

PS 87 PARENTS ASSOCIATION General BOARD MEETING

January 19, 2018
8:30am

MINUTES

Attendance:

Board Members: Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito, Doug Creps, Millary Olson, Rebecca Solano, Shari Greenspan, Rachel Fink, Gillian Mollod, Katie Miller, Lisa Procopio, Dara Cremin, Isabel Vaz Pires, Stacy Cousino

Guests: Monica Berry, Cheryl Bennett, Bari Norman, Jen Soch, Fainna Kagan, Alison Nagel, Courtney Gold, Courtney Werling, Brooke Santamaria, Michole Eisenberg, Teresa Cabrero, Melissa Donovan, Nelda Gil Medina, Solenn de Kersauson

Quorum was met

Called to order by Jackie Dolson-Shewchuk, Debby Saito

Opening Remarks

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

- PS 87 mom Patty Carey-Perazzo has a chance of winning the second round of a city-wide contest, which would garner her show, Half Life, four more episodes, so please vote for her and support our PS 87 family. (And congratulations, Patty, on winning the initial script-writing competition!)
- The reusable dishware initiative is going well and was very successful after Black History Month Celebration and class celebrations
- Jackie thanked everyone's hard work in putting together the Black History Month Celebration which resulted in a wonderful show and potluck; Jackie also reminded everyone that there are many free, community and culture community events
- Jackie also thanked the special events committee for the food and drink at this morning's meeting
- The Big Yard snow got cleaned up relatively quickly and it's in large part because as a community we have regularly showed our appreciation to the Parks Department people; we enlist our parent community to help keep that up
- The online PS 87 calendar lists the numerous and amazing activities the PA sponsors

Board Minutes

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

Principal's Report

As the third item of business, Monica updated the PA regarding outdoor recess and informed the PA that we have a new custodian, Peter, and that he's doing a great job doing everything he can so that the kids can have outdoor recess. Monica also noted that PS87 determines whether there's outdoor recess based on whether it's cold and slippery, so please make sure that kids are appropriately dressed. Jackie asked a question about there not being soap in the bathrooms, and Monica stated that if kids are saying there is no soap, parents should let Sandra know so that the problem can be remedied.

Monica also reminded the PA that it's flu season now, and that people should be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school to minimize the spreading of the flu, especially since the flu has been pretty bad this year. She also reminded the PA that today is the last day to apply for

Kindergarten, and that the Pre-K application will be open starting February 5 [note: following the PA meeting, the K registration deadline got extended].

Finally, Monica let the PA know that for parent workshops, PS 87 admin was going to send a Survey Monkey to gauge the best time for parents to attend a workshop, but in talking with the organization, admin realized the speakers had limited availability. As a result, the presentations will likely be during the day, and the first presentation will be on setting boundaries. More information will be disseminated once plans are finalized.

A question/comment was made about Go-Noodle, which is a wonderful indoor exercise program created by a PS 87 parent. Monica stated that the students have been doing Go Noodle during indoor recess and it's been working very nicely.

Enrichment

As the third item, Katie noted there have been a number of new and repeating assemblies. Kindergarteners just started NDI, and the kids absolutely love it. Yesterday the 5th graders got to see the second jazz performance, which is a great program (the last program will be in May). In February the 2nd graders will have their Ballet Hispanico culminating event and the 2nd graders will also be doing Silver Music Quartet in the end of February (which is a program that we did last year and was very successful). Katie also noted that we're working to build a partnership with Silver Music. Katie then stated that Bio Bus will be coming in for the 2nd and 5th graders, and an Indian dance assembly will be performed for the 3rd graders. In March, Sheila the Great will be performed for 3rd-5th grades. There will be other assemblies which Katie will update parents as we get closer to the dates. Finally 4th graders will be starting Ballroom Dancing soon and their trip to Philadelphia is in the spring, and the 3rd graders will be starting ribbon dancing.

Afterschool

As the fourth item, Stacy updated the PA on the following afterschool announcements:

- Next week is "Open House Week" in all classes at 4:15pm
- Spring term begins January 29; while online registration is closed, you can still register them by getting in touch with After School
- Family Fun Night is coming up (Friday, Feb. 2) and will have lots of fun activities for the kids

The floor was then opened for questions.

Q: It might be helpful for the open house to be held prior to registration

A: Stacy explained that not everything is waitlisted, but in the future we are evaluating how to manage the Open House Week. A request has been made to Afterschool Executive Director Wilson to consider combining the Open House Week with an observation week, to check out possible classes.

Q: In terms of security, is there a way to limit the open house to PS 87 parents?

