

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

Meeting came to order at 6:20pm.

Attendees: 23 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.
 - b. **Chancellor Wolcott Visit:** Chancellor Wolcott visited the school to congratulate Anderson on their scores.
 - c. **Meet the teacher night, High school night:** We held these important events recently.
 - d. **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 Jesse Sanchez (new P.E. teacher) will organize some evening family events.
 - iv. Melissa DeChillo is a new 4th grade teacher, who taught 5th grade in Brooklyn for nine years.
 - v. James Woo is a new math teacher for the 6th 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.
 - e. **Yard:** The new yard is beautiful. There are different zones for different types of play.
 - f. **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.
 - g. **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.
 - h. **Mr. Robert:** Mr. Robert is our Artist-in-Residence, working on Wednesdays for 1st and 2nd grade, and in the cafeteria.
 - i. **Chess:** We also have chess in the cafeteria on Thursdays.
 - j. **Musical:** Mr. Shaheen will be announcing the musical for grades 5-8 soon. Thursdays and Fridays are rehearsals, auditions end of October.
 - k. **Half-Day Proposal:** As of June 1st, 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. They will have teaching assistants to do babysitting. We've reached out to Wingspan for alternatives, and want the PTA to supplement with money from Greenflea. We are expecting them to do programs such as assembly, movies, or enrichment. If you are a Wingspan season passport member, these half days are already included. We are also talking to other sports groups.

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 will try to accommodate 2-3 Fridays.

Ms. Chandonnet (Spanish Teacher) explained that they considered 3 options:

1. Extended day: But that's needed for struggling learners and accelerated learners. Also it's only 37.5 minutes, which is too short. And elementary students do not have extended day.

2. Teachers are mandated to have 5 periods to prepare lesson plans, but some have 1-2 more. But teachers use it for meetings with other teachers by subject. It's 50 minutes. There are also faculty meetings once a month for 45 minutes, but these are useful to determine scope and sequence and unit studies.

3. Half-Days: Having a larger chunk of time would be more productive and allow the whole K-8 school to work efficiently. 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 an issue to have additional school days or impede learning.

(Full days are not an option. And we can't do late arrival because of the buses.)

What will teachers learn?

- The Danielson framework
- How to define an effective and highly effective teacher
- Aligning the curriculum with common core standards.

Mr. Moy added an appeal to sympathy for parents to think what's best for the children.

Teachers can help parents pool playdates and alternate, so parents don't have to take every half day off.

P.S. 183 also doing 6 half days, special music school. 452 doing 20 minutes per week.

We voted on a motion to approve the administration request for 6 half days. 12 voted yes, 3 were opposed, and there were 0 abstentions.

Then we voted on a motion to use surplus funding for Greenflea to fund activities for the kids on the half days, and this passed unanimously. Once the final cost and dates are obtained, there will be a vote in October.

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. Treasurer/Budget Report:

- a. Wil McKoy (Budget Committee Co-Chair) gave a brief update. The audit is not complete yet. Finances closed last year in good shape. We project a flat budget, where revenues meet expenses. Revenue came in as expected last year. Contingency will cover fringe expenses.

IV. 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:** The auction will be in March. We are looking for a date and venue.

V. SLT Report: Joy reported that you can e-mail your SLT rep. to get things discussed. If you have personal issues w teachers, go to teacher or principal.

VI. Community Affairs:

- a. **Grant:** We were awarded a Reso-A grant for security cameras.
- b. **PCBs:** The PCB removal will be completed by 2015. We don't know where Anderson is on the list, but it will probably be done over the Summer. There is now a second company working on it, so it should go faster.

VII. Communications:

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

VIII. New Business/Questions:

- a. **New class reps.:** If you are a new class rep., you should e-mail your child's teacher to introduce yourself and talk to parents. If you need help understanding the responsibilities, please see a PTA Executive Board member, including the other grade reps.

IX. Adjournment: We adjourned at 7:15pm.