PS 24 PA Mtg

Dec 16, 2015

Notes

Review of Minutes: Minutes accepted.

Principal’s Report: Manny Verdes and F. Byrne for A. Feldman:

* 3,4,5 grade tests practice being scored now
* Sat academy for standardized tests starting in January
* Sustainability initiative lead by Nick
* Picture retake day Jan. 21, letter coming in January
* 5th grade: RKA honors test Jan. 6th, only children zoned for RKA. List of students eligible comes from BoE.
* Pre-K, 1, 2: Gifted & Talented test coming in January. Registration closed.
* K, 1: Send in easy on/off clothes. Outbreak of potty incidents.
* Cold weather coming: we like going out as long as no ice on ground. Please dress children accordingly. Dress warmly.
* 3 music programs: Little orchestra society, finished w/ 2nd grade. Jan will work w/ 1st grade, 3-5 grades have instrumental music, K working with dance movement starting in January.
* Middle school private school apps: all paperwork is done and they will go into the mail.
* A. Feldman appointed interim acting principal.
* Drama: Spuyten Duyvil Players 4-5 grade, auditions. Maybe spring. Unsure.

SLT report: Robin Blair

* HW policy – continuing conversation, lots of contributions from parents, teachers, administrators. Notes are in the main office and posted online monthly. HW policy now: minimum 3 word problems / week + reading every night. Some pple say that’s not enough. Discussing menus, upping by a small worksheet / night. A. Feldman reviewing. Also looking at standardized templates and established practices. Thoughtful informed conversation.

Winter Holiday Fair Update: L. Moukas

* Well attended. > 1168 cans collected so Dinowitz and Cohen’s office pleased. Made ~$3k, pending bills.

Guest speaker: Tiffany Jame, MyLibrary NYC, program overview

* All students part of program. Partnership w/ NYC schools and NYCPL. Never charged for late or lost books. Erase fines they owe. Form goes to local library. Form goes to library, not school. Separate form for each child. If already has a card, upgrade existing card to MyLibrary program.
* Handout with Free online resources accessible with library card. Local libraries can help show you how to access.
* Children’s book list: K-5 with book suggestions.
* NYCReads365: Chancellor program for reading for fun all year long. Book lists are current: new fun books selected by school librarians, by grade level, K-12. About reading for fun.
* School to receive bookmarks and posters coming soon. To backpack them, get them through school librarian. Teacher sets for NYCReads365 as well. Tiffany will supply that to teachers.
* Winter snowflake spectacular program coming to Spuyten Duyvil library. Tues., Jan. 4 (chk date?) Musical production. Also MLK Program coming.
* During school vacation, show a few films at 2:00 pm Dec 27-31st, school break at Spuyten Library branch.
* Additional library tween coloring club starting.
* Baby lapsit and toddler time during the week.
* B/c of letter writing campaign branch open 4 nights a week thru 7:00 pm. Two YA librarians, and 2 adult librarians. Thank you for letters.

Space Proposals Update: Bob Heisler and Laura Moukas

* 2 weeks ago mtg w/ Doe SCA. Indpendent organization. DoE but separate Board.
* SCA responsible for building and leasing. They were responsible for lease process at Whitehall Annex.
* They presented report and proposals.
* Report: lack of opportunity to find suitable replacement community space for the Whitehall.
* Most productive day toured a number of options in community. WH 13,000 sq. ft. but needed -8K and nothing we could find as parents or as SCA that was workable solution for us.
* Had no challenge b/c we were involved. Hoped for Rectory on Arlington, they aren’t interested.
* Step 2: No community space so what are possibilities for the immediate solution to the crisis.
* 3 proposals:
  + 1st proposal: Put entire 5th grade (5 classes) in RKA at a location TBA. (Although there are 6 4th grade classes rising to 5th).
  + 2nd proposal: Rooms off of cold lunchroom (reconfigure those rooms to produce three full size classrooms. Outfit as state of the art w/ smart boards, etc. Do soundproofing and relocate the PT, OT, SLP therapists to renovated space above the gymnasium. Suite above gym that is mostly storage today can handle staffing 1:1 and therapists. Plus, move out and take two second pillars and build two more classrooms in cold lunchroom w soundproofing and corridors.
  + 3rd: Hybrid option and option space committee (large group) preferred and will accept from DoE. Reconfigure existing rooms adjacent to Cold Lunchroom as described above, for three classes and take two self contained rooms labeled in RKA plans as PS 24 classrooms, separate entrance, two bathrooms. This would be the least invasive option for the current PS 24 space and permit the Cold Lunchroom to continue to be used for lunch, recess and gym for the K classes.
* Also saying to SCA. Want to start now: issue of enrollment has to be looked at but issue of capacity needs to addressed. 8 K classes coming in from within the zone and not enough seats in Riverdale to accommodate. Stat now to take crisis that loss of Whitehall has created and insist the give us liaison from SCA to work with PA at 24, RKA ad 81 to solve capacity in Riverdale as important.
* They promised all the reconfiguration can be done in summer and not disrupt classes before June and be ready for Sept. academic year.
* PA in favor of option 3, least invasion. Sending letter saying this is best of worst.
  + SCA says 1556 students can legally fit in current building.
  + PA is asking for crypt under auditorium to be converted to science / music rooms
  + PA to organize community push for resource issue for K-8, insist to Chancellor Farina (Rose, Deputy Chancellor, etc.). follow-up mtg w/ local politicians
  + Letter to SCA, not the end. This is going to go on and have long-term space committee. Widespread desire for another school.
  + There would be a security guard at RKA K entrance. Need to write up processes for dismissal, drop-off, nurses, activities, etc.

Committee Overviews: looking for volunteers