

**P.S. 101Q's Parent's Association (P.A.)
General Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 2nd, 2014 from 7PM to 9PM**

The following Executive Board members were in attendance:

Christine Gendreau Memoli President

Tom Renna 1st Vice President

Maria Kaufer 2nd Vice President

Ann Kittredge 3rd Vice President

Sarah Payne Communications Secretary

Amal Ajam Co-Treasurer

JP Freeley Co-Recording Secretary

Special Guests: Monique Lopez-Paniagua, Principal
Irtis Gonzalez, Assistant Principal.

P.A. Business

Meeting Minutes for the June 2014 P.A. Meeting were approved as presented.

The PA 2014-15 Executive Board

The PA President, Christine Memoli, introduced the Executive Board:

- Co-Recording Secretaries: Mina Rinaldi and J.P. Freeley; Communications Secretary: Sarah Payne; Co-Treasurers: Fatima Bonus and Amal Ajam; 3rd Vice President: Ann Kittredge; 2nd Vice President: Maria Kaufer; 1st Vice President: Tom Renna; President: Christine Gendreau Memoli

Principal's Update

Principal Monique Paniagua spoke for several minutes and mentioned the following items:

- She read an excerpt from *The Day the Crayons Quit*, which is the current "book of the month." Every class will get a book of the month this year. Funding for this was made possible by alumni from the Class of 1968 who made a donation to the school in honor of a classmate who passed away.
- Starting in November, the DOE will publish report cards for schools but there will be no more letter grades for school performance.
- The Administration is planning workshops for parents about Common Core.
- In ELA, 67% of our students scored a 3 or 4. PS101 is ranked #3 in the District. In Math, 9% and 71% of our students scored a 3 or 4. Our test results are higher than the city average. Complete data will be available in November.
- The teachers were amazing learning the Common Core curriculum last year and did a phenomenal job implementing the curriculum. We should thank them. This year, teachers will do workshops for parents. We understand that parents want to understand the curriculum but the teachers were just learning it themselves last year. This year, they feel more comfortable with it and will host several workshops. Our Parent Coordinator, Randy St. Germain, will be scheduling the workshops.
- Teachers have a new contract this year, which includes parent engagement time at 2:40 PM until 4pm on Tuesdays.
- Science will be taught in the classroom this year. All classroom teachers are licensed to teach science with hands on activities. Students will also have text books. Science on wheels was donated.

- Parents from last year's Green Team applied for recycling initiative with the city. On Fridays, children on the recycling team visit each classroom to encourage recycling efforts. Children give tickets and grades like restaurants: Pending, A or B. Parents and students are both on the committee and will go into the classroom and teach recycling and also energy conservation. Our custodians are working on getting a bin for recycling material.
- Every grade will have an art residency this year. It was our goal of our school before the Chancellor suggested it. The Queens Botanical Garden will be doing a Plant Life Series for K, the Queens Museum will be doing an art residency for the 6th grade. The art residencies are 100% funded by the PA through donations from parents.
- We are focused on food allergies this year and enhancing awareness. In addition, Nurse Mary will work with our teachers to educate children on healthy habits such as coughing into your arm.
- **Food Allergy Initiative: Parties**
- We are encouraging parents to look for healthier alternatives to food at parties. Perhaps doing a dance parties instead of a cup cake party or having a craft instead of food.
- On field trips we are trying to have teachers choose cheese or meat sandwiches instead of peanut butter. There have been instances where students had to be taken to the ER because of peanut butter allergic reactions on field trips.

PA President: PA Business

PA Meeting Time

- We have a survey that we are asking parents to complete about the most convenient time for PA meetings. We are looking to possibly change the morning meeting to 7:45am or 8:20am after drop off and/or keeping the evening meeting at 7pm.
- At PS101Q, we alternate between morning and evening meetings in hopes of reaching more parents. The meeting times currently stated in our By Laws reflects the old school starting time.
- The results of the survey will be presented at the October meeting, which will be at 8:30am.

Nominations and Elections

- Co-Parent Liaison: Marcia Schwarz Perel and Jaime Hochhauser ran unopposed.
- 1 Year, SLT Position: Three candidates ran and spoke briefly: Matthew Borelli, Maria Carrasco, and Reese Campbell. Those present at the meeting and Matthew Borelli won the election so he will be our new SLT member.

Quality of Life Initiative

The PA is focused on improving student quality of life. We have several initiatives this year:

- Murals in the cafeteria, which will help with acoustics and make it look nicer.
- New PA system for the lunch aids so they do not need to shout.
- We received permission for parents to be allowed in the lunchroom to help.
- During rainy days, parents are also allowed in the auditorium.
- We are collecting board games for use during indoor recess.

- We encourage all parents to take the “Volunteer Initiative” and dedicate 1 hour a month. You can fill out the volunteer form on the website.
- *Head Check Team*: The head of the Head Check Team spoke briefly and mentioned that they need more volunteers.

Upcoming Events

- In October, we will be hosting the Monster Mash, our Halloween party. We will not be doing the Pumpkin Patch this year.
- *Talent Show*: The Principal has given permission for performance reviews to be held during the school day. We need volunteers to help. No child will be turned away however everyone needs to have their performance reviewed prior to the show on November 22.

Online shopping

- **Amazon**: We earn 15% of the value of purchases when you use our Amazon link. Last year we made \$2,400. Click on the Amazon link on our website to bookmark it.
- **Goodshop**: Goodshop is a retail marketplace where we earn an even higher % of total purchases than on Amazon. The link to Goodshop is also on the website.

Boxtops

- Boxtops for Education made the PA \$700 last year.
- Kids love to cut them up. Please be sure to send them into the PA or your teacher.

Schoola Clothing Drives

- The PA will be doing a clothing drive with Schoola. Schoola is an online retailer that will collect gently used clothes sell them on their website and give us 40% of the purchase price. They will only take things in good condition.

Financial Update

- The PA Financials can be made available to any parent per the Chancellor's Regulations.
- The PA supports and pays for residency and educational program, the ballroom dancing program, most field trips, the PE Field Day at Alley Pond, educational magazines, assemblies and many other enrichment programs.
- The PA After School Program is self-funding. It pays for itself and then raises some money for PA activities.
- The PA acknowledges every donation.
- Our current reserve is approximately \$100,000.
- The grant to renovate the auditorium was finally approved by Councilwoman Karen Kozlowitz and the school will receive \$750,000 at some point.
- The A/Cs in the auditorium were paid for by the PA.

Open Forum

- The PA President announced that she is available to hear all parents' concerns and ideas.
- “Class Size Matters” will be presented at the next PA meeting. The presentation will be posted on the website.

- Our Media Center is now what was the library. The school uses it for both the media center and the library.
- Each class has books for different lettered reading levels.
- Parents asked about a lending library. Each classroom has a library now with “just right” books. A partnership with local library was suggested as a place to have field trips, or to have them come in and issue library cards.

Upcoming Events

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

- Monster Mash, Saturday, October 25th 12pm to 4pm.
- Election Day Bake Sale, Tuesday November 4th.
- Walk-a-Thon, Friday, November 14th
- Talent Show, Saturday, November 22nd

Check our websites for more information: P.A.: www.pa101.org; School: www.ps101q.org