# PS 24 PA General Body Meeting June 14, 2017

**Meeting Called to Order**: 7:30 pm by L. Moukas and D. Salanto

# Review and Approval of the Minutes:

* Nessa Levinson: motion to approve minutes; D. Salanto seconded
* Vote: Minutes approved, no objections

**Financial report:** N. Levinson

* New items: negative $1, paid teachers for read-alouds
* Total income: $109,000 dollars
* Mini-grant applications: a few more have come in this past week
* Staff Outreach: Teacher Appreciation week with b’fast, lunches, candy-grams, etc.
* Community outreach total mostly to POTS
* Baseball Classic: food orders
* Amazon Smile: provides donations to school, make Amazon Smile to PS 24 Parents Association

**Principals’ report:** S. Schwartz

* DanceFest: great event today, everyone was safe, all procedures followed
* Education Through Music: Provides certified DoE teachers to come in to do arts in schools, looking to partner with them. Give us teachers for half price. Avg. teacher $88,000, they cover $44,000. They give us professional development, another school had Josh Groban come in, given a $600 grant to renovate auditorium, etc. Exploring relationship with them for next year.
  + Make sure students get complete arts program in and out of building. Hoping to determine during the summer
* SLT update: CEP discussions: home -school connection needs to be better – made some strides, want to make more
  + Come up w/ school messenger system to communicate via phone / text to put message out immediately provided we have updated accurate info for all parents

o What can we do to support the school; need to get word out to get parents to come to meetings 1/mo. Need more parent involvement at meetings; everyone needs to start recruiting 2 people per month

* + Parent idea: have content programs at meetings
* Summer school: quickly approaching…requirement notices received mid-to-end of next week; used to be children passed on to next grade regardless; no child leaves the school unprepared for middle school socially emotionally and academically; more kids than previous years being held
* Teacher requests: Not honoring them if can’t make everyone happy; also have expectations for all teachers perform at a very high level; will see some new staff next year; some teachers asked not to come back, and told not welcome; we have a certain expectation, I have a certain philosophy of what works; I ask teachers to do better the next day than the day before
  + Test scores is last, first and foremost, hoe if given supports and don’t take advantage of them, that’s concerning
  + Can’t rest on our laurels
* 4 new teachers joining next year: 1 special ed coach that came highly recommended (Susan Litfeld); revolutionize our special ed dept. and teachers getting best training possible so our IEPs are second to none; 81 referred another teacher for 4th grade G&T
  + Use hiring committee: interview process has every candidate in a classroom being observed by 5-10 people, students are interviewed, then go in front of hiring committee, then interviewed by me
  + Few new 2nd grade teachers coming in
  + Nice foundation of teachers that fit our community
  + Recruiting: is it difficult?
    - No: hired one and that person is bringing us resumes; starting to change perceptions
  + Substitute teachers: new process next year goes into a central system and sign out; anyone can pick it up; we can block people that don’t meet our standards
* **Elections / Nominating Committee:** Belkis Tappan, Christine Mejia and Liliana Mora
  + Exec Board Elections:
    - VP Nominations: Cristin Messinger (Fundraising), Lillian Chi (Pubications), Pamela Hawkins (Membership)
    - Co-presidents: L. Moukas, D. Salanto
    - Financial Secretary: Deborah Weitz
    - Corresponding Secretary: Bob Heisler
    - Recording Secretary: Wendi Shulman
    - No ballot required as uncontested election; only vote to approve / accept nominees
      * Vote:
        + 37 in favor of approving nominees
        + 1 abstention
        + 0 objections
  + SLT elections: 4 open parent seats
    - Nominees:
      * Deborah Weitz
      * Michelle Montoya-Goldman
      * Diane Salanto
      * Rebecca Sherman
    - No vote required as uncontested election; only vote to approve / accept nominees:
      * 36 votes in favor
      * 2 abstentions
      * 0 objections
* **Funds Balance:** L. Moukas
  + Have high number of funds, looking for ways to spend down funds
  + Share ideas w/ SLT cabinet
  + Looking for community building events

o

* **Upcoming Events:** L. Moukas
  + June 16, 3:30 pm: Baseball Classic @ Seton Park
    - 4&5th graders and alumni play; parent game to follow
* **TAs for next year**: S. Schwartz

o More than we know what to do with; looking to expand beyond K

* + No cost this year
* **Trips:** General Body Discussion
  + Many don’t have enough time to learn anything
  + Just used to take younger students out of the building on testing days
  + Needs to have greater educational content
  + Bring up at SLT level
  + PA did pay for early busing on one trip to increase time
* **Meeting Adjourned:** L. Moukas and D. Salanto, 8:40 pm