

PS 87 PARENTS ASSOCIATION General BOARD MEETING

October 12, 2017
6:30PM

MINUTES

Attendance:

Board Members: Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito, Rebecca Solano, Doug Creps, Rachel Fink, Wendy Flagstad, Melissa Burnazian, Lisa Procopio, Isabel Vaz Pires, Dara Cremin, Manuela Dujmic, and Pam Unger

Guests: Monica Berry, Sandra Guirguis, Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk (Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Chancellor), Timothy George (Director of Facilities, Division of School Facilities, Department of Education), John Hession (Deputy Director of Facilities, Division of School Facilities, Department of Education) and the individuals listed on the attendance sign-in sheet attached hereto as Exhibit A.

Quorum was met

Called to order by Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito

Elections

As the first item of business, a motion was made to elect Jen Hoke as the Administrative VP, and Chrissy Childs as the SLT Parent Representative. The motion was approved. As an aside, two other PS 87 parents were initially interested in running for the SLT spot but both very graciously agreed to attend the meetings without becoming official SLT members to expedite the election process.

Fundraisers

As the second item of business, a motion was made to approve the 2017-2018 PA fundraisers. The motion was approved.

Board Minutes

As the third item of business, a motion was made to approve the Board Minutes from the June 2017 and September 2017 Parents Association General Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

Water Panel

As the fourth item of business, Debby introduced Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk (Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Chancellor), Timothy George (Director of Facilities, Division of School Facilities, Department of Education), and John Hession (Deputy Director of Facilities, Division of School Facilities, Department of Education) (the "Panel"). Debby explained that since parents had questions regarding the recent water testing, Monica had invited the panelists to address the PA and discuss those questions.

The Panel opened by giving a history of the testing of water in New York City Public Schools for lead, and how the procedure and guidelines have changed over the years, including that the new regulations only allow for testing the "first draw" of water. The Panel also explained that the standards it uses for disclosing whether any lead is present in the tested water is very conservative and require disclosure for a lower level of lead than the standard upheld by the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the Panel also stated that water in New York City is very clean and safe to drink, and that the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene tracks all cases of lead poisoning in New York City and that no cases of a person acquiring lead poisoning from drinking water at a NYC public school have ever been reported.

Following the Panel's presentation, the floor was opened to questions. The questions were largely related to where the results from PS 87's water testing could be found, how to interpret the results from water testing, the flushing procedure that PS 87's custodial staff undertakes every day and what further water testing the Department of Education will undertake in the future.

In response, the Panel responded that testing results were on their website. The Panel further explained that with respect to the most recent testing that the protocol is more robust and strict now since it does not allow for any flushing of the water prior to testing, and that the results do not mimic real-life situations, because in effect, with frequent usage during the day, the water is continuously being flushed, with resulting lead levels lower than testing results. In addition, the Panel explained that every morning the custodial staff flushes the water in each fixture prior to the students coming in and using any drinking fountain or sink. Finally, the Panel explained that going forward all public schools in New York City would continue to be tested in accordance with the regulations, but if parents wanted more frequent testing, they should reach out.

Use of the Playground at the O'Shea Complex

As part of the Q&A session with the Panel, a question was asked regarding the playground at the O'Shea Complex, and whether it could be opened to the students of the O'Shea Complex during after school hours. The Panel explained that since the O'Shea Complex playground is not a public park it could not be opened during after school hours.

Parking Permits

As the fifth item of business, a question was asked regarding how PS 87 might be able to get parking permits reissued for its staff. Aloysee explained that at this time the Department of Transportation is cutting back the number of parking permits that it is issuing and not issuing any additional permits at this time. Consequently, it may be challenging to get any new parking permits issued.

Harvest Fest

As the sixth item of business, Dara communicated that additional help is needed on Friday to set up and decorate for the Harvest Fest, as well as in connection with the bake sale.

Treasurer's Report

As the seventh item of business, Doug presented the September Monthly Report, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Kindergarten and Fifth Grade Representatives

As the eighth item of business it was announced that Pam Unger will be the Kindergarten Representative and Kim Shankman will be the Fifth Grade Representative.

Miscellaneous

As the ninth item of business, members of the Executive Board gave thanks to the following individuals:

- Lora and Pam for taking all donated items to the Jacob Javitz Center to be loaded on the plane for Puerto Rico, and taking donated books to Sojourner Truth;
- The Dual Language Co-Chairs for organizing the upcoming movie night to donate funds to hurricane relief efforts;
- Jana and Manuela (Special Events Committee Co-Chairs) for providing food for tonight's General PA Meeting.

As the tenth item of business, the floor was opened to any other business. First, Joanna Hill, Chair of the Support Services for Special Education Committee, gave information regarding the support group's meetings which are generally held every second Tuesday at the JCC Café from 8:30-9:30am. Second, Melissa talked about inaugural grade-wide cocktail parties. Third, Debby announced that PS 87 wants to participate in participatory budgeting, although the specifics regarding the proposal are still being discussed. Lastly, it was announced that the Gardening Committee and the Green Team are looking for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned 7:53pm