



Parents Association of P.S. 196Q

71-25 113th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Minutes of PA Meeting – November 19th, 2019

Opening: Marcy Keltai started the meeting at 7:41PM. The meeting was held in the cafeteria.

Board members in Attendance: Deepali Patel-Sagar (Co-President), Marcy Keltai (Co-President), Stephanie Cooper (Co-VP), Yvonne Venezia (Co-VP), Dina Halili (Co-VP), Tita Jimmo (Co-Treasurer), Sarah Han (Co-Treasurer), Linda Chan (Co-Secretary), Ariana Palacio (Co-Secretary).

Mrs. Migliano (Principal), Maria Romero (After School Director), Mary Pierantoni (New Parent Coordinator), Chelsea Encababian (guest speaker – Grow NYC) and 37 parents/caregivers were also in attendance.

Elizabeth Fassler and Lauren Timmons approved the October minutes.

Marcy Keltai introduced PA Board, spoke about Picture Retake Day, Queens Bully restaurant fundraiser and PTC Bake Sale – all successful.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Migliano spoke.

- Thank you for a successful Halloween Party and sending in Candy for the Troops
- There was a great turnout for Parent Teacher Conferences
- Open School Week (November 12th-18th) – we hope you enjoyed your time in the classroom; planning on doing a survey to determine how successful it was
- Author Visits – David Ezra Stein – K / Ruth Chan – 1st Grade
- City Harvest Food Drive began – November 12th-15th
- Parent Workshop – Mindfulness – November 27th - 8am
- Coffee and Conversation – November 21st - 8am
- Open House – Kindergarten Tour – November 27th - 9:15
- Have a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving – School closed November 28th and 29th
- Coming in December
 - Winter Concert - December 18th
 - Middle School Applications Due - December 2nd
 - Author Visit – Alan Katz 12/12 – 2nd Grade and James Preller 12/11 – 5th Grade
 - Fun Friday – December 13th
- Project Arts Residencies
 - 5th Grade Ballroom dancing Culminating Event – December 12th
 - 2nd Grade – Circus Arts
 - 4th Grade – Hip Hop

Mary Pierantoni (New Parent Coordinator) spoke about being part of the PS196Q community for the last two months. She is getting to know the children. Her goal is to help them be successful in any way she can.

Guest Speaker – Chelsea Encababian from GrowNYC

- She spoke about composting opportunities in the neighborhood, food scraps drop-off every Sunday from 8:00-2:00
- She helps the children and the school aides to recycle properly at the school during lunch
- Zero Waste - NYC recycling initiative
- \$400 million dollars of tax money to take trash to landfills. Recycling and composting reduces that significantly
- Schools are big producers of waste in the city – 86% of school waste can be recycled or composted
- No recycling in the annex because it is not a DOE owned building
- If you are interested in getting recycling in your apartment building, go to the DSNY website and look for the apartment signup section for more information

After School Program – Maria Romero

- Half day program was provided for PTC on 11/14 from 12:00-7:00pm – 238 students attended
- Winter Recess: The building will be closed during the break and we will return on January 2nd, 2020.
- The Fall Semester ends on January 31, 2020 and registration for Spring Semester 2020, starts in January on-line at www.afterschoolps196.org.
- The Spring Semester runs from Feb 3rd - Jun 25th, 2020. An email will be sent to all families before the December break regarding registration
- If you have any questions about After School, please email Maria at: afterschoolps196@gmail.com.
- Happy Thanksgiving!

Treasurers Report

- Annual Appeal – to date has raised approximately \$25,000, goal set at \$30,000
- No one had any questions about the budget

SLT (School Leadership Team) Report – notes from October and November meetings

CEP – Comprehensive Educational Plan

The CEP is posted in the Principal's newsletter for everyone to review.

The DOE mandated three goals this year, one math, one ELA and one involving equity in the learning environment.

2019-2020 Goal Highlights

- ➤ Teachers will work to increase student proficiency in writing across all curricular areas. In all grades, students will use the Columbia Teachers College Writing Workshop Model as a framework for improving the quality and quantity of student writing. An emphasis will be placed on the value of perseverance, while employing all the tools and skills of excellent writing.
- ➤ We will continue to promote an inclusive and equitable learning environment, in which all students feel safe, accepted and welcome. We will challenge community members to recognize their own implicit biases, and surmount them to advance ALL students, including LGBTQ students, students with special needs and students from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.
- ➤ Teachers will deepen students' conceptual understanding, as it applies to rigorous math tasks. Students in all grades will continue to use the SOLVE protocol to help them take apart multi-step, real-world math problems. Teachers will integrate daily math talk and emphasize the importance of productive struggle when facing complicated tasks.

