

P.S. 101Q's Parent's Association (P.A.) Meeting Minutes
October 21st, 2014
8:30AM to 10:00 AM

The following Executive Board members were in attendance:

Christine Gendreau – President

Tom Renna – 1st Vice President

Ann Kittredge – 3rd Vice President

Lormina Rinaldi – Co-Recording Secretary

JP Freeley – Co-Recording Secretary

Sarah Payne - Communications Secretary

Special Guests: Irtis Gonzalez, Assistant Principal

Randy St. Germain, Parent Coordinator

P.A. Business:

- Meeting Minutes for September 2014 P.A. Meeting was approved as presented.

Class Size Presentation:

- Julia Sprules presented “Class Size Matters” to the parents in attendance. The presentation is on the PA website.
- The presentation argued for smaller class size. The DOE has mentioned that class size is a priority but at PS 101 classes seem to be getting bigger and not smaller.
- In parent surveys conducted by the DOE, the #1 priority is class size. Smaller size classes increase student’s achievements.
- The UFT contract allows for up to 32 students in a classroom. Several classes at PS 101 are very close to that limit.
- One potential solution could be to have student teachers in our classrooms to help in the larger classed. These student teachers offer administrative and other support to teachers and they are free since this is part of their degree requirements.
- P.S. 101 is at 111% capacity, the District is at 98%. By 2015 we expect 5% increase in student body.
- Contract for Excellence was adopted in NYS to reduce class size. A smaller class size is the constitutional right of our children.
- We will ask our Principal about funds for smaller classes. Extra teachers may be an option but they are expensive and possibly not in the school budget.
- The Chancellor wants to hear about the problem of large class size and also solutions for this problem. Student teachers are one solution, parent volunteers is another one. Parents can help with reading time without interfering with the teachers.

- We will reach out to the coordinator of St. John's University as well as Queens College to get student teachers assigned to our school.

Reading For Fun Contest

- JC DiCicco spoke briefly about the "Reading for Fun" Contest, which will begin shortly, and run to Tuesday, Nov. 18th.
- Every student is welcome to participate.
- The goal is to encourage reading for fun so reading for school does not count.
- Forms will be sent home in your child's backpack and will be available on the PA website.
- There will be prizes and a coronation ceremony for the winners.

SLT Update

- JC DiCicco also provided a brief update on the SLT.
- The SLT is currently focused on revising their Bylaws. They are also exploring bringing foreign language to school as well as the various options for 6th grade next year.

Parent Association By Laws

- We need to amend our By Laws to reflect the time that PA Meetings will be held going forward.
- We conducted a survey which was communicated via email and posted on our website.
- Parents indicated that they would like morning meetings after drop off at 8:30am and evening meetings at 6:30pm.
- The PA will continue to alternate between evening and morning meetings.
- We will vote to accept the By Law amendment at the November meeting.

Financial Update

JP Freeley, Co-Recording Secretary, provided a financial update of the P.A. on behalf of Co-Treasurers, Fatima Bonus and Amal Ajam, who could not attend the meeting:

- As of 9.30.14 the PA had in the following balances:
 - Checking account = \$94,220.39
 - General Fund Reserve = \$110,510.12
 - Class of 68 Alumni Account = \$1,664.48.

Sponsorships

- The PA is offering sponsorships on our website. Premium sponsorships are \$500 and regular sponsorships are \$250 for the school year.
- We would like to thank our premium sponsors which are:
 - Young Chef's Academy
 - Soccer Friends USTA
 - Rose Academy Ballet
- We encourage parents to seek sponsorship for the website.

Volunteers

- We need recess volunteers, especially for rainy days to organize games in the Auditorium and keep the kids entertained. Please let the President or our recess coordinator, Susie Spodek, know if you are interested.

Clothing Drive

- The PA is running a clothing drive with Schoola. Schoola collects gently used clothing and sells them on their website. The PA will get 40% of the proceeds.
- We are asking parents to clean out their closet and donate women and children's clothing that is in good shape. Schoola will not accept men's clothing. We will be collecting clothing in the rotunda from Nov. 10th thru Nov. 13th.

Upcoming Events

There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at upcoming events. All information is on our website. Please note the following events:

- Talent Show will be Saturday, November 22. Open to all students from K to 6th Grade. Parents may perform with their children.
- Space is limited so please sign up by November 5th. Sign up is only online.
- K & 1st graders will require someone over 12 to be with them during the performance.

Check our websites for more

information: P.A.: www.pa101.org; School: www.ps101q.org