



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

May 2014 PTA Approved Minutes

The meeting commenced at 6:15pm.

Attendees: 22 parents

- I. **President's Report:** Joy Heinze (PTA Co-President) reported:
- A. **ELA Test:** Anderson's 5th Grade was asked to do a field test of questions by Pearson and the state of NY. But it takes away class time and gives additional stress to the kids. The school wrote a letter to them and got a response. They won't allow the school to opt out, but individuals can.
 - B. **Peer Review:** Anderson hasn't been reviewed for 3 years.
 - C. **Music Purchase:** We purchased and received keyboard equipment and new risers for the auditorium.
 - D. **Journal:** We are still waiting on editorial and ads for the journal.
 - E. **SCA Closure Schedule 2015:** We are waiting for the School Construction Authority to provide a schedule for the school building closure for the summer of 2015, in order to know when Greenflea will close during that time.
 - F. **Circus:** The National Circus is coming and will be teaching kids in a variety of grades all sorts of tricks in gym.
 - G. **Organizers:** As part of a June enrichment, we will have a session for some grades in time management.
 - H. **Grade Reps.:** Please tell your class chaperones to take photos on trips.
 - I. **Gifts:** We are short class gift fund money. There was a motion to make up the make up the money with unrestricted PTA funds this year. Next year, we'll just take the amount we get and split it for Holidays and end of year. The vote passed unanimously.
 - J. **Last Day of School Event:** Last year, we invited the other schools to the last day of school event. It cost a few thousand dollars and 100 kids participated. We had a motion not to do the event this year, and there was a unanimous vote.
 - K. **Nominations:** Kate Cohn (K Rep) will distribute the list of nominations for next year's PTA slate at the PTA general meeting. We still need a Recording Secretary and an Alternate Secretary. Elections will be held in June.
 - L. **Auction:** The Charity Buzz auction will be closing 5/7.
 - M. **KidFit:** Kat de Haen worked with two other schools in the building to produce KidFit. There were lots of people, and everyone had a great time.
 - N. **UFT Contract:** The school day is cut by 30 minutes at the end of the day, per the United Federation of Teachers contract. There will be no extended day and no office hours. The school day will end at 2:40. There will then be 30 minutes for professional development. Also negotiated were universal Pre-K and back pay.
 - O. **Minutes:** The Draft April PTA Executive Board Minutes were approved.

II. **Budget:** Wil McKoy (Budget Co-Chair): gave the budget report:

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- III. Projected year-end results include a deficit due to several items (e.g., hiring a fill-in for someone on maternity leave, full-time instead of half-time technology teacher) and we are down in revenues. The administration has spent the contingency money.
- A. We can raise the budget, but must take away contingency. The administration wants literacy and math coaches, increased enrichment instruction, artist-in-residence increase, student club increase, bring Coach Knight to F status, and a few other changes. We would then have a deficit, and would draw down the surplus over 2 years. Wil recommends we write a memo that accompanies the budget that gives our position on how much reserve to keep. We may need to review this in September after we hear about DOE funding. All these expenses the administration is asking for are on-going.
- IV. **Community Affairs:** Joli Golden (VP, Community Affairs) announced:
- A. **Primary Day:** We are trying to figure out how not to displace kids from the cafeteria for voting on Primary Day.
 - B. **PACE:** PACE is doing an outreach event in the fall to Central Harlem to let them know there are alternatives to charter schools.
- V. **Bylaws:** Suzanne Kerr (Co-President) reported several changes we made to the bylaws:
- A. Adding a Welcoming Committee, adding a few responsibilities to parent involvement, and changed Communications to say “(up to 3).”
 - B. Each officer has a vote, except for grade reps, who only get 1 vote in order not to skew a vote by grade.
 - C. The Community Education Council (CEC) selector was the Treasurer, and we are changing it to Co-President.
 - D. We added the confidentiality agreement.
 - E. There was a motion to pass these bylaw changes, and the vote was unanimous.
 - F. For transferring records, we recommend using a “corporate” e-mail.
- VI. **SLT:** Mindy Wigutow (PTA Rep to the SLT) reported that the SLT discussed:
- A. **Looping Questions:** The looping is still under discussion – the SLT is looking at the pros and cons.
 - B. **Teacher Assignments:** Teachers are having conferences with Principal Hyde, to discuss which grades they are assigned.
 - C. **Curriculum/Homework:** There will be a planning of the curriculum in the summer. There will be a review about the homework policy.
 - D. **Clocks and PA System:** All clocks and PAs will be fixed. A safety video is being reviewed by teachers.
 - E. **PCB Removal:** The plan for PCB removal was discussed.
 - F. **Vocabulary:** Teams of teachers came up with some ideas for building vocabulary. One initiative is “Get caught reading a book,” where kids get their picture on a bulletin board if they read during their own time in school. The administration is looking at online program for math, which rewards kids.
 - G. **Teacher Proctoring:** ELA teachers were pulled to be proctors. Teachers were not pulled from their classroom more than one time.

VII. **Direct Appeal:** Amy Davidson (VP, Fundraising) stated that there is a May matching program, for up to \$35K. For every \$500 donated, parents are entered to win one of 2 weekend stays in DC.

VIII. **VI: Treasurer:** Nick Winter (Co-Treasurer) reported that we picked an Auditor, but it was a sole proprietor, and he got into an accident. We are going with the alternate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.