

January PTA General Meeting Minutes
1/30/18

Meeting Called to Order at: 8:37

Executive Board Members Present: Deeanna Abrams, Jin Hui Chen,

PTA Members Present: 11 (Including Executive Board Members)

Guests: Laura Espinoza from Love Trumps Hate Sunset Park, Raquel Nieves, Emma Rooney from Assemblyman Felix Ortiz's office

Review of Meeting Norms

Greeting

Reading of the Minutes

- Am: Minutes unanimously approved by present members

Treasurer's Report

- Interim Financial Report
 - Report was reviewed with highlights of major income from photos and donations from parents
 - A new protocol for cash events is to deposit immediately and for each event to get change for the event from the bank in advance. For recent events they have used change from past events creating some minor discrepancies between what was originally reported for an event and recent recounting.
 - Some expenses of notes include the pass-through donation of funds for hurricane relief and the \$1000 sent to the Chau Luna books, that was how much was earned selling books in cash, but the school earned \$300 in book credit
 - Swim classes are \$50 per student. PTA pays the total amount in advance and the difference between the amount parents pay and the amount needed. This is from the same fund of \$300 for trips per class.

President's Report

- By-laws Update
 - These are coming soon.
- Updates from SLT
 - Communication Updates: There has been many conversations about improving communication with parents about what happens in the classroom. The conversation will continue. In addition, two changes: 1) cluster teachers will be sharing about what they do in the classroom and 2) sessions with school coaches to help parents with how to support children with skills (reading, math etc)

Winter Carnival Report

It's this Saturday. Please come, bring non-516 people, and volunteer to help with activities - like arts and crafts, guess the pennies.

Old Business

- Uniform Discussion Update - the full forum is tonight. Parents, students, teachers, staff are all welcome to share. Childcare is covered by Beyond Care. This is step two in the process. After the discussion there will be a vote, probably in March. If the community votes no, then the process is done for the foreseeable future. If the community votes yes, then the SLT board will also vote on the issue.
 - Parent question: How is this different from all the votes last year
 - Answer: This is different because last year they did not follow the Chancellor's regulations including having this larger forum, not just parents. Also, there has to be education around the issue the regulations ie that the uniform cannot be enforced, or the school and not the PTA must sell the uniforms.
 - Parent concern: If the uniform is optional what is the point? How come other local schools all have uniforms? Are we just wasting time?
 - Answer: The purpose is to make sure every member of the community has a voice in the process
 - Other schools do different things for their uniforms and maybe that is something we would do in the future too.

New Business

- Love Trumps Hate Sunset Park invited interested school members to come to a private dinner for community and legal information in a private and small setting. Fliers were distributed.
- After School Programs Discussion
 - Why don't we have CFL? We want free after school.
 - We are hesitant to have high schoolers watching our kids
 - Opening up free after school - how can they offer classes if there are not enough paying parents?
 - There are not enough after school and summer camps in our neighborhood
 - Other local programs like the Salvation Army are at capacity.
 - Can we provide school bus after school programs? Not sure we can provide that?
 - Proposal: Have a survey of parent after school needs and wants
 - Think about PTA fundraising for after school programs so we can pay for our own.
- The diseases happening now in all the schools of New York: What is our policy? Each classroom has Clorox wipes, soap and sanitizer. We do our best to keep the school clean and encourage kids to wash their hands.
 - It would be great to have a note home to parents to remind them to not send the kids to school sick, to have them wash their hands and to send them to school with sanitizer. Also, to have kids to zip up their coat.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10am

Minutes Prepared by Tory Messina and Deeanna Abrams