

## **January 15, 2020 Executive Board Meeting and General Board Meeting**

### **Executive Board Meeting**

Tracey opens the meeting. Next year's board- Tracey wants to step back, but will not be unavailable. Person to person recruitment needed. Heart is also moving. She has been overseeing and running the spirit store.

There is a mention of a nominating meeting.

Having school materials/flyers, PTA info translated to the languages used by families of the school is needed. Volunteers to help translate is needed; there will be a reach out in the Hawks Newsletter.

International dinner- sign up for the teams is needed, 18 teams last year- 20 or so countries represented. More tables will be in the cafeteria for food- less people in hallways, activities will be concentrated in the gym. School aid - babysitting crew will be there to assist kids, minimize running around.

Book fair. Dead end with Follet. Scholastic is being planned for the spring book fair. Astoria bookshop will do a one day event, possibly coordinating with cherry festival, helpers needed.

Next month's meeting- February coincides with 5th grade, puts to the end of Feb- 26, leaving the meeting as is for now.

By- laws. Admissions statement- maybe look at that and fine tune it. Too many bullets. Might be good to have a long and short version, which is used to apply for grants. Would be nice to have a version on the website. In the by- laws and look and vote on them.

MTA bus, beginnings of talk about the possible route changes.

Ms. Alvarez will be giving birth- her substitute is coming in.

There is a new cook for the cafeteria.

Reminder on pick up. Safety first - talk later.

Facebook Fundraiser - nobody came to Nisi for- Facebook numbers still not known exactly.

Personal card vs PTA card, check writing, some talk on this.

**PTA GENERAL MEETING, January 15, 2020, 8:40 AM, PS/IS 217 School Cafeteria**

Shirt folding, people who joined the meeting, were asked to help fold, thanks!

Heart (a 2nd grade parent and who runs the Spirit Store) is moving- need someone to oversee the spirit store.

Motion to approve minutes. A copy of past minutes were available for members to review during the meeting. Minutes available at every meeting. Can contact Chenda to arrange appointments to view as well. Vote to approve, Yes.

A question from last meeting had been asked about lead testing - Answer from the custodians: pipes are flushed and approved, as per DOE protocols.

Bottle filler water fountain has to go through DOE process: 217 has the proper pipes, should be easy, process has already started.

Treasurer's report is presented.

Thank you on Facebook fundraiser. Raised about \$7000. On track with contributions and expenses- similar to last year.

Mets sale tickets soon.

Expenses approved. Some expenses explained: Studio in the School, teacher support - equipment for lounge/microwave, refrigerator

Mandana Beckman speaks

Ms. Allen is back.

Ms. Alveraz is having her baby next week. Mr. Clarson is subbing.

New cook (Helema) - excited about the cook. Used to be on staff before.

The residencies for the students and going well and are loved.

Reminder to have kids wash their hands; cold season.

Funds - RIOC, if you have experience writing grants please help.

Next year's exec board people are needed. Will form nominating committee in February.

K Tours have been popular. Pre-K Tour is Feb. 3rd. Another K tour after GT results are out.

Parent question: Bathroom renovations request has been put in. Can't redo all bathrooms at the same time. School is requesting funds from city council member.

Parent question: Interest in Hydroponic labs? Ms. Beckman said school is focused on getting the green roof established and isn't ready for that- needs space and time. Eventually yes.

Discussion of the staff lounge - which used to be the PTA room.

SLT Report:

Open class room days, too hard for people to be at all events- parents feeling overwhelmed

Expressed that more focus placed on important events not required to go to all

Attendance has gone down on parent engagement, teachers do a lot to prepare. Scheduling is being looked at

Parent engagement takes different forms- homework, PTA , field trips, classroom engagement, etc., do what you can do to stay involved.

International dinner is Feb 8. Looking for more volunteers. Usually comes together at the last minute- but try to participate and organize earlier. Safety concerns are being addressed this year.

Culture day kids can wear clothes in relation to their culture during school, and will be part of the day's curriculum.

School Auction - info will go out soon . Online auction is in April.

Book fair, follet is a bust, Scholastic is being planned for spring.

Barnes & Noble fairs only happens in store

Pop up book fair possibly during cherry blossom festival or during RI farmers market, A parent voices- not a good day for a book fair, during a festival. Roosevelt Island day is another option.

New business- translators needed in dominate languages used in the school.

Parent question: Lice checks are still going on. 2 more in contract. 1 next week. 1 in spring.

Tracey thanks everyone for coming. Meeting over.

Minutes compiled by Andrea Corson and Pichchenda Bao, Co-Secretaries