

## **Minutes – PA Meeting 3/23/17 (Submitted by Julie Subrin)**

**8:30 a.m. Meeting called to order**

**Minutes approved – Julie Subrin**

### **President's Report**

-Miss Chocolate fundraiser starting – ends April 19

### **Treasurer's Report – Norma Gonzalez**

-Balance to date: \$36,142.79

### **Upcoming Events – Megan Demarkis**

-3/31 Movie Night, volunteers needed to make and/or bring food, sell tickets & food

-Participatory Budgeting voting starts 3/25 – support PS 139-related proposals to fix up Argyle playground and to get ACs in all classrooms. We will have voting stations at the school that week; need volunteers to help staff.

-3/31 Last day to submit your School Family Survey \

### **Issues around Phys Ed Testing – Anthony Armstead**

-Some parents say students have complained that were pulled from lunch or recess for Phys Ed testing

-City requires that all students be tested. If students are absent when class is tested, Mr Armstead has to find a makeup time.

-Some students saw makeup test during lunch as punitive.

-Discussion on how to better communicate, and on better times to do makeup tests

### **Assembly Member Rodneyse Bichotte**

-Office moving; will hold open house in new office, 1312 Flatbush Ave (718/940-0428)

-Discusses current state budget deliberations

-Discussion of Medicaid, how funding is allocated.

-Parents request that there be water fountains in the neighborhood playgrounds.

-Discussion of the time it takes, after city or state funding is committed to a project, for the project to be completed. (It takes several years.)

-Our district has very low turnout; that impacts how effective our representatives will be.

### **Discussion: Are Lunch and Recess Long Enough? – Jennifer Lutton**

-Parents and students have expressed concern about the length of lunch and recess. A lot of kids report that they have about 10 minutes to eat, and 10 minutes to play outside. Others would like more options during recess, such as visiting the school library or gym, or playing chess.

-Concerned parents feel lunch should not be rushed, and that unstructured play is an important part of the day.

Principal McDonald addresses concerns:

-Students have 25 minutes for lunch and 25 minutes for recess.

-Changes in staff - new school aides - have meant some delays in getting kids to lunch and recess.

-We received a "[Playworks](#)" grant that will bring a professional play coach into the school, can train school aids.

-Focus in lower grades on "purposeful play."

-School will be offering music therapy, and yoga for grades 1-4 [I think?] this spring

-She will remind teachers (and parents can too) that they can always take kids outdoors to run around a bit if they need it

- We are short staffed in the kitchen, which has made food serving less efficient. She's been in touch with the food services manager and supervisor about this.
- School aide attending meeting emphasizes that students go out every day, regardless of temperature, unless it's raining, or there's snow or ice, making it unsafe. Occasionally, the school will be told to keep students indoors due to an investigation or emergency in the area.

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

- Pre-K and K getting an extended gardening program, 10 sessions for each pre-k student and parents with Farmer Kate
- there are slight elevations of [?? – I don't have the exact info; will add when I hear back from Mary] in some of the soil in the school around the school (not in the garden or areas children play in). Being addressed.
- School held a Math Bee for lower grades (see Rugby Road Reporter)
- 4/30 Chess team will hold a rummage sale during the Farmer's Market
- Two 2nd grade classes held mock trial at Brooklyn College Law School (see Rugby Road Reporter)
- A District 22 hiring fair is coming up - they will attend to see if there are some candidates that could fill openings at the school
- Need to replace plumbing (?) in three third grade classrooms due to elevated lead levels. No students were in danger.
- Question about student burned by a radiator. All radiators were immediately tested for temperature. All were safe. This is the first time this has ever happened at the school.
- She suggests we hold our meetings in a circle, perhaps could have tables set up on the stage. Also, for morning meetings, we could have coffee available.

### **School Mental Health – guest presentation**

David Halston, our School Mental Health Consultant, introduces Heather Grey, who facilitates school based mental health services for OHEL. She describes their psychotherapy services.

### **Other Business**

Karla Moore, a former PS 139 parent, made a pitch for the [SAAG Book Pals](#), in which actors are paired with classrooms and volunteer to read to them. If we are interested, we can contact her.

### **Communications and Technology Committee – Claire Pearce**

Rugby Road Reporter update: Next issue will be written by KIDS only. She will be accepting content through April, and would like to coordinate with guidance counselors, CAMBA, Youth Council, Kids Orbit, etc.