

Minutes

PTA Meeting – PS 107

September 26, 2013

1. Welcome – Marin Riegger

- Intro – all board members

2. Administration Report – Ms. Eve

- 4 new teachers – Ed Schultz and Tamara Chabar – 4th Grade, 1st Grade is Diedre MacDougal, and 2nd Grade is Caren Goldberg.
- Good news – Strong Programming in place – Heather Damon worked hard on the Prep schedule anchor for teachers – extra outdoor play for all grades – necessary as kids are working harder than ever due to Common Core Standards and testing.
- You can always contact your teachers – all have an email address dedicated to the classroom. Please do not email anything about playdates, or changes to that day's schedule. Better to put a note in the homework folder.
- State Tests – we did incredibly well. We were # 25 in the entire city and #6 in Brooklyn. Now that we know what the tests are like, we can better prepare for this year.
 - 5th grade scores did drop – we decided to departmentalize 5th grade this year – kids rotate through the classes. Separate Math, Writing and Reading teachers. Kids have planners, they organize their materials. Like a "gentle version of Middle School". Teachers are raving about it. Getting kids to the meat and potatoes of their work. Not all about test prep – but will prep them for Middle School
- We have an Inclusion class on every year (K–5). Team Teaching model. ICT.
- Respect Initiative/Community Standards – we want to ensure kids are on board. A code of behavior and expectations that you will be respectful of others, each other's property, the school property and not hurt each other.
 - There will be an Upstanders Assembly for 3, 4, 5 grade next week. School is a safe place.
 - Trying to make lunch time a calm time.
- Security System installed this summer, in particular our little backyard.
- Professional Development, funded partly by PTA dollars.
 - Math Exemplars

- TC Staff Developers
- Inquiry Teams – teacher-led teams, to explore Kahn Academy, Charlotte Danielson (teacher effectiveness) to make what we're doing more effective.
- Results of School Survey – teachers feel school is really clean. And we all feel safe in school. We're working on providing more info on IEP's, we'll do a meeting about those services to keep parents informed. Parents also indicated they wanted more feedback on child's progress from teachers. Teachers understand and we're working on that.
- Class Size – 3rd grade– we only have 3 (three) 3rd grade classes – and have 32 kids/class. Eve lowered class size for 4th grade but left 3rd grade. To mitigate, we've hired Kim Landman, who was on staff here. She's coming PT to help all 3rd grade teachers handle the size of the class. We also have an intern from Hunter College graduate school of education – PT. We have 583 kids enrolled. We had our school zone cut to manage the # of kids enrolled. But we'll have less money every year to run programs we want. Eve will be asking PTA to fund this. – We have space – but we do not have the \$ to support teachers for that space. She would like to have 4 (four) 3rd grade classes next year, but not sure if we can.
- Teacher Evaluation System – 37 classroom teachers and out of class teachers. Each needs to be observed 6 times/year. A weird and stressful time for the teachers. The more positive you can be with teachers, the better it'll be. Evaluations are done by Eve and Pascale.
- Science is done by classroom teachers – Ms. Silvetti is now a K teacher. This is how it had always been prior to last year.

3. Rosalena Diaz – CEC Representative

- High Stakes Testing – PS 107 did well, but city-wide, scores went down. Reflect race, socio-economic status, inequity. There is a meeting coming up on Monday, September 30th. Please come. At 7pm at MS 51. As parents, we have immense power.

4. Heather Damon, Parent Coordinator

- 5th grade – MS tours start already
- 4th grade – lateness and absences count negatively against MS admission.
- Ensure if your child is absent, there is a note to explain.
- Lice – we had a lot – PLEASE stay on top of it. Do not send them to school if there are bugs. Next recheck is Oct 1st.

- DOE – 2nd week of Oct – Parents as Partners Week – events all over 5 boros. Screenings and Workshops.

