

Minutes – PA Meeting 11/18/15 (Submitted by Julie Subrin)

*Before meeting began, administrator Irene Varone led a meeting on School Safety, as required by the NYC DOE. Information on emergency procedures is available in the main office. Parent and caregiver suggestions: create a notice about the new door alarms to go home in backpacks; outreach to update phone numbers for school robo calls

*Also before meeting began, Dakota Burnett introduced a new leadership initiative to reward good behavior among students, and to encourage them to be kind, respectful, responsible and safe. Teachers will identify students other than their own who show they helping themselves, others, and the school. Collectively, classes earn tokens toward a prize. The guidance counselors are also creating a Youth Leadership Council and is facilitating service projects.

Meeting called to order

Minutes from October 2015 meeting read and approved – Liz

President’s Report – Indira Jucinic

- Harvest Night was a great success
- Thinking about a possible Winter event
- Noura had successful clothing swap. Would like to do a coat drive.

Gift Card Fundraiser – Liz Fleischman

- PA is launching our Fall Fundraiser, selling gift cards for shopping and everyday needs, with a portion of the sale going to the PA. Info packet to be distributed in backpacks later this week. Will end it Dec. 10. Can do another round later.
- Questions: Could we add a link or button for the fundraiser to our website?

Budget report – Liz F.

Budget has been amended to reflect new expenses we approved - Pre-K startup funds; field trip scholarship fund; NY Cares lunch; \$\$ for new afterschool clubs (robotics, finance)

Amended Bylaws – Susanna Stein

-In the process of preparing application for 501-c-e, a law firm providing pro bono assistance reviewed our bylaws and helped us update them. We now need to vote on them. Copies are available at meeting, on website, or by request. We’ll vote on them at next meeting.

SLT Report – Val Kostinenko

- Divided into groups to review curriculum goals, approaches.
- Parent notes that she finds SLT not parent-friendly, or parent-led. Would like to get agenda ahead of time, and have clearer explanation of what’s going on.

-Another parent recalls that last year the SLT agreed it would be useful to offer a workshop for caregivers on how the CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan) works. Hasn't happened yet.

Development Report – Susanna S.

-Fairway approved a request to give us 600 key chains which are scanned at point of purchase, with 4% of the cost of purchase going toward the PA.

-Reminder: if you go to Amazon via the button on the PS139.org website, a percentage of the sale goes to the PA.

-Grant committee met, and has divided their research into 3 categories – math & science; arts; and gardening.

-In contact with Ms. Jonynas and sharing leads about music grants.

-Two teachers are eager to pursue an afterschool theater program.

-Susanna will attend a Foundation Center workshop on grant writing.

-We should update and re-distribute our Dear Neighbors letter and send out with the 501-c-3 information. Before holidays ideally.

5th Grade Committee – Maria Caridi

-Submitted request to Bishop Ford H.S.

-Graduation set for Thursday 6/16

Tech & Communications Report - Claire Sering

-Cancelled Harvest Night special issue of Rugby Reporter newsletter because not enough submissions

-Next issue comes out just before winter break; let her know if you have ideas for subjects

Parent Outreach – Liliana Vasquez & Maria Martinez

-Walking group still happening – all welcome! Meet outside main entrance on Tuesdays just after dropoff. Wear comfortable shoes. Spread the word.

-If more people want to participate, could add other days and times.

Raffle drawing – winner gets \$25 gift certificate to Catskills Bagels

Meeting Adjourned