

## **Minutes – PA Meeting 2/17/17 (Submitted by Julie Subrin)**

### **9:20 a.m. Meeting called to order**

#### **Principal's Report – Mary MacDonald**

- introduces new guidance counselor Ross Meneses and new Parent Coordinator Lauren Kalbfell
- school surveys due 3/31
- big sized grant proposals have been sent out to support gardening, kitchen
- after break, they are starting a Boys Leadership Club
- state tests coming up. Some teachers participated in a 4-week Teachers College test prep intensive training. Tests are at end of March, and beginning of May.

### **Minutes approved – Julie Subrin**

#### **New Parent Coordinator – Lauren Kalbfell**

- Currently grad student at Columbia U. getting MA in Public Health
- bilingual
- Lauren's schedule:  
Mondays: NOT IN  
Tuesdays: 7-11:30am  
Wednesdays: 7am-1pm  
Thursdays: 7-10:30am/5:30-7:30pm  
Fridays: 7am-4pm

- There will be free concert Sunday 3/5 at the Performing Arts Ctr at Brooklyn College
- Info Session about new school, M.S. 890 with the future principal on 2/27 at 5:30 for parents of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders

#### **Discussion**

- Can she help us improve communication among families within grades, and/or build classroom communities? Most classes still don't have class parent. Need teacher buy-in.
- Could our PA be a PTA?
- Could we follow PS 217 lead, get a grant to pay parents to do outreach within specific communities at the school?
- Could create a bulletin board dedicated to PA activities and information
- Need help spreading the word about our Facebook group and Yahoo listserve. Perhaps could be mentioned in monthly newsletter.
- Could there be an info session about middle school options that targets parents of 4<sup>th</sup> graders, perhaps in the spring?
- Could we have someone make a presentation about "opting out" of tests?
- There's an org that brings volunteers in STEM fields into elementary schools. Possible for our school?

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation update – Lauren Kalbfell**

-6/9 Awards Lunch

-6/16 graduation ceremony at James Madison High School

-6/22 senior cruise

t-shirts, yearbook

\$104 per graduating child, offset by some 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee fundraising – there will be a bake sale 2/16, and basket raffle at Parent Teacher Conference

### **Upcoming Events – Indira Junicic**

Multicultural Night

-Need someone to take the lead; an experienced volunteer from previous years has agreed to help, but doesn't want to be in charge

-Perhaps first week of May?

-Natalee Stephens volunteers to run it

-discussion of whether performances should be by students and families only, or include outside groups as we did last year. Could teachers teach kids a song or dance from a particular country, or otherwise participate?

-Could dance or music teachers get involved?

### **Garden Committee Update – Colleen Graves**

-We are expanding the garden and working to help teachers integrate it into their classrooms.

-Surveyed teachers on what they know, and want, about the garden

Q: Do we compost at the school?

A: Not yet – trying to. Have applied for a mini-grant to expand composting.

-The school has money for a garden educator, Farmer Fred, who works p/t at PS 32 in Gowanus. He can do lesson planning. Haven't decided which grades to target.

Q. Could we get Farmer Fred to come to Science Night? Or have a Garden Social?

**Meeting adjourned at 10:15**