

**P.S. 334 – The Anderson School –  
September 25, 2013 PTA AM General Meeting  
Approved**

Meeting came to order at 8:40 AM.

**Attendees:** 93 parents

- I. Principal's Report:** Jodi Hyde reported:
- a. **Maternity Leave:** Ms. Hyde is due on 11/4, and plans to work until 11/1.
    - i. Mr. Schliessman and Ms. Jordan will run the school in her absence. Someone from the network will also visit once a week
  - b. **The Principal's grade level morning breakfast meetings will be starting soon.**
    - i. 6<sup>th</sup> grade is on Monday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>
  - c. **Chancellor Wolcott Visit:** Chancellor Wolcott visited the school to congratulate Anderson on their scores.
  - d. **Meet the teacher night, High school night:** We held these important events recently.
  - e. **New Core Team Members:**
    - i. The new nurse, Danielle Clark, has 18 years experience as a nurse. She will try to send children back to the classroom, if they are OK.
    - ii. We have a new addition to the Wellness in the Schools team, Cook Sterling.
    - iii. We can't continue with Playworks, but we hired Josh Knight as recess coordinator and as an assistant for P.E. and Jesse Sanchez (new P.E. teacher) will organize some evening family events.
    - iv. Melissa DeChillo is a new 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, who taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Brooklyn for nine years.
    - v. James Woo is a new math teacher for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
    - vi. Bianca Ambrosie is the new part-time Spanish teacher.
    - vii. There is a new chess teacher, from NY Chess Kids – Ivan, who is working during the day.
  - f. **Yard:** The new yard is beautiful. There are different zones for different types of play.
  - g. **Wellness room:** There are 14 different pieces of equipment in the Wellness room. Kids grades 6-8 can use it. Permission slips went home. No child will be there without adult supervision.
  - h. **Office Hours:** Every other Monday, middle school teachers will alternate and hold office hours for kids who want to talk to them and get extra help.
  - i. **Mr. Robert:** Mr. Robert is our Artist-in-Residence, working on Wednesdays for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and in the cafeteria.
  - j. **Chess:** We have a new chess teacher who will also be offering chess in the cafeteria on Thursdays.
  - k. **Musical:** Mr. Shaheen will be announcing the musical for grades 5-8 soon. Thursdays and Fridays are rehearsals, auditions end of October.

- l. **Half-Day Proposal:** As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a new state-mandated teacher evaluation system, where teachers are now rated on 22 components. The old pass/fail system was around for 80 years before that. Teachers now must have 30 hours of Professional Development during the school year, for one year only. Whatever option we decide upon, approval from the DOE takes 6-8 weeks.

The teachers and administration are proposing that the 30 hours be broken up over 6 half days. Buses would pick up at the end of the ½ day. Teaching assistants would do babysitting until the end of the regular school day. We've reached out to Wingspan for additional alternatives, and want the PTA to supplement with money from Greenlea. We are expecting them to do programs such as assembly, movies, or enrichment until the end of the regular Wingspan afterschool program.

The plan is to do the half days in Nov., Dec., Jan, Feb, Mar, and May. Not April, since there is so much state testing. There are some restrictions to which dates we can choose. For example, it can't be on a week that we already have a day off, and it can't be on a Friday before a 3-day weekend. Some parents wanted Fridays, so the school would try to accommodate 2-3 Fridays. The teachers have approved this plan. Now the parents need to approve.

Several teachers spoke in favor of this plan and among the points mentioned were:

- i. Having a designated chunk of time would be more productive and allow the whole K-8 school to work efficiently.
- ii. There are extra days built-in to the school year for bad weather, above and beyond the minimum days we have to be in school, so we feel we can cover these days without having additional school days or impede learning.
- iii. Teachers can help parents arrange playdates.

We voted on a motion to approve the administration request for 6 half days. 78 voted yes, 3 were opposed, there were 0 recognized abstentions (however some people chose not to vote).

We then voted on a motion to express support for funding a reasonable amount of expenses to provide afterschool services to our school on these half-days. This passed unanimously. Once the final cost and dates of these services are obtained, there will be another vote on this.

## II. **President's Report:**

- a. **Minutes:** The June general meeting minutes were passed unanimously.
- b. **Nominations:** We have nominations for Kindergarten rep, Communications, and Budget Committee. We will vote on them at the October PTA meeting.

## III. **Fundraising:**

- a. **Direct Appeal:** Amy Davidson (VP, Fundraising) said the direct appeal this week did very well. We had over 43% participation, but we're only half-way there. We will have an end-of-year campaign in December, then a matching campaign in May. The family of Declan Rusk won the Macbook Air giveaway.
- b. **KidCreate:** We will have KidCreate 1/25, with amazing creative activities for kids.
- c. **KidFit:** KidFit is scheduled for 5/3, and has wonderful fitness activities.
- d. **Picture Day:** Picture day will be Thursday, 10/17 between 1-2:30pm.
- e. **Movie Night:** 10/25 is a Halloween movie night – always fun for the kids.
- f. **Auction:**
  - i. The auction will be in March.
  - ii. We are looking for a date and venue.
  - iii. We need additional volunteers
  - iv. It was noted that our online auction runs all year and reaches beyond our school. This is a great way to place time-sensitive donations.

IV. **SLT Report:** A description of what the School Leadership Team does was provided. Issues regarding the school's curriculum and educational plan can be sent to your SLT representative. If you have personal issues w teachers, go to teacher or principal.

## V. **Parent Involvement.**

- a. We need more learning leaders.
- b. We are always looking for more volunteers but we need them especially in the Library and at Lunch.
- c. The auction is also a great place for new parents to get involved.

## VI. **Community Affairs:**

- a. **Description:** Community Affairs represents the school on matters relating to the community beyond our school.
- b. **Grant:** We were awarded a Reso-A grant for security cameras.
- c. **G&T Symposium:** There is a G&T symposium on October 26<sup>th</sup>. See members of the Community Affairs team for more information.

## VII. **Communications:**

- a. **Directory:** If you find an error in the school directory, please contact Laura Mount at llmount88@gmail.com.

**VIII. Adjournment:** We adjourned at approximately 9:45 AM.