

MINUTES  
PTA Meeting  
PS295, The Studio School for Art and Culture  
Tuesday, November 17, 2009  
Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm

**Ruth Conroy**

October 20, Minutes approved

We need another parent liaison

**Principal Deana Marco**

Began with an announcement touting the success of the music and dance programs. The Brooklyn Conservatory teachers are excellent – our regular classroom teachers lauding their work.

Ms. Heller is working well with kids – she has great classroom management and time management skills. We want her to work with Miss Higgins this spring, and am applying for TAP grant. She is working with Miss Higgins now to set up programs incase we don't get TAP grant.

H1N1 vaccines are all complete, the booster will happen in 28 days. Thanks to parent volunteers for making that happen. About 30% of students opted in.

We are beginning a Title III program for English language learners, starting in Dec. 1

AIS cycle 1 will end after the Thanksgiving break. The new cycle begins January 5<sup>th</sup>.

PBIS update – 2 parent workshops, next 1/11/10 teachers giving out “bees” and children will be shopping in store starting next week. They will “buy” non-tangible items (extra play, lunch with teacher etc). There will be information posted on our website detailing ways in which PBIS can be implemented at home.

Parent/Teacher conferences went well. If you don't feel like you had enough time to talk, set up an individual appt with your child's teacher.

School Spirit day has been a success. Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, kids are encouraged to wear pajamas to school.

Assemblies are beginning. We cannot fit all the parents and kids in the auditorium. On the day that your own kids are performing, parents can come during the dress rehearsal, 8:30-9:00, to see what they've done.

Attendance and lateness policy: too many students were coming in late, up to 85 kids a day. The administration is now telling parents how many minutes their

children were late, and, after implementing this policy, the numbers went to approximately 10. If kids are late 4 times in 30 days, they are sent a letter home. There is a small percentage of students who are still coming in late, if anyone needs support getting your kids in on time, please ask Deanna or Lisa for help. As of Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 8:25 is official "late time." A lot of discussion ensued about how difficult it is to drive and drop off the kids. Maybe we need a "stop, drop and go" policy implemented.

### **Kim Quiros – fundraiser's report**

There is a 25k running balance in the PTA bank account, with about 35k coming in on top of that, and 35k going out. The dance and music cost 17k, 10k was paid for by the PTA, and the rest from other sources. If we cannot raise other contributions/monies towards the Dance and Music programs next year, then we cannot afford said programs with only 15k left in the bank. This does not factor in any new expenditures for new programs that we may need, or desire to implement.

There was a fundraising meeting prior to PTA meeting. We need MORE people involved with fundraising. This year fundraising is more important than ever because of budget cuts. The \$25,000 budget was depleted a lot because of dance and music programs costing \$17,000.

Need co-chairs for committees: will get all volunteer opportunities posted on the website. You can also just ASK Kim what you can do to help.

Harvest Festival made over \$1000.

Craft Fair volunteer meeting will be Friday morning after drop off. Who will be co-chair of craft fair? A co-chair can also have a table at the event. Need people to sell baked goods, warm soup, hot chocolate... Need people to hand out posters.

Bingo night raised about \$150, and \$25 in t-shirt sales.

Next First Friday Family Fun night is 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in Dec. (4<sup>th</sup>) 60's prom night. Martin will be spinning the discs. Donate food, baked goods, juices...

Barnes and Noble gift wrapping volunteers. We volunteer to wrap presents and people will donate to the school. PS295 got Dec. 18 4-10, 19<sup>th</sup> 4-10, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the 24<sup>th</sup>. If you volunteer for this, please don't bring your kids.

Voucher program – set up PS 295 bookfair in B and N. cannot stand anywhere near B and N to hand out flyers. If people buy from the 295 bookfair, we get a percentage of sales.

### **UNA**

T-shirts – hope to have by craft fair, trying to sell them at every event, and check the website for gifts

Boxtops, inktoners and paper donations will all be in one box, remember to shop online thru our school's page at boxtops, so we get a percentage of the sales. There are also monthly coupons. There are a lot of stores participating: Target, Amazon...

We need someone to volunteer to send the boxtops and inktoners off.

### **Charlotte Mendelaar**

There will be a thermometer in the newsletter every week showing what has been donated in order to encourage people to donate. Donating is voluntary, there is no "suggested" amount. Dues are tax deductible.

Lice enders, we got in \$700. We paid out \$4000.

The current budget does not include dance and music expenses.

### **Ruth Conroy**

We're happy that children come to the events, but it gets very chaotic. We need to keep the children under control at the events. It needs to be made clear what children are allowed to do in the school when school is not in session. The rules can be posted in the Thursday bulletin. It was suggested that the doors are blocked off with caution tape.

BRIC grant update – dates of service of our artists do not coincide with the dates of service for the BRIC grant. The TAP grant does coincide with dates, so we will still be applying.

Gang awareness meeting will probably be held in Dec. It is only for parents. Amy Castro is spearheading the awareness program. This is just to inform parents about what is happening in the neighborhood regarding gangs.

### **Website – Corey, Jackie, Tal**

The website is a mess. The structure is in place, it just has to be implemented, and will be by the beginning of the year. There will be a "donate" button on the homepage. There will be space to accommodate everyone's needs and wishes. They are literally starting from scratch to get this going. Managing calendar will be taken over by Shari.

### **New business**

Need to form a nominating committee for next year's EC. If someone wants to be on the committee, they should talk to Shari.

Ms. Parlato needs a paper cutter and electric pencil sharpener, and other supplies.

### **Shari –**

Pie sale ends on Friday, we make a significant percentage on every pie we sell

Mtg adjourned at 7:45