A: Yes. Since the safety of the children is the number one priority, a great deal of thought and planning goes into coordinating and holding the open house so that the After School program can handle the volume of parents.

Q: Verifying the first day of the spring session is January 29?

A: Yes

Auction

As the fifth item, Jill – the amazing new solicitor for the Auction – gave an update on all the fabulous things that are our kids enjoy because of the funds raised by the Auction. She also noted that everyone has touchpoints with various businesses and that there are several ways that par-

ents can get involved in the solicitation for Auction items. Parents can solicit in the neighborhood, email businesses or work their contacts (e.g., talk with a business you frequently patronize, request something directly if you work at a cool business, offer your own personal talents, utilize relationships with others to get them to donate a fun auction item, etc).

Gina noted that while the Auction is later this year, we still need to solicit earlier, because if we go later the other schools in District 3 will have already asked the same businesses and we will have better success the earlier we go.

Q: Is it possible to set up a sign-up or google doc to keep track of what businesses have been asked for a donation already so we don't repeat solicitations?

A: Logistically, in the past, it's been hard to keep an updated list and also difficult for parents to check before they go into a business. (We have more than a thousand parents and people try on the spur of the moment.) So it's best to try but be as respectful and understanding as possible if a merchant has already been asked (and in some cases, numerous times!).

Jill also noted that there are different levels of participation/donation and ways for businesses to get advertising during the Auction where over 500 parents attend (so it's a great advertising opportunity). Debby also noted that it's more fun to partner up and seek donations together.

Family Giving

As the fifth item, Lisa thanked everyone for a great Family Giving donation month in December (whether due to tax changes or otherwise)!

Treasurer's Report

As the sixth item, Doug gave an update on the fundraising and the budget (see Exhibit A attached). Doug reminded everyone that he and Rebecca are always available to answer questions.

Co-President's Report

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

- Family Fit Night is happening Friday, January 26, which is a fun and free night to do fitness together as a family, and Chop't is donating dinner so when you go to Chop't, please thank them for their support of PS 87.
- Spirit Day will be January 25 (unless there's another snow day). There will be opportunities to buy PS 87 Gear the day of, and the Tuesday before also, but you can also make your own gear; there's no pressure to buy gear for the day.
- Wednesday, February 7 there will be the all-school parents' night out at E's Bar, which has been a great supporter of PS87.
- Margaret Lerner was our previous Parent Coordinator, whom we lost to cancer. She was a very special person in the community, and we are working to make a garden in her memory. We would like to make it a whole school effort to transform the area into a beautiful garden—January 30 kick-off meeting at 3pm in 4-305. (Note: Subsequently rescheduled to Feb. 6. Same time and location.)
- A big thank you was made to Cecilia for her work on the Green Team and keeping up the existing PS 87 garden. Debby noted that extra parent volunteers are needed as "lunch room monitor" and it is very helpful and fun to interact with the kids, teaching them what can be recycled, composted, or trashed.
- Rock Night will be 2nd grade and up performances, in order for everyone to enjoy it (since it was a little long for the young kids to sit through in the past); it will be May 11 and details will come out soon.

- PS 51 is a school in Midtown where much of the student population lives in shelters, lacking basic necessities; PS 51 has asked PS 87 for help. There's a list of items that they have requested, please take a picture of the sheet in the back of the meeting room, and drop of donations in a bin in the lobby. We are thinking about a way to keep it going month-after-month, and year-after-year. In terms of donation sizes, please provide your own kids' sizes. A question was asked about how items are going to be transported down to the school; it was noted that it's still a new program and the logistics are being figured out (Parent Coordinator Sandra is leading the effort).
- Disney is changing the way that they donate Disney tickets to non-profits, including schools. As a result, Debby may be asking for photos of parent volunteers working at school and PA activities. Jackie asked all parents to send such photos to pa-president@ps87.info.
- Fairway is hosting its annual recipe contest and if you win, your recipe gets posted, you get \$50 and PS 87 gets \$50 as well. Fairway is a great supporter of the school, and we ask that everyone use their Fairway cards when they go shopping.
- Debby thanked the Fundraising Co-Chairs and shared the following updates:
 - Click on the Amazon banner on the website to do your shopping!
 - International Kids Film Festival is opening soon (February 18)
- Debby had Lainie give an update on the Pan Asian Festival and all of the amazing Broadway performers that will be performing (The start time will be moved earlier to 5:30 to accommodate the Broadway performers' own curtain calls!)
 - The Festival will be Friday, February 9 – free!
 - Monday, February 5 will be the dress rehearsal.
- Debby reminded everyone to get in their donations for Auction and Manuela reminded everyone that beverage donations are also needed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45am.