Intentional Talk – Math

All teachers received a copy of this book. Mrs. Higgins spoke to the SLT about the strategies it teaches. Children are sharing strategies and having targeted discussions which are comprised of concepts, procedures, explanations and representations. There are 4 principals of math discussions. "Discussions should achieve mathematical goals" and "students need to know what and how to share their ideas." The "teacher needs to orient the students to one another so that they can share their mathematical ideas". The teachers also "must communicate that all children are sense makers and that their ideas are valued". This work gives them the tools to have useful math discussions and enhance their understanding of the subject matter.

Advanced Literacies

All teachers received a copy of this book. Ms. Ginzberg spoke about Advanced Literacies, the book being studied by the Literacy Vertical Team. It has strategies for teaching advanced literacy and effective communication skills with "robust and vigorous instruction." The teachers are using "engaging texts", having "rich discussions", engaging in daily writing practice, and building vocabulary. With an eye to the CEP goals, the children are challenged with writing about what they find interesting in addition to writing across the curriculum. Teachers gain a better understanding and insight into what drives each child.

Bike/Scooter Racks

Currently, there are no plans to install a bike/scooter rack at the school.

- **Listening Skills/Body Language/Debate**

The children do oral presentations in social studies and science which expose them to public speaking. The children do ELA and math group work. All children are expected to share what they did and how they worked. Teachers speak to the children about making eye contact and presenting to everyone in the class. On a daily basis teachers create a supportive environment to increase the trust factor in the room where all the children feel confident contributing to the conversations in all subjects. Debating is also part of conversations in the classroom. Children are taught to listen and share what their partner said to reinforce active listening. There is a social and emotional component to all these interactions.

- **Lack of Recess Equipment**

Mrs. Migliano will ask Ms. Rita to look into the equipment.

- **Crossing Guard Update/Traffic Patterns**

The Police Department handles crossing guard placement. The two crossing guards assigned to PS196Q were subjected to repeated verbal abuse by parents and will not return. Teachers have been giving up their prep time and Mrs. Migliano and Ms. Koatz have been out in the street helping at dismissal as well.

Mrs. Migliano is going to reach out to the DOE and find out if we can hire some sort of private crossing guards for the dropoff and pick up. If this is an option, the school cannot finance it and additional fundraising will need to be done.

- **Candy Cane/Lollipop Fundraisers**

Our goal as a school and PA is to foster inclusivity. We should never create an environment or situation where any child will feel left out. We will not be doing any fundraising that will single out any children. The PA is being challenged with coming up with additional fundraising ideas.

Recycling Plastic Bottles in Classrooms

Currently, there is bin for paper recycling and one for other garbage. The majority of children bring refillable bottles so there is very little plastic to be recycled in the classrooms.

Recess Time

The administration wants the children outside for recess as often as possible when the weather permits. If the children are not cooperative and clean up after lunch, it cuts into their recess time.

School/Classroom Clocks

Howard says there is an electrical issue and will continue to ask for it to be fixed.

Unfinished Business

Some parents voiced concern over possible gender stereotyping in the ballroom dancing classes. Fifth graders have been participating in ballroom dancing for several years. It teaches teamwork and manners as well as how to approach partners respectfully. The children are also taught to stay a comfortable distance from each other, about 12" apart.

November meeting update - Mrs. Migliano hired Mr. Joseph as our new crossing guard. The police supplied a metal barrier to deter cars from driving down 113th street at dismissal.

The school cannot paint a mural in the recess area of the Annex as it is not school property.

The school's water has been tested and is safe for the children to drink.

Upcoming Events

- Cooking labs – 12/3-12/6 for 4th and 5th grade and classes 131 & 132
- Tuscan Hills – restaurant fundraiser 11/20
- Spotlight Magazine submission deadline – Monday 12/16
- Book Swap – December 8th

Committee Reports

- Volunteers needed – see signup sheets
- 5th Grade Committee – some assignments were emailed more on their way
- Author visits – 5th Grade - James Preller coming 12/11 and 2nd Grade – Alan Katz coming 12/12
- Wellness Council/Garden Committee -
 - o Candy for Troops was sent out
 - o Edible forest is being planted
 - o More money coming from other resources to support the garden

New Business

- NA

Q&A

- A parent asked if children are allowed to move around and speak during lunch. Mrs. Migliano assured them they are and welcomed the parent to visit during a lunch period to see how they are run.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm – Closed by Rachel Bialik and Alyssa Pollack