need to make an adjustment to the budget for this year. 278 will be instituting a science curriculum for the middle school that will allow the middle school students to be able to take the Science Regents by 8th grade. However, to do this they need to purchase new text books that are not sponsored by the DOE. Ms. G. asked for $3500 from the classroom academic support line item in the PTA budget to cover this expense.
   5. Also CON ED is not sponsoring the T shirts for Field Day anymore so the PTA will purchase the shirts.
3. **New Business**
   1. Cafecito – 4/29
   2. Teacher/Staff Appreciation – 5/8
      1. This will be a whole day event and we need volunteers to work the event as well as to donate food.
      2. A flier will go out next week to recruit volunteers.
   3. 5th/6th Grade Dance – 5/15
      1. This is part of the No Place for Hate projects. It is a welcome to Middle School event.
   4. EB Elections – 5/20
      1. If you are interested in running for a position, contact Danielle Strauss @ [daniellestrauss@hotmail.com](mailto:daniellestrauss@hotmail.com).
      2. EB elections will take place during next month’s meeting.
      3. No experience is necessary. The current Board will assist the new Board with the transition.
      4. After the EB elections there will be elections for SLT during the June mtg.
         1. SLT is working on developing a Health/Wellness k-6 curriculum and influencing the academic aspects of the school.
4. **Old Business**
   1. Dues Drive – letters and envelopes will go out soon. Dues Drive funds will go to cover academics expenses.
   2. Spring Fair – we need volunteers
5. **Principal’s Report**
   1. School received 216 applications for kindergarten. Offers went out and parents are starting to register their kids.
      1. There is a waiting list but we have to wait to see who accepts the offers before we can start offering slots off the waiting list.
      2. There are 16 siblings entering next year so 34 open slots.
      3. Historically, we always go into the wait list.
   2. The Read-a-thon raised $7600 for Dr. Cairo’s pediatric cancer research. A representative will come to our Awards Ceremony to accept the check.
   3. Testing is happening.
      1. 10 students opted out this year.
      2. The tests were difficult and the reading on the ELA was not relateable. Time is always an issue and the passages were too long.
      3. Question – will the tests be computerized next year?
         1. I doubt it. Based on the pilot a few years ago, it would take too long to take the test if they were.
   4. The Regents is a reality. Starting next year, the 5th graders will start a revised curriculum that will chunk the 4 years of common core science curriculum into 3 years so that by 8th grade they will be able to take the science curriculum to take the regents.
      1. As noted above, the PTA will assist by purchasing the text books for this curriculum.
   5. The budgets are now closed so we can’t spend any more money.
   6. Regarding the lunch forms, 71% of the parents responded.
   7. The Superintendant invited Ms. G. to mentor other principals in the district – but this hasn’t been finalized yet.
   8. We received approx. 300 applications for Middle School but we won’t know how many slots there are available until current 5th graders register.