

PS 516 PTA General Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2017

8:30am—Room 409--Called to order by president Deeanna Abrams at 8:40am

6:00pm—Multipurpose Room--Called to order by president Deeanna Abrams at 6:10pm

Guest Speakers (AM Meeting)

PS 94 Principal

Anna from School Food

Alternative Lunch Menu Conversation (AM Meeting Presentation, Reviewed at PM Meeting)

Anna shared examples of the current lunch menu as well as the alternative lunch menu.

- Both menus offer entree alternatives (cold lunch)
- The alternative lunch menu includes:
 - less processed food
 - Entrees made from scratch with fresh vegetables
 - Fewer meat entrees
 - More plant and bean-based entrees

The alternative lunch menu doesn't include the fried finger foods on the regular menu (mozzarella sticks, Jamaican patties, chicken bites, fish patties, & chicken patties)

- Parent Comment: Kids like mozzarella sticks

Parents get to make a recommendation to the school if they want to adopt the alternative menu

Anna from School Food: "Less kids are lining up for lunch at schools where menus were changed." This is based on observations at two middle schools and one elementary school.

Parent question: Are these the only two options?

- Vegetarian menu is also available

Parent question: Is chocolate milk always offered?

- Currently there are 3 options: fat-free chocolate milk, 1% milk, fat-free milk
- Water is also available

Parent question: Is it possible to take away the chocolate milk option?

- Principal has to request it (Parents express interest in this option.)

Parent question: Can we only have it on certain days?

- Yes

Parent question: How long would it take to transfer over?

- One month later--2 months depending on when orders go in
- We have the option to switch back

Next Steps:

- 1) Family survey will go out about alternative lunch menu and chocolate milk. Naomi Touger from the evening meeting offered to draft survey.
- 2) Survey results will be reviewed by SLT at February meeting.

3) Decision will be shared at February PTA meeting.

Community Greeting & Review of Meeting Norms

Review minutes from last month’s meeting.

Minutes approved unanimously at both meetings

Treasurer’s Report

Monthly Expense Report

Income Ingresos 收入	Description Descripción 描述	Expenses Egresos 花费	Description Descripción 描述
\$1247.10	School Photos	\$149.79	Recess Equipment
\$99	Family Friday Donations	\$89.50	Ms. Tenenbaum Reimbursement for Trip
\$1745	Direct Appeal		
Total income: \$3091.10	Total expenses: \$239.29	Beg. Balance: \$7242.40	New Balance: \$10094.21

Fundraiser Proposal

- Slimak, a local cafe on 4th avenue and 41st St. will be donating \$500 to the PTA for classroom libraries. Owner wants to help us fundraise. Slimak will designate a day each week that will be ‘PS516’ days. A percentage of all profits will be donated to the PS 516 PTA. PTA will be responsible for promoting it.
- PM Parent Question: Could this fundraising model be used to reach out to other neighborhood businesses?
 - Response from President: Yes! We are in need of volunteers who can ask businesses to donate.
- Proposal: All in favor of a weekly restaurant fundraiser at Slimak?
 - Approved unanimously at both meetings

President’s Report

- PTA By-Laws Update
 - By-laws are currently being revised by executive board. They will be presented at a future PTA meeting
- SLT Updates
 - Steam Lab Upgrade Grant from Brooklyn Borough President's Office--\$125,000
 - Integrated Units--What is parent feedback on integrated units?
 - Parent Comments:
 - My child came home talking a lot about what they learned
 - It was interesting and exciting for a lot of children
 - It would have been good to know about the unit in advance so that parents can reinforce concepts at home
 - School is working on improving school-home communication. What are your thoughts regarding school-home communication?
 - Family Comments:
 - Don't know what child is learning during the school day
 - Verbal teacher report is different than the report card
 - Homework is not what child learned in the class. Homework seems to be mostly skills practice and not a representation of what's going on that day in class
 - Families want to know what to do to help kids at home
 - Families want to know what kids are learning
 - There is confusion around the report card
 - It was difficult to know what questions to ask at Back to School Night. Seems like only chance to have grade level meeting with teachers
 - Family Suggestions:
 - Kids should be encouraged to share more about what they learn
 - Units need to be sent home
 - A blurb about what the class is learning each week could be handwritten on homework packets
 - Use Remind and Class Dojo to share what goes on in the class
 - Improve homework checks--currently it's confusing and not consistent
 - Conduct a monthly meeting with grade team and families (similar to curriculum night)
 - Use Tuesdays after school for curriculum meetings with families
 - Use Family Fridays to inform parents about current units of study
 - Offer afterschool homework tutoring
 - Ms. Smith--We have reached out to CBOs (Community Based Organizations) who could offer those kinds of programs

Committee Reports

Winter Carnival is scheduled for early February. The committee is looking for volunteers to run tables, share ideas and talents

Old Business

Uniform Policy Updates

- The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, January 30. The morning meeting will be devoted to PTA general business. The evening meeting will be devoted to a school forum on uniform policy involving families, school staff and students.

Meeting adjourned: 10:00am & 7:16pm

Minutes prepared by: Raquel Nieves, Carrie Fleming and Deeanna Abrams