**PS/MS 278**

**General Membership Meeting Minutes**

1. **Welcome and reading/approval of February minutes**
   1. February minutes were available.
2. **Old Business**
   1. The Read-a-thon raised about $7600. Ms. G. is still working on getting the final counts.
   2. The 7th/8th Grade No Place for Hate Dance was a hit. The kids loved it!
      1. They loved the DJ.
      2. About 100 kids participated
      3. Richard Tatum donated his time and the lights for the event.
3. **Upcoming Events**
   1. Bake Sale/Parent Teacher Conferences – 3/19 (tomorrow)
      1. Diane Hill is leading the Bake Sale. Parents can drop off goods 8-12:30.
      2. The Girls Volley Ball Team is responsible for selling the items.
      3. Book Fair – we need more parent volunteers. See Anina if you can help out.
   2. Family Fun Night – Friday 3/20, 6-9pm
      1. Super fun, free event.
      2. Events include yoga, rugby, self defense and much more.
      3. Chipotle catered
   3. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day – Friday, May 8th
      1. We need dish donations
      2. We need volunteers to decorate and help serve food. This is a great way to get to know the teachers and socialize with them outside of the classroom.
   4. 5th/6th Grade No Place for Hate Dance – May 15th
      1. Same model as the 7th/8th Grade Dance (lite)
      2. This is brand new for this year. The event is taking the place of the 5th grade trip and it will give the 6th graders an opportunity to welcome the 5th graders to Middle School.
4. **Principal’s Report**
   1. The school received 217 applications for Kindergarten, of which about 20 are siblings and are guaranteed a slot for next year. Of the rest, we don’t know how many are zoned for the school. Parents will get their letters of acceptance early April at which time we will have the names of who got in.
   2. State of the District meeting with Ydanis Rodriguez is Sunday May 22nd. Ms. G. requests that we have a large turn out to support Mr. Rodriguez who has been a good friend to our school. We also want a good show out to demonstrate that the PS/MS 278 is a community to be reckoned with.
   3. The 8th Graders received their HS acceptance letters and many of them got into some very excellent schools.
   4. We received the results of the Quality Review and we are proficient in all areas accept for Teacher Teams. We will work on developing that aspect.
   5. We are getting ready for testing which is scheduled for mid-April, after Spring Break.
   6. Regents curriculum – we are looking into offering Science and possibly Math Regents to our middle school students. Science would start in 5th grade and the curriculum would be chunked to make sure that it covers all of the material for the kids to pass the 8th grade State Science Test as well as the Science Regents exam.
   7. Regarding applications for our Middle School – we received 375 applications. We don’t know yet who will be accepted.
5. **New Business**
   1. 92nd St. Y Dance Performances – 3/30 and 4/1
   2. Upcoming PTA Nominations and elections for Executive Board
   3. The Stokes Foundation which is run by Ray who is a 278 parent is looking into how it can enhance and fill gaps in our afterschool programming.
      1. Lack of gym space was an issue for the Spring because we now have funding through CHAMPS to offer Girls Basketball in addition to Boys Basketball but the 2 teams could not practice at the same time in the same gym. So the Stokes Foundation identified a 2nd space through the Seventh Day Adventist School on 215th St. but there is a rental cost of $1500.
      2. Budget issue – we have $250 on the budget line for technology but Ms. Demiri who is the Technology Teacher has not requested any technology assistance and she is currently on maternity leave. The proposal is to switch the Technology and Athletics line items so that we can cover the cost of the space rental for the 2nd gym space.
         1. Members voted and approved the switch.
      3. We need parents to volunteer to help coach a team.
      4. Ray also surveyed the middle school kids to identify other gaps and is working on pulling that data together now.
      5. He is working in conjunction with the Inwood Community Services Afterschool program to again enhance and contribute to the infrastructure that already exists within the school.
   4. Text Messaging – Our text company has gone out of business so we are looking to find a new company.
   5. PTA Meetings – There is a question about the productivity of the Friday morning meetings. The feeling is that we don’t get a very good turnout to these meetings and recommend discontinuing them for next year, making all of the General Membership meetings take place in the evening. This requires an amendment to the By-laws.
      1. It was suggested that we survey the larger community before making this change.
6. **Committee Updates**
   1. Wellness Council
      1. We received a grant to do Active Design work
      2. We are implementing a developmentally appropriate health curriculum with the SLT for each grade. The focus will be on self care and holistic healthcare.
   2. We need to develop and utilize our class parents more because it is becoming the same folks who turn out for each event.
7. **Spring Fair**
   1. Susie Fuller successfully obtained a street permit for 219th St. so we will be able to expand the fair this year and offer a lot more activities.
   2. Maggie Velez helped secure a Play Mobile which will offer free games and arts & crafts
   3. More to come on Spring Fair
   4. We need donations for raffle prizes. A template will go out to request parents to sponsor an item.
8. **8th Grade Breakfast** – budget is for $450