

# PS 87 PARENTS ASSOCIATION General BOARD MEETING

December 11, 2017  
6:30pm

## MINUTES

### Attendance:

**Board Members:** Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito, Doug Creps, Shari Greenspan, Rachel Fink, Jen Hoke, Wendy Flagstad, Gillian Mollod, Katie Miller, Lisa Procopio, Isabel Vaz Pires, Stacy Cousino, Lora Martinez

**Guests:** Monica Berry, Jenny Licht, Kore Glied, Melissa Donovan and Keren Imberg

### 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 November 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:

- Thanks to the Special Events committee for all of their hard work on the Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> Staff & Teacher Appreciation Dinner (and the Parent-Teacher conferences before that) – everyone had an amazing time!
- Thanks for the members of the community that created the bulletin board downstairs

### Principal's Report

As the third item of business, Monica updated the PA regarding how successfully the kids participated in the "Hour of Code" last week. She also noted that she is trying to think about how the school can incorporate more of the programming in the classes.

She also remarked that publishing parties are happening this week and next week, and that people should wash and return the reusable plates as promptly as possible, in light of a busy schedule of publishing parties.

She also shared that on January 4, 2018, at PS 9, Dr. Ross Greene (PhD author of The Explosive Child) will be speaking to parents regarding how to communicate with children with challenging behaviors, and PS 9 has invited PS 87 parents to join the session. Monica also said that some of the PS 87 teachers will be attending a separate session with Ross Greene later that week. (Note: The session with Dr. Greene was subsequently rescheduled to February 6 at 6pm, due to a winter storm on January 4.)

She also thanked the parents for all of their work with the toy drive and the giving/receiving network, and how overwhelmed she was by the generous response of the PS 87 community. The floor was then opened to questions.

Q: What classes were given for the coding?

A: Kids had different options depending on the grade level.

Q: A district-wide IEP meeting this Thursday at PS 84 was announced; do you have more information regarding this?

A: It's a general overview of the IEP process—getting one, etc.

Q: Is Edwin (Zhou) still here?

A: Edwin, the CUNY intern, is in talks with the school to determine if he will stay at PS 87 long-term.

As a further item of business, Monica gave an update on the upcoming CEC3 middle school meeting regarding blind admissions. She said that she is going to the meeting to gather information and will be open to sharing it with the parent body.

Following Monica's update, a Q&A session occurred regarding blind admissions. It was also noted that blind admissions will be implemented on a going-forward basis, but the specifics of how it's going to work are still yet-to-be decided. Parents with children in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to attend because it would be optimal for them to hear the information firsthand.

Additionally, it was noted that on Wednesday, it is expected that the grant for technology from City Councilmember Helen Rosenthal's office will be received. The plan is to spend the grant money over time (i.e., stagger the technology purchases) so that all of the new equipment does not become obsolete at the same time. Some of the first purchases include replacing the obsolete computers, getting Promethean boards, and purchasing another set of class iPads for the lower grades.

Finally, it was also noted that PS 87 is working on ways to get additional grant money to renovate the library (via Participatory Budgeting). It was also announced that there is a new chief custodial engineer named Peter working at the school; he is Charlie Romer's successor.

### **Family Giving**

As the fourth item, Lisa noted that with the tax changes, it may be beneficial to make donations in 2017, when the donation can still be an itemized deduction.

### **Treasurer's Report**

As the fifth item, Doug gave an update on the budget (see Exhibit A attached). The floor was then opened for questions.

Q: Is there another article coming out re our PA fundraising?

A: Yes, Chalkbeat is going to come out with another article that names our PA as one of the richest in the nation. Jackie explained that our numbers look inflated because the After School program revenue is consolidated with our fundraising numbers and other financials. She also explained that while the PA will not respond to the article, we want our parent community to understand that the article is inaccurate. Doug also gave an update that a politician may be coming out with a new plan to try and combat inequitable fundraising, however the bulk of the plan would be centered around disclosure of the fundraising, which our PA already does.

### **Afterschool**

As the sixth item, Stacy updated the PA that the spring registration for After School will open at 12 noon on January 8, and that the schedule should come out online about two weeks prior.

### **Auction**

As the seventh item, Jackie gave an update on the pop-up-auction sale that is happening this week. Today was a great success and it will happen the rest of the week (or until the items are all gone).

Debby also mentioned that the solicitation drive for items is starting, and we would love to get items earlier, and not be biting our nails up to the last minute before the auction.

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

As the eighth item, Debby and Jackie gave an update on the following:

- While some parents wanted Open School week to occur before Parent-Teacher Conferences, the timing of both events is determined by the Department of Education and out of the school's hands.
- The toy drive is going on this week.
- There will also be parent seminars, and the administration will disseminate a survey money in order to try to find the time and topic that appeal to the broadest audience.
- There is a healthy schools grant that might be a good opportunity to pair with a Title 1 school; our grant-writing team is a little strapped for time right now so if anyone is interested in exploring it, please reach out (grant application is due in January).
- Spirit Day (the 87<sup>th</sup> day of school) is coming up, and we encourage kids to get creative—the homemade outfits are sometimes the best!

### **Community Affairs**

As the ninth item of business, Wendy gave an update on the past and upcoming CEC meetings.

### **Other Business**

As the last item, Jackie gave a reminder of:

- The toy drive fundraiser happening through Thursday
- Winter Holiday Festival on Friday night
- The tutor fair at MS 54 on January 9

Finally, there was a question about gear sale before Spirit Day.

(PS 87 gear will be sold leading up to the PS 87 Spirit Day, but homemade gear is also very welcome!)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:39pm.