PTA Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 21, 2014

1. **Principal's Report : Ms. Eve Litwack**
   -Thank PTA for **Auction** – fantastic!
   -This week, **Ballroom Dance** – 4th grade – MS 88 performance
   -**African Dance** – 3rd grade parents – being on stage makes a big difference.
   -Wed, final sessions w/Deb Armitage – **Math Exemplars** – was not well attended. Still, Deb had after-school meetings with teachers. She says she has seen incredible growth in the kids in their ability to problem solve. She helps us all understand expectations (Common Core Math). One issue that came up was the use of strict rubric to evaluate kids' work. Her point: kids need to understand the expectations. Might inform the math grade. Feels rigid, but expectations are high.
   -Yesterday we had our **ELA predictive test** for grades 3, 4, 5. A number of kids very anxious. The experience helped kids understand how long 70 minutes is, what to anticipate for the tests.
   -**Frost Valley** – not happening next year – confirmed that is true. However, other things that are going to happen in its place. Eve will give more info at Middle School and May PTA meeting. **Eve asks please do not discuss with your kids now, since they have a lot on their plates now.**
   -We also have a **Quality Review** May 12 and 13 we are getting ready for. Eve wants to get fully-prepared for that.
   -**Middle School Meeting** – June 3rd – Tues. 6:30pm.
   -**Kindergarten Armory** – crossing guards have mandated break time. Eve proposing K will have Gym in Yard. Not ideal. But no crossing guard. Problem is that we cannot re-adjust the Prep schedule. Parents should not feel responsible for the crossing of the kids. Ultimately, the teacher is responsible. And they are on Prep. If parents can come, make a core group of parents, maybe it is possible? Can't bring younger kids (babies/toddlers) to Armory though. K parents will try and coordinate a Sign Up Genius to get volunteers. Eve also suggests ordering ropes for kids to hold as they cross street for extra safety.
   -**Next 2 First Fridays** need to be on 2nd Fridays of the Month. So, no 1st Friday on 4/4, and in May it will be Friday 5/9.

2. **Parent Coordinator: Ms. Heather Damon**

-**School Surveys** – if you have not please complete. We appreciate your input. Winners are Ms. Shannon and Ms. Gina, Ms. Porze, Ms. Dominique
-All kids names will go into raffle to win an Ipod Touch.
-Surveys are confidential.

3. **President's Report: Alyse Dosik**
-Parks Rec Department gave YMCA grant for swim which has been cancelled. YMCA covering half the cost of the last class of 2nd grade going this year. PTA asked to contribute the other half ($50/child)

Vote on Redistributing Budget to cover 2nd Grade Swim, $4,500 to complete rest of 2nd grade swim. We need vote that we can use $ out of discretionary fund, new line item in budget
-we pay for supplies (goggle, swim bags)
-Part 2- moving forward – right now we do a 15 week swim program.
33 people in attendance
Yes___33
No____0
Abstain____0_
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

-**New Board** positions open in 2014-15- Recording, Communications and Treasurer. – consider running!
-**New SLT** positions available – Steve and Vicki described. – also, consider running!

-2nd – 5th grade – **drop off at Big Yard.**
-Next PTA meeting – In April – **African Dance** will be performing.
-Movie Night! Hopefully soon, raising funds for Swim Program. There will be a sign up genius so space will be limited. Ms. Diane will watch them.
-**Cell Phone donations** – we are still accepting. We are close to being the winning school. Please bring it in, if you have.
-Spring Fling – April 10th. Need people to sign up. Need bakers, etc.
-**Teaching kids to Code** – Marci – trying to bring in residency program. Hour of Code.

4. **Auction Update: Julia Austen-Brown**

-We made a good amount of $, made at least $45K profit, all #'s are not yet in.
-2nd chance auction is open – on Sign-up genius.
-Hand bid was new this year –learning curve for everyone, will be slightly different.
-we are going to need more help next year, thank you to all who helped this year.

5. **Heritage Day: Vicki Sell**

-Next Sat. – not too late to sign up to do a room
-looking for food donations for International Food Court.
-Dorothy Scanlon set up a sign up genius.
-Need more volunteers to set up, help during the day.
-Bag Piper Pat Duffy will be back. Other entertainers.
-Free day, suggested donation, so come out for this wonderful day!!

6. **Africa Drive: Carey Dalton**
-We are collecting various items, but specifically Adult Bikes. Please bring if you have.
-Also doing **Art Exchange** with Mark Grashow during Africa Drive. 3rd and 4th graders created Mosaic Tiles – with Brooklyn Theme. – put into a Mural – in Yard during Africa Drive (Saturday). Kids will finish it in the yard. Zimbabwean kids will send us a Mural too!!
-**Drop off is ONLY Friday 28 and Sat 29th. Friday** should be outside school. We cannot take anything until Friday the 28th.
-Carey needs boxes – like Fresh Direct, broken down, please!! To store donations.

7. **SLT: Steve Kreps – description of responsibilities**
-talk about curriculum and policy.
-great opportunity to spend time talking with teachers and principal to understand.
-recommend experience highly.
-one of major missions is to develop comprehensive education plan – get opportunity to understand the goals of the school. Also what DOE requires.
-these are elected positions – you have to run for it.
-meetings are 3-5pm every 3rd Wed of the month.

8. **Treasurer Report: Lauren Cooperman**
-See Lauren if you'd like to take a look at budget.

9. **VP Fundraising: Angela Kurzawa**
   -Book Fair – Coming in May
   -Gear Sale – we have ordered new gear to replace $4 k of gear that was damaged.

10. **Questions**
   -has there been a survey of programs we do? Is it worth it to do a survey of parents or kids to get an overview on which programs we want to continue and those people are less excited about?
   --(answer)--there is a survey every year of the teachers. Many meetings with heads of residencies as well for feedback. Every trip, there is a survey.

11. **Green and Healthy**
   -**Week of Wonder** coming up – Last week of May
   -need help in **garden**
   -**Partnership** Meeting – Kate Rope getting feedback from kids – kids suggested: chicken too dry, add tacos. Complain to this Partnership group or Heather Damon.