

PS 101Q Parent Association Inc.
General Membership Meeting
Sept. 20, 2016
8 a.m.

Board members present: Sarah Payne, Lisa Suzuki, Adina Konheim, J.J. Rowe and Marybeth Christiansen. More than 50 parents attended the meeting.

The PA and PS101Q administration celebrated Dads Take Your Child to School Day with a breakfast before the meeting. Parent Coordinator Marisol Barreto thanked parents who attended and handed out certificates. Principal Paniagua urged dads to get involved and suggested they contact the PA about volunteering.

Welcome and Thank You: Co-President Sarah Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting. She pointed out some items in the cafeteria that were provided courtesy of the PA -- the air conditioners and the acoustic panels that were installed to help reduce noise. Also over the summer, a bulletin board was added to the school yard and the PA obtained gym dividers. The dividers are used primarily during the after school program so that the PA can facilitate more than one sport activity at a time.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were presented, and a motion was made to accept. Motion passed.

Guest Speakers:

-- **Principal Paniagua** said the auditorium is being renovated thanks to a \$450,000 grant from Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz. Technically they have one year to complete the auditorium work, but at Ms. Paniagua's urging the foreman agreed to an accelerated construction project. The work is more than halfway done. Once the school receives approval to re-open the auditorium, the school will have a ceremony.

Ms. Paniagua said parents should know the school website has a lot of information and she tries to post videos to help parents stay informed. The video this year mentions that PS101 is a Rewards School for this school year. That means PS101 three years consecutively remains in the top 25 percent of schools in the state.

The school's enrollment has gone up significantly in the last four years, by over 100 students.

In May, the NYC Department of Education did a full evaluation of the school internally, and the school was rated "well developed," the highest rating you can receive, in every category.

Ms. Paniagua said the school is doing well, but state test scores don't give the whole picture. The scores don't indicate the progress students have made from one grade to the next. For the ELA, the scores were up 5 percent, which is difficult to do when you are already a high-performance school. For math, the school had a decrease of 4 percent. But she said the school had an increase in the number of students scoring a 4, and the number of students who made progress was greater than the number of students who dropped.

There are new teachers in the building this year because two teachers retired, and there was an increase in classes. Also, some teachers are on sabbatical, child care leave and restoration of health leave.

-- **Alex Anderson** from Councilwoman Koslowitz's office spoke about the participatory budgeting process. For participatory budgeting, the council member gives \$1 million to the community to decide how it should be spent. The process starts now and takes about eight months. Right now they are brainstorming on project ideas. The money can go to schools, parks, streets, libraries or anything on public land. Community members can submit ideas online or go to one of the assemblies. The second stage involves a process where budget delegates take ideas and work with city agencies to develop projects that are on the ballot in the spring. Then there is a voting site where you can vote on all the projects. Last year PS101 won a project for bathroom renovations.

Ms. Payne asked members to think what PS101 could ask for through participatory budgeting and send ideas to contact@pa101.org. She asked if the school could ask for more money for bathroom renovations. While the school won \$350,000 for bathrooms, the money was divided among three schools and it isn't enough to do all the PS101 bathrooms. The student and adult bathrooms need upgrades.

Open Board Position; Incoming Parent Liaison: The incoming parent liaison is charged with engaging new parents. There are two nominees who are willing to serve as co-incoming parent liaisons: Fadia Mohama and Hillary Ortiz. The election was uncontested so the Recording Secretary cast a vote in favor of the candidates.

Update on Class Parent Program: Lisa Suzuki said the first meeting was yesterday and the program is off to a good start. If you are a class parent, class lists will be out to you by the middle of next week. The PA website has class parent guidelines and a template for an introduction letter. If you're not a class parent, you should hear from your class parent once they receive the class list. Class 501 still needs a class parent.

Financial Update: Adina Konheim talked about last year's financials. She said our fiscal year runs July to June, and last June when the PA had its final meeting, nothing was finalized. The PA just needs to close the books. In June the PA gave gifts to the school, including acoustic panels, gifts to administration and custodians, air conditioning repairs, the bulletin board in the schoolyard, an Italian ice party, gym dividers and Smart Board repairs. Last year the PA gave

almost \$120,000 in gifts back to the school in some way. Most go to the residencies -- every grade gets at least one in-class enrichment program. The after school program is one of the PA's biggest sources of revenue. It was a great year and the PA ended with a profit. We budget for a deficit and we almost never have one.

Volunteer Opportunities: Ms. Payne said the PA lists volunteer opportunities on the website and has signup forms on the website.

-- Bio Bus, a research grade mobile science lab, will be at the school Sept. 21 for students to visit. It's going to be parked in the schoolyard. It's also scheduled to come Sept. 23 and Nov. 7. Only grades 1-5 will visit the bus.

-- Recess volunteers are needed. Orientation is next Tuesday. It helps, especially on days the children are inside, to have the volunteers helping ensure kids have something to do.

-- Picture Day is Oct. 13. It helps to have people bringing in children, lining them up.

-- Monster Mash is Oct. 29. It takes a lot of people to make it go smoothly.

-- Head check volunteers are needed.

Community Education Council: Soumali King said the NYC public school system is divided into 32 districts (we are district 28). Each district has a CEC made up of parents, one high school student as well as the superintendent. It is a public body, the parents are elected or appointed by the borough president. Monthly meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 6:30. She encouraged more PS101 parents to attend. The CEC also has a website that serves as a resource for parents in the district, www.cecd28.org.

Open Forum:

-- Jasai DeCicco said she is one of the parent members on the School Leadership Team. The SLT's first meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 27 in the media room from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. Every parent is invited to attend. The SLT discusses the education plan for the school. If parents have concerns about the plan for the school, they are asked to take their concerns to SLT members. The team wants feedback on how things are going for kids in the school.

Meeting adjourned