



THE ANDERSON SCHOOL (P.S. 334)
PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

2/10/14 – Approved Minutes

Attendees: 17 Executive Board Members

We commenced at 6:20pm.

I. President's Report - Joy Heinze (Co-President) reported that:

A. Minutes: The January Executive Board minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Technology: Since the paddle raiser at last year's auction was for technology, the request for new computers is only for up to \$25K for 33 PowerBooks – replacing one cart. Ms. Hyde would like to purchase MacBooks, which will have Microsoft software on them. In addition, we will find out from teachers how they might tablets in classrooms. We agreed to recommend to the general parent body to support:

- 1) The current school administration computer request (33 Power Books, 30iPads and related equipment);
- 2) Give the administration the ultimate discretion to decide if they need the iPads;
- 3) Spend the \$32,050 in restricted funding from the Paddle Raiser on the current school administration computer request;
- 4) Approve an increase of the current year PTA budget by as much as \$25,000 for one time computer purchase to cover the additional money needed (above what's in the Paddle Raiser) for the purchase of the 33 PowerBooks and related equipment quoted at \$41,974.90 and allow for money for the possible purchase of the iPads as well.

There's a 3-year plan where the administration reviewed the smart boards and projectors and rated them. They are putting in for a Reso-A grant to purchase those that need replacing.

C. Electives: There is a Wellness election that uses WITS – it has classes on cooking and good eating habits.

D. Organizing: There will be a seminar on getting organized for the 8th and 5th grade, and one for parents.

E. Science Equipment: Because of the fire in the Beacon school, NYC schools are mandated to get safety equipment. We need to purchase a hood and fire blankets.

F. Journal: The journal is underway, but we need help with ad sales.

G. Bridge: 15 kids per week have been participating in Bridge.

H. Club and Sports Budget: The administration is looking at the overall club and sports budget, which will be funded more equally based on the number of kids that participate. Amy Davidson (VP, Fundraising) suggested the Administration and SLT review the mission of the school vs. the clubs, to make sure we are in alignment with our goals.

I. KidCreate: Kat DeHaen (Fundraising Committee) did a great job with KidCreate, and we had a wonderful turn-out from the building. She is planning KidFit now.

J. Signage: We are looking at new signage. Funds will be used from the existing budget.

K. Taste of the Upper West Side: We are working on the plan for closing the yard for this event.

L. Pi Day: There will be a grade assembly for Pi Day.

M. Family Nights: We are planning a fun fitness event for families.

N. Copier Issues: The copier count was close to 80K copies, and we are looking at options.

O. Assistant Teacher Policy: We looked into the option of paying assistant teachers for snow days. They can make up hours with other opportunities. There is also a policy that assistant teachers can only be here 2 years.

P. After-School Program: We looked into prices for other after-school programs, and found that Wingspan is a good deal, by far. **Grade reps:** Please give us feedback from parents who use Wingspan to see if they're happy. For example, maybe we need more sports. We plan to fold in chess and bridge to Wingspan.

Q. Aladdin Ticket Sales: We plan to sell Aladdin tickets with assigned seating, and ticket prices are set. There will be a pre-sale for the parents right after the break with kids in the show, with a ticket limit. All tickets will be sold on-line. There will be 40 tickets set aside for students, to buy at lunch for \$5.

R. Security: We are getting better cameras and security.

S. Math Teacher: Ms. Johnson is going on maternity leave, and the administration has a plan to cover for her leave.

T. Professional Development: The half days have been very successful for the teachers to use in their professional development.

U. Greenflea Executive Director Search: Greenflea has 3 candidates to interview on Friday.

II. Auction - Joli Golden (Community Affairs) discussed:

A. Paddle Raiser: The paddle raiser at the auction raises funds that are restricted for use for a specific purpose. It is supposed to be a one-time expense that will not be absorbed into budget. People are proposing that this year it be for music/drama/art, afterschool activities, or sports and wellness (WITS). Joli will check with Ms. Hyde to ensure we have capacity to accommodate some of these options in the school day and facilities. If any one has other ideas, e-mail Joli.

III. SLT - Mindy Wigutow (PTA Rep to the SLT) reviewed the discussion at SLT:

A. Cafeteria: The food ran out at lunch, one day earlier this year, but this seems to be an isolated incident and was addressed by new food service staff.

B. Homework: Math and Spanish are topics of discussion at every SLT meeting. Parents in the 7th grade have a Facebook page to share homework. Administration would prefer that parents use the school website for this purpose. The News from Anderson website will let parents communicate.

C. Homework Policy: Some teachers have reported that the homework policy is not always working. Homework doesn't always count as part of your grade and some kids do not take their homework seriously enough. There will be a committee of teachers and administration in the Summer to review this policy.

D. Food Allergy Policy: A Food Allergy Committee was created, which will review seating for kids with food allergies and bullying.

E. Cultural Committee: A Cultural Committee was created to review multicultural issues at our school.

IV. Grade Reps:

A. SLT Minutes: We will make sure that all parents are getting the SLT minutes.

V. Treasurer's Report – Barbara Yam (Co-Treasurer) reported that:

A. Audit: We are waiting for another Auditor to evaluate before we pick a new one.

B. Auction Projects: Funding for the auction projects has been moved to the auction budget. Auction Reps should bring receipts all at once to the auction people. The receipts have to be broken down by class.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.