5. Angela Kurzawa – Fundraising Update

- First Fri Gear Sale – Oct 4th. Next big gear sale is Fall Festival. We need lots of volunteers that day too to help with gear sale.
- Photo Day – October 3rd, Thursday. Next week – please remember. We need volunteers then too! In the morning only. Class pictures are this day only. Important to ensure your kid is here that day.
- Winter Book Fair – Dec 2nd – 6th – one of our biggest fundraisers.
- Don't forget to shop online through our website link "Shop 107" – Target, Amazon, Pottery Barn Kids, etc.!

6 . Alyse Dosik – Fall Festival and Events Update

- Fall Festival – Saturday , Oct 19th
 - Chili and Pie Contest, dunk tank, face painting, bake sale, inflatables, Velcro wall,
 - Run entirely by us – we need everyone to pitch in and volunteer – sell tickets, make cotton candy, popcorn!,
- Net tickets – Sat Nov 9th – 50 seats sold – we can buy more seats – we will buy 20 more seats at least.
- PS 107 Day – Monday, Oct 7th – after school on Oct 4th there will be a pop up activity. Our Spirit Committee is running this – Making Blue and Gold colored rainbow looms. There will be a big graffiti wall in the big yard "What We love about 107" – PS 10 tattoos available. Wear your blue and gold on spirit day – or your gym shirt!
- Progressive Dinner – Sat Nov 16th – a fabulous evening – amazing community –builder –just for parents. Cocktails, Dinner and Dessert at 3 different homes.
- Alice Waters and Mollie Katzen – an opportunity to have them come speak to us. Would require everyone to purchase the cookbook – \$65.
- Auction – March 14th – talk to Julia or Allison
- Science Day Jan 25th – theme is Architecture and Engineering. Contact Science committee chairs.

6. Lauren Cooperman – Treasurers Report

- We've already raised \$85K in parent donations. Exceeded last year.

7.Vicki Sell –SLT Report

- One change this year – parents will give report at PTA meeting – Steve Kreps, Deborah Iarussi, Heidi Igoe are other parent reps. Please seek us out if you want to discuss school-related issues.

- Participatory Budgeting Process – Brad Lander District 39, a parent here, takes \$1M of his discretionary funds and has constituents vote on what they want funded. Has to be a capital improvement project. Schools got \$ for Bathrooms and technology – smartboards, laptops,. Maybe street safety initiative? (bump outs?)
- Discussion ensued about speeding around school – so many accidents –

8.Jim Brennan– Assemblyman

- Brought us info on Education budget –
- Designated \$7K in budget for PS 107.
- State budget – complicated. When adopted in spring, he described the difficulties. The year before Governor put in clause that said if collective bargaining teacher evaluation system was not decided upon, NYC would not get State Aid. He penalized NYC school system – redux of \$350M in state aid, Community campaign organized – 1000 signatures – State Assembly was successful in eliminating follow up penalty – State ended up giving NYC school an extra \$600M this September.
- State Aid funds about 50 cents on the dollar for school construction activities.
- Cuomo has been stingy about education.
- Many of onerous requirements on School System come from the State. Up to legislature to change the laws – persuade the Regents to reduce some of the requirements.
- Oct 22nd – Camp Friendship – Community Workshop and Forum on Energy Conservation and Solar Energy. 7 different presenters, 3 different solar installers and contractors. Home owners should come to see what services are available. Many large apartment buildings have requirements – someone from city will be discussing that,. Demos.
- Nov 12th – Jim sponsoring seminar at Beth Emeth Temple – “bringing non–profits to a new level.” In Flatbush.

9.Stacey Petruzella – Green and Healthy 107 –

- CSA – starting Oct 1st – \$205 for season – link on wbeiste. Tonight is the last night to

10.Marin Riegger – President’s report

- SOS – parents raised \$73,000 for that! An incredible effort. Because of that we have Kim Landman come help our 3rd grade classrooms.
- We need PE and lunch volunteers in lower grades. Both are really fun and valued opportunities to help.

- If your kids are going home with someone else – please send a note in writing.
- Marin is leaving at the end of October. Next month there is an election –2 positions are open:
 - Alyses’s Social Chair role and
 - an additional position as 8th board member.
 - Please, if you are interested, please reach out. We tally results from both Thurs eve and Fri am mini-meeting.
- Marin introduced Committee Chairs.