

PTA General Meeting: 10/23/2019

Tracey opened the meeting. Motion to dispense with reading of the minutes. Seconded and passed.

Principal's Report:

- Ms. Beckman thanked everyone for supporting the Monster Bash.
- Ms. Allen had her baby and will be back in January.
- Bathroom issue is still being addressed. The school is open from 7:45 AM to 10 PM and used by students, Beacon, and evening programming. Custodial staff will spend more time on weekends to clean, but cannot clean while students are using the facilities during the school day. They are also using different products and trying to do more frequent checks.
- The DOE District 2 is offering bathroom upgrades: \$80K for multistalls, \$50K for single stall
- Can request funding from council members
- Bathroom door locks: email teachers that day with details so that custodians can respond immediately
- Adults cannot go into children's bathrooms
- Adults must use the adult restroom--keys with security at the front
- In June, the school was recognized by the state/ESSA, 1 of 35 schools in District 2
- Absenteeism is a DOE priority, affects school's data
- PBIS is now PRIDE

PBIS Team: Ms. Plasky and Ms. Eldridge spoke about the new PRIDE program

- PBIS is a national, data-based program on positive behavioral education
- Started at the school 10 years ago
- Now, gearing towards classroom learning as opposed to assemblies, out of classroom socio-emotional learning
- PRIDE: came out of the staff's mission -- what the kids thought each letter should represent: providing support, respect, independence, determination, empathy
- Respecting differences, immersive, engaging, collaboration, integrity
- Every month, a new trait for grade level: kindness, empathy, respect
- Monthly awards given out at assemblies
- Pictures of recipients hung at Dare to Care store
- Push into classroom too
- Troubleshoot too: recess challenges.
- Ms. Plasky teaches lesson in classroom too. Then 1 PRIDE period a week with classroom teacher
- A book of the month: this month is Hey Little Ant. Choose books with open endings to spark discussion
- Dare to Care store is where the students can spend their Beckman bucks, which they get for being seen doing the right thing. Every student will earn.

- Allen bucks are for if the whole class is seen doing good by another teacher
 - For whole class behavior
- Ms. Eldridge spoke about grades 5-8
 - Similar to K-4
 - Awards at assemblies
 - Community building in classrooms: active listening, identity
 - 5th grade prep for transition to middle school
 - Advisory once a week in middle school
 - Feelings
 - Heavy identity unit
 - Self care: stress management, deep breaths, guided imagery
 - Ready for high school
 - MS sorted into Harry Potter houses and earn house points
 - Soccer tournaments
 - 12 event olympics
 - Athletics
 - Puzzles, trivia
 - Eventually will go on trips

Treasurer's Report:

Not typical expense report: longer gap between meetings, lots of pre-authorizations: Ebots for computer science equipment which was discussed at Sept. meeting, rugs for classrooms, which was discussed at the last special working PTA meeting. Rugs are replaced on a rotating year/grade basis, ELA/Math test prep materials for grades 3-8 (workbooks), Main Street theater residency for grade 2 and 4.

Expenses were approved by voice vote.

Book Fair update from Pichchenda Bao:

Income from last year's book fair is enough to cover Scholastic magazines and received credit from Follett for Ms. O'Hagan to purchase books for school library. So there is room to experiment. Local bookstore: Book Culture or Astoria Bookshop. A parent suggested Barnes and Noble.

Talent Show is November 23. In planning phase. Might split into 2 shows depending on sign ups. Encourage sign up online.

Christmas Tree sale will start the week after Thanksgiving at the RI Farmers Market under helix, 9-3. There is apparently a tree shortage so they do run out. PTA makes about \$5-6K from sales.

SLT Report:

- School website is different from PTA website
 - Contains info about policies and procedures

- Link through PTA website and in Hawks newsletter
- Contains homework resource page
 - Feedback was requested in the beginning of the year

End of Spirit Week is popcorn day. Eirik asked for volunteers to join PopStars and help to sell popcorn at the end of the school day.

New Business:

- A parent/guardian at the school stated that there had been no school nurse this year. Requested the PTA help draw attention to this issue, as there are students with serious medical issues in the building. She had been coming in to administer medication for her child.
- Ms. Beckman said that the school nurse position at the school was vacant, but they had been getting substitute nurses. There was a 2 week period where they were not able to get a nurse in the building. Stated difficulty of getting people to come to Roosevelt Island. The Dept of Health oversees the hiring of school nurses.
- A parent questioned why parents hadn't been informed about this vacancy and was disturbed by the lack of communication.
- A parent suggested that we start a campaign to call 311 and find the contact information of people in the DOE and DOH to complain about the staffing shortage.
- Ms. Beckman stated that parents need to turn in medical paperwork if their child needs medication so that the staff knows who's in need of medical monitoring. A nurse is coming in on Friday for medical safety training.
- Tracey said that the PTA can ask parents to call 311 and advocate.
- Currently office staff has to call parents to come in to administer medication.
- Parents reiterated to Ms. Beckman and PTA that parents must be notified about the school nurse situation.

Tracey adjourned the meeting.