

# PS 87 PARENTS ASSOCIATION General BOARD MEETING

November 18, 2017  
8:42AM

## MINUTES

### Attendance:

**Board Members:** Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito, Milary Olsen, Doug Creps, Shari Greenspan, Jen Hoke, Wendy Flagstad, Lisa Procopio, Isabel Vaz Pires, Dara Cremin, Katie Miller, Melissa Burnazian, Manuela Dujmic, Lora Martinez, Pam Unger, Kim Shankman

**Guests:** Monica Berry, Wilson Cano

### Quorum was met

**Called to order by Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito**

### Board Minutes

As the first item of business, a motion was made to approve the Board Minutes from the October 2017 Parents Association General Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

### Opening Remarks

As the second item of business, the Co-Presidents made the following opening remarks:

- The December PA General Meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:10pm however the date and time may be rescheduled. Communication on any change will be sent out shortly.
- PS 87 doing a great job on the 1,000 Turkey challenge, but need to keep the giving momentum going. (Refer to flyer in appendix).
- Co-Presidents offered their sincere thanks to the many parents that have supported P.S. 87's school-wide events and programs, such as the Parent-Teacher Conference Dinner, Drums & Dance, Operation Gratitude, Book Fair, Bake and Make sale, Boys on the Run, and Harvest Fest.

### Afterschool

As the third item of business, Wilson reported two upcoming Afterschool events: Family Fun Night, and Spring semester Afterschool registration. Family Fun Night will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-9:30pm, dinner will be served and will be a drop-off event. Registration for the event is available at the afterschool website. A question was asked regarding gluten-free options and Wilson indicated that a gluten-free pizza option will be served. Spring semester afterschool registration will begin January 3<sup>rd</sup> (and run through January 17<sup>th</sup>).

### Principal's Report

As the fourth item of business, Monica thanked the PA for the dinner hosted and supported by parents as part of Parent-Teacher Conferences, as well as support of the Book Fair. There was enough money donated by parents to allow teachers, our librarian and staff to purchase all the requested books, and on top of that, the next Book of the Month.

Monica reminded 4<sup>th</sup> grade parents to submit recommendation forms to teachers by Monday if their child is considering applying to the Center School, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to contact Jacqueline Rodriguez if they have not received their middle school application form.

She reported that in connection with the William Allison White institute, the administration will be holding parenting workshops free of charge. A survey will be distributed to solicit feedback on topics and session timing (day or evening). Open school week was previously scheduled for this week but will be rescheduled for the week after Thanksgiving. She also asked for parent assistance in donating (used) sports equipment for recess (e.g., soccer balls, kick balls). Monica also noted that Carolyn Wilson (computer cluster teacher) is currently on leave through January but the computer classes will be covered by other cluster teachers and a continuing substitute teacher.

Monica reported that at the January General PA meeting, she will be sharing "Math Nuggets." In parallel to literacy programs, the school will be focusing on math programs. The Math Nuggets will be tips and suggestions to parents on how to engage children in math concepts outside of school, primarily through play and games. She also noted that P.S. 87 will be participating in the "Hour of Code" in December, professional development for teachers in the school regarding coding skills.

Monica then took questions from parents:

Q: Will touch typing be offered as part of computer learning?

A: The computer class is currently focused on computer literacy using the common sense media curriculum. However, touch typing could possibly be included in the curriculum.

Q: Is the common core math vocabulary currently taught going to be helpful to students in secondary education?

A: Yes. The common core language uses the appropriate terms and is more accurate and precise than previously taught math vocabulary.

### **Co-President's Report**

As the fifth item of business, Debby and Jackie reported that parent volunteers have been identified to assist with the school directory and the PA bulletin board. However, there is still a need for parent connections to local restaurants.

P.S. 87 has submitted a proposal to be included in the local UWS participatory budgeting program, which is coordinated by Helen Rosenthal (City Council representative). Most projects submitted are between \$35k-\$300k, and voting for projects is held in March and April. While there was a previous consideration to submit a proposal for a school power upgrade, the DOE facilities department will be resolving the school's power issues (no cost to the school). As such, the proposal submitted by P.S. 87 is a library renovation. A P.S. 87 parent (an engineer by trade) has kindly agreed to draw up a plan to visualize the renovation; the next step (if the P.S. 87 proposal makes it in the process) is a visit by the DOE School Construction Authority.

The Co-Presidents presented the following reminders:

- November 20<sup>th</sup> – International Network Information Session will be held from 8-8:20am in the library. The International Network will be helping to orient families new to the United States and new to P.S. 87, as well as help celebrate our very international community.
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – School Safety meeting will be open to all parents.
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – Teacher Appreciation Dinner. Formal request for staffing volunteers and food donation will be coming soon.
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – Community Education Committee (CEC) meeting will be held. The DOE is expected to make a presentation regarding a new blind admission process for middle schools to be implemented next year.
- Modell's Team Week is coming up, which includes a 15% discount on purchase with 5% going back to the school.

- Fairway – use the Community Partners card (can get from Officer Ayala) and 4% goes back to school. The Fundraising team is exploring with Fairway the possibility of using that card when purchasing Fairway through Instacart or Google Express.

### **Treasurer's Report**

As the sixth item of business, Doug presented the October 2017 budget, which is included as an appendix. In addition to the budget, Doug explained that there was a recent issue with P.S. 87's Amazon link as part of their Affiliate program and that the Treasury/Fundraising team is currently working with Amazon to correct it. In the meantime, parents should use the Amazon Smile link, however the percentage of money back to the school using the Smile program is significantly less than through the Affiliate program. A question was asked regarding what "Galaxy payments" were and Doug explained that these are payment made directly to Monica (e.g., to pay recess monitors, assistant teachers for K and 1<sup>ST</sup> grade, etc.)

### **Auction**

As the seventh item of business, Lora reported that the donation forms (examples of common donations: purses, jewelry, tickets to sporting events, Broadway shows, restaurant gift certificates, etc.) for the Auction will be going home with the children today. As a reminder, the Auction will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. A question was made regarding the auction process, and Lora responded that there will be both a live auction as well as an online auction.

### **Family Giving**

As the seventh item of business, Lisa reported that Family Giving will be promoted along with Giving Tuesday (Tuesday after Thanksgiving), and reminded the PA that all donations are tax deductible in 2017.

### **Additional matters**

- Katie reported that MS 54 (Booker T Washington middle school) will be having a presentation on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm by Natalie Silverstein, from the organization NYC Doing Good Together. The event will be open to all District 3 parents and focuses on families and NYC community service.
- Pam reported that in connection with the Zero Based Waste initiative, 10 reusable tableware kits have been assembled (plates, cups and utensils) for classes to use during their publishing parties or any class celebration. One parent per class can volunteer to sign out a kit, wash after the party and return the next morning. All items are dishwasher safe, and there will be specific instructions in the box. The kits will be stored with Officer Ayala and/or in the cafeteria closet. The cups in the kit are for cold drinks only. In the PA pantry (located in the cafeteria) there are compostable hot cups (as well as recyclable utensils). As this is a new program, parent participation and feedback are needed. Special consideration should be given when there is a severe food allergy in class or a known communicable disease (e.g., strep throat).
- Bernie announced a petition was available for signature regarding a bill being sent to the City Council to ban the use of toxins and pesticides on grass and vegetation in city parks. She noted that this is unrelated to pest control measures taken for rat problems.
- Chef Cathy, who is the new Wellness in the Schools (WITS) chef for P.S.87 introduced herself. She and Chef Victoria will be doing the tasting labs.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:53am.