

Minutes – PA Meeting 3/16/16 (Submitted by Julie Subrin)

Meeting called to order

Minutes Approved

Testing Update – AP Alyna Jacobs

- Tests coming up in April
- There will only be 3 weeks of test prep, with emphasis on strategies, and reducing anxiety. Yes, the test is hard – just try to push through and do your best.
- Gave workshop with Powerpoint for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade parents
- Can share info with school community
- Reviewed state changes to test:
 1. now test will be untimed
 2. there are fewer questions
 3. there are fewer passages to read
 4. working with new vendor
 5. test creators partnered with teachers
- Promotion is not based on test scores. They are component, along with a portfolio that includes interview, essay, reading.
- About 10% of students who get a 1 out of 4 on test will be referred for summer school. Then re-take test, and might be promoted.

Q. What are results for?

A. 4th grade tests are considered for middle schools in our district (but not all districts), and affects school's overall rating—95% of students must take the test for the school to get an Adequate Yearly Progress report.

Principal's Report – Mary McDonald

- Sarah Gobin-Darrell and JoAnna Spanos have been appointed as APs at PS 139
- We were approved to offer a Spanish dual language Pre-K next year
- Not sure yet if this will be an additional Pre K class or an existing one
- Facility upgrades:
 1. all lights changed to eliminate PBC
 2. whole phone system upgraded
 3. all clocks changed
 4. replacing floors – the 1st floor is done and they are beginning 4th
- Homework: Teachers College posted an article that indicates that homework has zero affect on student learning.

Q. Why didn't the school get the word out when we had a shelter-in recently?

A. Mary shared the different school response policies, which vary depending on the nature of the emergency. For a shelter in, there is no known danger in the school, but there's something happening nearby that necessitates their barring access to anyone trying to enter or exit. Neither teachers nor students knew the specifics of

the situation, in this case. Didn't do a phone blast because in the past that created more confusion, and brought parents to the school who weren't allowed to enter.

Q. Why couldn't a sick child be released, or given something to reduce fever?

A. School is not allowed to administer any kind of medication to a student, and in order to let a student out of the building during a shelter-in they would have had to call an ambulance. These are school regulations.

President's Report – Indira Junicic

- Budget – book fair profit was \$2,200, and over \$400 from heart sales
- Border Crossers parent workshop coming up April 2 from 10-12
- Spring clubs – PA is paying for 6 clubs. We've gotten 16 proposals from teachers.
- Val Kostinenko is pursuing a grant for a musical theater after school program for next year

5th Grade Committee Update – Karla Moore

- They've raised over \$1,000

Treasurer's Report - Val Kostinenko

- Monthly report not ready yet
- planning to restock supply closet one more time - \$2,000.
- we can use our tax exemption on sales tax at Costco etc – need the tax exempt form

SLT Report – Val Kostinenko

- Reviewing Summer Slide program. Teachers College is working on tracking progress to see if the books we gave out had an impact.
- Every year the school spends \$300/class to update classroom libraries

Funding Request – Joe Biondo

- Requests funds to replace the broken, 6-year-old projector and audio system. It would cost \$6-8,000 to replace the whole thing. It's used almost daily. PA wouldn't have to cover full cost.

Proposal: Money raised from catalog sale could go to replacing the sound system.
Vote – YES.

Meeting adjourned