



Parents Association of P.S. 196Q

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

Minutes of PA Meeting – December 17th, 2019

Opening: Marcy Keltai started the meeting at 7:34PM. 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. Berkowitz (Asst. Principal), Maria Romero (After School Director), Mary Pierantoni (Parent Coordinator), and 64 parents/caregivers were in attendance.

Limor Neshar and Andrew Rafalaf approved the November minutes.

Principal's Report – Mrs. Berkowitz (Asst. Principal)

Mrs. Berkowitz spoke and reviewed January calendar

- January 2nd, return to school and CEC meeting at JHS217
- January 3rd, 4th grade Author Visit – Dan Gutman
- January 6th, Class 403 to Colonial Dames Museum
- January 7th, 402 to Colonial Dames, K&1 cooking labs
- January 8th, 431 & 491 to Colonial Dames, K&1 cooking labs
- January 9th, 404 to Colonial Dames, K&1 cooking labs
- January 10th, College Awareness day, K&1 cooking labs, Pre-K Author visit – Rachelle Burk
- January 14th, 1st grade to The Hall of Science, 401 & 591 to Colonial Dames
- January 15th, SLT meeting and Compassionate Communication workshop
- January 16th, Parent Workshop- helping with homework skills (Caban and Franco)
- January 17th, Fun Friday
- January 20th, schools closed for Martin Luther King Jr.
- January 21st, last day for kindergarten applications, Star Student Awards, PA meeting
- January 22nd, Class 101 to Kids N Shape, parent workshop – Autism
- January 23rd, Bricks 4 Kidz – 4th grade classes, Kids N Shape – 1st grade class, Coffee and Conversation
- January 27th, Kindergarten to JIB Lanes, Souper Bowl canned food drive begins, 1st grade class to Kids N Shape
- January 29th, 1st grade class to Kids N Shape
- January 30th, Bricks 4 Kids – 4th grade class, 1st grade class to Kids N Shape, Souper Bowl ends

Parent Coordinator Report – Mary Pierantoni

Mary introduced herself and spoke a little about her background.

- A survey will be going out at the beginning of the year about workshops that will be helpful for parents
- Saturday Academy (state test prep) – no dates yet.
- State test dates: Math – 4/22 & 4/23, ELA – 3/25 & 3/26
- If your child is late to school because of the school bus, they will not be marked as late on their record.

After School Program – Maria Romero

- January 31st is the last day of the fall semester
- Spring semester is 2/3 thru 6/25, the schedule will be posted on 12/23 and registration begins on 1/9.
- Please contact Maria directly via the afterschool email (www.afterschoolps196.org) with any questions or concerns.

Treasurers Report – Sarah Han

- Annual Appeal – to date has raised approximately \$36,000
- Please use Amazon Smile for your holiday gift purchases, it helps raise funds for our school
- The bake sale during PTC raised \$1,400

SLT (School Leadership Team) Report – Ariana Palacio

District 28 Diversity Plan

Mrs. Migliano asked parents who attended the CEC meeting on D28 Diversity Plan to give a brief recap.

- The room exceeded capacity and many parents were not allowed to join the meeting.
- The CEC was asked to postpone the meeting to find a suitably large space but were told the meeting would not be stopped as it was their regularly scheduled meeting and they were scheduled to cover other topics.
- WXY Studios presented a PowerPoint that can be found online
- Representatives from the DOE were there with the recurring message that no “plan” was actually in place and that working groups were supposed to make proposal for a plan based on their findings and discussions at their meetings.
- Parents from both Queens North and Queens South asked questions and voiced their opinions and concerns.
- There is no transparency around the process of how it was decided to use WXY Studios’ services.
- There is no transparency around how the members of the working group were chosen.
- Even though the parent members of the working group are supposed to represent the community, their names will not be given out so parents in our community will not be able to discuss our views and ideas with them.
- Neither the DOE nor WXY would explain what the end goal of the diversity plan is.
- PS196Q is not represented in the working group.

Social Media/What’s App

There are concerns over students’ and teachers’ privacy regarding posting on social media. There are children in the school with orders of protection and there has to be a heightened sensitivity around maintaining their safety.

Filming teachers and posting on social media goes against their contract.

Should parents be allowed to take pictures of class events and parties and email them to their classes if there is a chance they will be posted on social media? A specific policy needs to be created and distributed throughout the school community.

Upcoming Events

- January restaurant fundraiser – TGIF – date TBD
- Project Arts – 3, 4 and 5th grades had their performances. K-2 will begin their residencies in the spring semester

Committee Reports

- Volunteers needed – see signup sheets
- 5th Grade Committee – please continue to send in your dues, committee emails went out last week and the deadline for picture submissions has been extended
- Lost and Found – Thank you Katie, Deepali and Dina for sorting. Six boxes were donated. Any items with children’s names in them were returned to their classrooms. Please label all your children’s belongings
- Spotlight Magazine – 12/16 was the deadline for submissions, advertising submissions extended to the end of January, need volunteers to know Adobe InDesign, editors and proofreaders, email spotlight196@gmail.
- Thank you to Meredith and Abby for all their work on the garden. Hevesi funding is coming so now all grades will get to participate in the garden this year.
- Project Arts – 3rd, 4th and 5th grades had their performances. K-2 will begin their residencies in the spring semester
- Thank you to Limor for running the book swap. Will be looking at possibly doing a second one before the end of the school year.

New Business

- NA

Q&A

- A parent asked if the teachers’ school emails could be posted on the website. Will be brought up for discussion at SLT.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm – Closed by Karen Solomon and Shelly Shalom.