

PS 166 THE RICHARD RODGERS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

132 WEST 89th STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10024

PS166.ORG

PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 2020, 5:00 pm, Zoom Meeting

DRAFT TO BE APPROVED AT JANUARY 21, 2021 9:30 AM MEETING

I. Call to Order

Co-President Ms. Kim called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

A QUORUM was established.

II. President Update

- Ms. Kim reported that PTA updates in the newsletter.

III. School Reports

- Principal Debra Mastriano
 - Ms. Mastriano thanked the parents who performed at the December 15 musical assembly.
 - She thanked Ms. Michelle Macdonald for carrying out the Wellness Wednesday and socio emotional well being program for the kids.
 - She brought everyone's attention to the Mayor's announcement: children who don't show up for blended learning will be moved to fully remote learning..
 - She further reported that she is grateful to the PTA for supporting the math coach Ms. Nicola, and the Teachers College Reading and Writing Program.
 - Merv 13 filters have been installed in the school, a total of 35 filters. Every single classroom received an air purifier. The custodian checks the building air quality daily. It is not necessary to keep the windows open because the building has heater and filters and exhaust fans too.
- Parent Coordinator Deb Markewich
 - Covid testing is once a week and children who are tested are given a testing notice to bring home.
 - All forms need to be updated to the forms that specified weekly, rather than monthly, testing. DOE needs parents to give consent to weekly testing. If parents receive a message that their consent is not in, they need to give it again.
 - The most recent round of tests show no positive cases in the building.
 - 2021 Kindergarten admissions have opened. Zoned siblings are given priority and then non zoned.

- No updates on G&T admissions.
- Middle school parents should have received a letter in mail informing them to set up an account. No additional information has been received about the lottery and Center School application.
- After the latest deadline around 40 students have switched to blended from remote.
- Priority is being given to special education students for returning to school.
- TAs have been invaluable more than ever this year. Some may even work as substitutes as most of them are licensed. When a teacher falls sick, the TAs provide coverage. Even if working as a substitute, they are also paid from funds donated by PS166 families. Principal Mastriano reminded parents to donate to the Family Giving program to support funding the TAs.

IV. Child Mind Institute Presentation

Dr. Erica Rooney, from CMI, addressed everyone and gave a presentation on anxiety in children. After the presentation she answered questions raised by the parents present.

V. Fundraising Update

VP of Fundraising, Mr. Simon Franceschi, reported that there has been a significant improvement in fundraising.

Email: fundraising@ps166pta.org;

Family Giving campaign: <https://166.formstack.com/forms/familygiving>

VI. Adjourn

The next meeting will be on January 21, 2021. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chandini Prakash, Recording Secretary