**PS 24 PA General Body Meeting Minutes**

**May 24, 2017**

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:45 pm by L. Moukas and D. Salanto

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

* Motion to approve by L. Moukas
* Vote: No objections

**Financial Report:** N. Levinson

* Plant sale for 5th grade graduation brought in $2,000 profit
* Funded two read-aloud events, one in April and one in May, with more than 40 children / read-aloud event
* Still have room in budget for teachers to submit requests for funds under school enrichment funds, can use for trips, special projects, etc.
* In search of a news accountant, suggestions welcome

**Principal’s Report:** S. Schwartz

* Successful Open School Night
  + Good feedback on after school program
  + Contact Schwartz or Charlie from the Y! with questions
  + Showed type of math the children will do next year
* Teachers being freed up to plan for next year before they arrive in Sept.
* Planting w the principal event: Fun w/ 10 kids, best part sitting w/ them having pizza b/c I got to talk to them about their views of the school; Baseball drills w/ the principal this weekend
* This week and next I will host the four winners of the for principal of the day (from fundraising auction), planning different activities for the day, including observations and post observations with teachers where the children will give feedback directly to the teacher
* Teacher planning sessions:
  + 1 grade per day
  + Teachers feel good about Teachers College Reading & Writing program and new math curriculum, teachers picking up quickly; will provide different mindset the kids need
* Spending time on improving teacher practice, giving opportunities to go to another school I know well. So far have brought K &1 teachers to K-2 school that’s very high performing to see practices; teachers wanted to start implementing practices the next day
* Teacher requests for next year:
  + Not accepting any requests
  + Everyone wants the same teacher, if we can’t accommodate all, don’t want to accommodate anyone
  + Should be equal experience across the grade, eventually
  + Some extreme situations will be addressed
  + We will use data, chemistry of class makeup as well to determine class placements, working with staff second week of June
  + Every parent will have a tentative teacher before summer break
  + Including incoming Kindergarten students
  + ICT classes: will be notified by having 2 teachers
  + Data used will include:
    - Academic, social, emotional data, personalities
    - Some need more structure, some need more nurturing
    - Teachers have general idea of where they will be next year
* Music program:
  + Mr. Bloom is retiring as of end of the year
  + Hopefully to continue drama program, but want a really good drama teacher
  + Fill with drama or another program within the arts; Need more arts in the school
  + If you’d like a certain program, not outsourced, make recommendation to me or PA
* Requests for access to me:
  + From 8 am – 3 pm I am in in a classroom, or with students; meetings are not possible during the school day
  + Can talk after hours, always on email
  + Open to scheduling phone calls or after hours meetings
* Letter circulating disagreeing w/ decisions I’ve made; addressing issues raised in the letter:
  + Two empty classrooms:
    - I inherited it that situation; If we put a teacher in those classrooms and made class sizes smaller, the DoE would send more students, increasing the class sizes and total population
    - I would like smaller class sizes, but can’t do it
    - Used these rooms for IEP, teacher meetings
    - No money for new furniture for those rooms
  + Forcing parents to pay for trips:
    - Need space for testing
    - Asked for trips during testing dates to free up classroom
    - Younger grades had more trips
    - Money is allocated; amount for trips was spent earlier
    - Used school money for supplies, etc. rather than have to ak parents to send in more supplies
  + Ms. Amster: complaint is that it’s a forgone conclusion she will be named as AP and there will not be a C30 process
    - As a person without instructional coaches or an AP I couldn’t do what I’m doing without assistance
    - She’s using internship hours that she needs for her certification
    - Moving forward she will go through the C30 process just like anyone else
    - I will take top two candidates out of C30 to interview for the open AP position.
* 1 AP is on a leave of absence through the end of the school year, assuming not coming back
  + In fall will appoint Amster as AP IA; initiate C30
  + Will also have a second line to fill if he does not come back.
  + Time of possible leave dependent on how many days accrued.
  + We have and can survive without an AP, but of course would like to have one or two

**PA Bylaws Committee Update:** L. Moukas and D. Salanto

* Current VP positions are written “inadequately”
* Need to draft new VP titles and descriptions
* Bylaws committee created three new positions and roles
* VPs not required, but we want more people involved in decision-making
* All Executive Board members need to be elected
* Per regulations, we’ve provided new VP descriptions in written form; need to vote to approve new positions, with elections in June or Sept.
* Decision made to vote to accept VP positions and have VP elections in June:
  + 30 present
  + 28 votes in favor
  + 0 against
  + 2 abstentions
  + New VP positions accepted
* Nominations close for all positions close tonight, so there will be an expedited election for VPs at June PA meeting; will send notice to full parent body per regulations

**SLT elections**: J. Lombardi

* Four seats open for upcoming school year
* important way to voice concerns and solve problems and get teachers perspective
* Meetings are currently Wednesday afternoons, one – two weeks ahead of PA meetings; scheduling is revisited each year by the elected group
* 2-year terms
* R. Heisler: SLT’s responsibility to advise on educational policy and budget; PA does not do that
* Next SLT meeting is June 14; anyone is welcome to attend

**Springfest, June 7:** L. Moukas

* Call for volunteers for committee and volunteers for activities and booths
* Flyers going out by end of week

**Teacher Appreciation Week:**

* Staff / Teacher appreciation week observed week of June 5-9
* PA providing lunch on Thursday June 8 for all teachers and staff
* Springfest candygram booth for teachers to deliver on Friday June 9

**Nominations Committee Update:** C. Mejia, B. Tappan, L. Mora

* All nominations close tonight except VP positions
* All Executive Board nominees running unopposed:
  + **Co-Presidents:** Diane Salanto and Laura Moukas
  + **Vice President**: Cristin Messinger
  + **Treasurer:** Nessa Levinson
  + **Financial Secretary**: Deborah Weitz
  + **Recording Secretary**: Wendi Shulman
  + **Corresponding Secretary**: Bon Heisler
* No other nominations
* Vote to close nominations:
  + Motion to close by Sharla; Seconded by Bob Heisler
  + Vote:
    - 29 in attendance
    - 27 in favor
    - 0 against
    - 2 abstentions

**Kindergarten Frolics Request**: L. Moukas

* Ms. Poulous asked for help to pay for piano tuning
* Will ask school first if they can provide and if not PA will pay for it.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:00 pm by L. Moukas and D. Salanto