**PS 24 PA General Meeting Minutes**

**Oct 19, 2016**

Meeting Called to Order @7:45 pm

By L. Moukas and D. Salanto, Co-Presidents

**Acceptance of Minutes from Sep. 28 Meeting**

* Minutes accepted

**SLT elections:**

* Each candidate to introduce themselves for 1 min.
* Ballots passed out after
* Nessa timing remarks
* Candidates remarks:
  + Emily Begin
  + Sharla Bryant Colbert
  + Michael Farber
  + Bob Heisler
  + Jessica Lombardi
  + Rebecca Sherman
* Votes cast, votes counted by Robin and Laura w/ oversight from Shona Gibson, Senior Director of Training and Professional Development, Family and Community Engagement, DoE and Elba Velez, Family Leadership Coordinator for District 10, Family and Community Engagement, DoE. Votes recounted by Emily Straus and Deborah Weitz.

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**Principal Update: S. Schwartz**

* Changed entire recess for safety:
  + When in cafeteria ask them to stay seated, ask them to raise hand, don’t want crowding in bathrooms, etc., want to know where children are and that its safe
  + Then the children line-up and are escorted outside for recess
  + After recess, we blow the whistle: ask them to kneel, crouch or get low, want mutual attention for next direction, want to be able to take next direction quickly in the event of an emergency
  + Then they go inside in groups, no pple bumping into each other
  + If its efficient, we can maximize recess; also giving additional recess for classes that show us they are ready quickly (5 more minutes w. their teacher)
  + Less booboos, and teachers are able to cover more in the afternoon
* Clown sightings:
* Prank clown sighting on 238th St. recently
* Had police look into it, not seen as a serious threat but continuing to monitor
* We want you as parents to communicate to your children what we have, which is there might be clown sightings but not take it seriously
* Graffiti posted outside was already painted over, Arrival process:
* Changes in a.m. early drop-off:
  + Phase 1:
    - K-2 to auditorium
    - Lots of human resources scattered across the building, moving them to the auditorium so all children are supervised
    - Grades 3-5 to cold lunchroom
    - At 8:00 a.m. all students report to classrooms
  + Phase 2:
    - Because we’re using auditorium, going to make the entrance by the auditorium available for drop-off
    - Why: didn’t want plan in place until communicated,
    - Goal to take away congestion from front of school
* Dismissal changes:
  + Similarly, it will be announced, and we will try to start in the 1st week of November
  + Communicate to main office so we are aware that you are going to be late
  + Safety agents will lock front door and go to the back, parents will pick up from auditorium, will have a safety agent stationed there
* Parent Q: safety of car drop-offs on W236th?
  + Not legally allowed to staff in the street to escort car drop-offs in
  + Have a few adults out on W235th already for bus drop-off, which is why we want to try using that entrance as well
* After- school pick-up will remain exactly the way it is
* At 2 minutes of 8:00 a.m, security agents at front will supervise children if come at 7:58 a.m. as children are moving from the auditorium / cold lunchroom up to classrooms.
* Discussion on kids’ feelings about the new recess process
* Discussion on the park and using it at recess:
  + We’re not using the playground because its public property
  + Don’t want interference from another person/child in the park
  + Looking at a sports program that can be provided during recess to provide structure in the school yard
  + If so, we will survey parents for top 7-8 activities children can do during recess
  + Also be a section for opt-out, clubs, etc. want to provide option for structured games, yoga, health, fitness
  + Once in place, with personnel, we may be able to use in downstairs playground with additional supervision
* Bad weather plan: After eating push benches to side, use smart boards for indoor activities, look at hot lunchroom
* Parent Q: No tag rules?
  + Tag becomes shove, want to monitor, want structure in place
* Email questions / comments to [sschwartz@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sschwartz@schools.nyc.gov)
* Parent Q: Do the students have library time?
  + Changed prep schedule, 5th grade working through 3 lunch periods, K dismissed by special teachers
  + Made changes, going to consult Staff and SLT. S. Schwartz expressed preference to have teacher time to collaborate and work together in teacher team and make decisions
  + Library not used now, but doesn’t mean it won’t be
  + Do not have library program, going to look at
  + Students using classroom libraries
* Parent Q: who comes up with what games are ok at recess?
  + Want to offer structured games activities / sports
* Communicate changes to staff, children and parents
* Encouraged parents to “speak up” with questions, ideas, concerns

**SLT election results:**

* 101 voters signed in, 92 votes cast
* Winners: Michael Farber, Jessica Lombardi

**Florence Byrne Parent Coordinator:**

* Discussion of 5th grade needs, paperwork procedures, 5th grade tab on website
* Access to ELA and Match Scores? Need account, open by phone w/ Florence, or stop by, takes 3 minutes at drop-off
* Email: [FByrne@schools.nyc](mailto:FByrne@schools.nyc)

**Committee Updates:**

* Financial:
* Spiritwear for sale, net neutral
* $6900 expense PA covered school budget shortfall
* 5th grade dues, letters will be going out shortly, last year it went out in January
* Community Board Mtg Education Committee:
  + Meets Nov 9th, community board website
  + Someone went to last one and they commented to her about that. Parent request for reminders so parents can attend
* Book Fair:
  + Coming up, info to come
* Gridiron Football Classic Friday, weather permitting
* Boo Bash:
* Saturday 29th, volunteer sign ups out
* Need 100 parents to volunteer
* Taking HS kids for community service

**Assistant Principal Discussion w/ S. Schwartz:**

* S. Schwartz asked for additional support, cannot hire as Interim Acting Principal
* Have been granted an AP to assist 4 days a week: Miss O’Rafferty
  + Helped put compliance systems into place at PS 207, and S. Schwartz asked her to come here. She is a certified AP who, based on district needs, travels across the district

**Additional questions and discussion with S. Schwartz**

* Instructional Focus for year: How teacher’s get and give feedback
  + Eventually kids to give feedback
  + No HW policy as of yet, focus on safety first,
  + Want to eventually discuss school-wide
* Parent question: Envision math: can you monitor and possibly change to go math? Students struggling
* in 2012-13, Schwartz had 8th greatest progress in math because he brought in his own program
* Doesn’t matter the program, we need to turn program into curriculum
* It’s a foundation, Envision may meet some students needs. Challenge is how to adjust for different students
* Programs can make teachers very robotic, his long-term goal is to turn the program into a living curriculum
* Parent Q: Spelling?
* Exact same approach with literacy. We have a new program this year from Teacher’s College, which is very structured
* It’s a program, but want to make it into a curriculum with word work, spelling
* Fundations: Now K-2, early intervention, 2 universal literacy coaches, Ms. Moore and Ms. Kim
* Parent Q re: Apps: Class Dojos, etc. Is there a way to unify it?
  + Not teachers fault, when I came last year, Schwartz looked at the prep schedule, and questioned why teachers in same grade not communicating.
  + Instituted common preps, and teaching teachers how to work as a team to look at student work
  + Putting together instructional cabinet, instruct what conversations the should be having
  + Have to teach them how, and develop over time
* S. Schwartz encouraged emails with questions, stating his goal is to answer all emails within 24 hours

**Meeting adjourned @9:00 pm**