1. Call to order, welcome and shout-out to the organizers, helpers and contributors of our breakfast today.
2. Reading/Approval of Meeting Minutes
* This will happen in the January meeting, since we haven’t yet managed to have them all translated and made available for everybody.

1. President’s Report

- SLT Update (by Maggie Velez)

* We are constantly working to further our academic goals for our students.
* Homework load – we started a discussion about how much homework needs to be done and how best to support struggling students.
* What are age appropriate time frames for homework?
* Homework has to be given (per DOE) to reinforce what was learned during the day, but should not be used for getting through content.
* We have a pilot program in 7th grade only, called “I-Ready”. It’s a math and ELA program that pinpoints deficient areas and provides added support, as well as pinpointing students who are ahead of the curve and providing more advanced materials to them. We are currently trying it out in 7th grade (Ms. Demiri) and if it proves to be effective, we can bring it to the rest of the school.
* Library access during off hours is currently being discussed.
* Picture policy: Not everyone signed the release form, so we need to be mindful when we take pictures, not to post any of them online if they show children/people who haven’t a signed release form.
1. Principal’s Report
* AP (assistant principal) search
* Level 1 is done, level 2 (interview) is done and level 3 (background check) is being done, but Mr. Reilly is still acting AP.
* Safety Report Update
* There are different documents for the safety procedures: one for the general office, one for the safety guards and one for parents (print out was provided).
* Emergency evacuation locations were provided and explained.
* Shelter-in is trained and the children know exactly what to do in a soft or hard lockdown situation.
* A concern was raised about the door of the PTA office (not locking properly?). This needs to be investigated/remedied.
* We have sweepers to check the building and a phone was installed in the basement.
* Ms. Reyes is proud of the level of parent involvement and of our students and their many talents.
* Title I Funds
* We are not giving up the fight on Title I qualification. Ms. Guido and Ms. Reyes are fighting to get us grandfathered in somehow.
1. Treasurer’s Report
* We currently have $84.823,82 in our bank account.
* Budget & ledger were provided
* Quick overview of changes in budget was given.
* All our money is accounted for – BRAVO Kristin!
* We have suggested to move Read-A-Thon to June and are awaiting the administration’s decision on it.
* We can talk about possibly upping the budget line for hospitality (food & beverages & childcare) at our PTA meetings.
* Walk-A-Thon Update: We haven’t closed the event just yet (expenses), but hope to have everything at the ready in January when it will be announced and celebrated with prices and parties for the students.
* Chef Anne did a veggie tasting for 500 students on a slim budget.
1. Old Business
* Picture Dap Update
* Annie was absent, but Susie reported that we are currently waiting for the first batch of pictures to be ready. It was a little difficult dealing with the vendor and we have to discuss a possible change of vendors in the future.
* Survey Feedback
* We already have feedback from some 80 people, but we would love to have more input and possibly volunteers from our parent community (more surveys were provided).
* By-Laws
* We are in the midst of re-viewing the by-laws to accommodate our school community (copies were provided and are also available online). We are looking especially to the transition process of our PTA board and are hoping to make that a little easier on everyone.
* If you have experience in this area your input is greatly appreciated.
* Teacher Per-Session Request
* Flyers were sent out to the teachers to gather ideas what they would be willing to offer for after school extra programming.
* The Per-Session program is financed via the PTA through a grant that we wrote.
* Teachers and their interests:
* *Ms. Kaufman: theatre*
* *Mr. Olivares: after school acoustic guitar*
* *Ms. Lucarelli: nutritional eating (middle school)*
* *Ms. Paynter: after school active program ‘Go Noodle’*
* *Mr. Cheeseman: soccer program*
* *Ms. Sanchez: Donor’s choice I-pod touch for the math program*
* *Ms. Alperson: origami*
* *Ms. Brady & Ms. Lucarelli: field hockey for girls (middle school)*
* Parent input
* Robo Fund – they work with LEGOS (robotic Legos). This is a private contractor coming in and this program will cost parents $256 for 8 weeks (90 minutes instruction per session). We are in the process of getting people signed up. The day in question would be Wednesday, but if high demand could be extended to Thursday as well.
* Chess and robotics were advocated for.
* Can we bring coding to the school?
* Maybe Zumba? Or Yoga?
* After school Spanish classes were wished for.
* Open Floor: What are other potential sources of found money?
* Possible teacher publishing Amazon promotion idea (Jeffrey)
* Shoparoo – Nely explained the app and encouraged parents to use this app as an easy way to make money for the school.
* Schoola – Sandra explained how this program works (clothing donation). We need a plan to get this up and running.
* Shari (absent today) has an idea of event nights for the parents (dinner, raffle etc), but will have to elaborate in January.
1. New Business
* No Place for Hate
* Skipped
* Parenting Classes Spokesperson to discuss upcoming events
* There is a child development program on how to turn ‘bad behavior’ into good behavior and how to relate to your child even when you are stressed and how to better communication and how to teach responsibilities. This is run by Inwood Community Service (located right across from IS 52 on Academy off Broadway). Free of charge.
1. Upcoming Events
* Next General Membership PTA Meeting: 1/20/16 at 6:30pm
* Career Day, 2/3/16 (Snow Day reschedule would be 2/25/16)
* Movie Night, 2/26/16
* Dates to upcoming events were provided on today’s agenda.
1. Adjournment