10X024 Parents Association Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2016

Motion made and seconded to accept the previous months minutes

Principal’s Report:

* Thanks Holly for her help with the teaching assistants
* Community Garden blooming
* Sustainability projects were a success, as was Glee and Band performances
* Coreen Williams is an AP who is going to be joining PS 24 staff as of tomorrow morning. She will be introduced at the Principal’s Breakfast this Friday May 20. She is not being paid for out of the school’s budget, but is coming via DOE supports.
* Additional school aides are coming in at 7:30 a.m. each morning and stay all day
* Bathrooms by cold and hot lunchrooms are closed so school aides will help supervise the remaining bathrooms in use.
* Expeditionary Learning for K-5, Envison math for K-5, a lot of curricular materials coming in to the building next year.
* Q: Homework policy? Some parents want more.
* Postings are up to increase the cluster pool for enrichment activities.  What’s new in the postings is a dance position.
* A parent thanks Ms. Feldman for all she is doing to make things work at the school.
* Ms. Feldman in turn thanks the parents.

Financial Report:

* Ingrid’s last report as she is not seeking reelection
* SpringFest coming up so that number will go up
* Yearbook should break even
* Teacher special projects sometimes come in through end of May, even into June
* Our income high due to successful events. We will continue to look for ways to support teacher projects to spend it down.

Election Committee/Elections

* Have brought two motions to the floor to begin considered
* One, there had been some confusion as to when nominations were closed so election committee is asking for a motion to reopen nominations.  Second motion will be to ask for election to be rescheduled for June 1st.
* Parent says that everyone knew the nominating process was open so why are we putting out this motion
* Election committee reiterates that it’s about trying to be fair so that is why they are putting out the motion. A couple of people didn’t feel that they were treated fairly during the process.
* DOE Family Advocate was consulted on this plan of action.
* A vote is taken to reopen the nominations. For:  48 Against: 27. Motion is passed.
* Nominations now open. All seconded
* This is the slate:
* Recording secretary: Abby A. Cohen
* Corresponding Secretary: Robert Heisler
* Treasurer: Nessa Levinson
* Financial Secretary: Deborah Weitz
* VP: Laura Otte-Froelich, Holly Makin, Eileen Bowden
* President and Co-President: Diane Salanto and Laura Moukas.  Pavitra Trivedi and Priscilla Aybar.
* Move to close nominations, seconded, closed.
* Motion to vote tonight, seconded.
* Motion to move the election to June 1st.  Seconded. A debate ensures about this motion, if people had a chance to prepare or not.
  + Q: is the election body capable of doing the election tonight? Yes.
  + Q: What are the pros and cons of tonight or June 12th?
  + Why for moving: to give all the candidates time to prepare a statement.
  + Parent says that the vote was not on the agenda for tonight.
  + Q: did DOE give a recommendation to move to June 1st? A: No, it was the election committee’s idea.
  + Parent speaks to share that they think all should be heard as we work through this debate
  + Parent underscores that all the positions are uncontested except co-presidents (two slates)
* Vote ensues on whether to move the election to June 1. Yes:18   No: 52. Motion is defeated. Vote will proceed tonight.

Springfest will be 6/8 from 5-8 p.m.

* Flyers are passed out, and will also be backpacked

SLT Meeting update:

* Melodie Mashel (District 10 Superintendent) and Laura Feijoo from DOE visited with the SLST
* Wanted to go around the room and ask SLT members what would their wishlist be for the school—transparency, trust, vision, more clusters
* Assistant Principal on loan for as long as we need her
* Were given the protocol on an IA Principal vs. a Principal. No difference except in terms of hiring a permanent AP.  Must have a permanent principal in place to go through a C30 for a new AP.
* They were very clear and went through the rules and regulations
* C30 process is stalled for now. If the lawsuit is thrown out then the earliest the new posting could go up is September 15th.
* All teacher positions are filled except for dance cluster and there is one teacher moving to another state
* Parent asks about the school’s image in the community being tarnished by the various challenges and can SLT share ideas for that
* Media and Outreach committee is a new committee being formed by the PA. Need people who are good at PR. Start with the positive.
* A few dates to announce:
  + Next SLT meeting - June 15.
  + Parents Helping Parents meeting - June 2 at 6:30.
  + Parents workshop with Dr. Yoni Schwab - June 6 at 6:30.
* Question about School Construction Authority (SCA) - Laura Feijoo indicated that the process would move forward with the school expansion process, and that this would no longer be held up until a permanent principal is in place.
* Next question is how hard do we push on the C30 process? The PA has had a few successes. What do folks thinks?
* Some parents think we shouldn’t keep pushing because it may work against the positive messaging.
* Parents agree it’s important to get the positive message out
* Debate about Chancellor’s Reg—a parent says that it’s not law, could be changed.
* Bob- there are some collective bargaining agreements that may affect this process (Council of Supervisors Association - CSA).
* Issue of space and overcrowding. We have 48 classes in this small building impacting lunch, gym.

Elections:

Candidate statements (each speaks for 2 minutes)

* Priscilla and Pavitra
  + Priscilla has a 2nd grader at the school, first year her son is in the school.  She joined the PA to try to foster an open door policy.  Would like to see parents get involved. She works full time.  She has her bachelors in criminal justice and masters in communications.
  + Pavitra: She has been a class parent (has a 5th and 3rd grader).  A private owner in ReMax. Background in real estate construction management. Law School Cardozo, international law.  Current concerns the C30 process and new principal transition, new space construction.  Make the best of the team we have. Solve the issues. Strongly believes in teamwork and communication.  Knows Priscilla since their kids were in preschool together. She wants to bring a peaceful positive approach to the school.
* Diane Salanto
  + parent of 2nd and 4th grader. Active parent and member of SLT. Will bring hands on experience. Explore innovative ways, open communication, further our fundraising and build parent involvement. Can find ways to get more parent engagement. Will continue to pursue solutions to space issues and challenges. I’m a doer. Been an honor to be on SLT.
  + Laura Moukas- two 5th graders and a 3rd grader. Has been class rep for all three kids’ classes in the past. Became VP of PA last year and PA president this year. Volunteered and coordinated for many major school fundraisers. This year has worked together with parents, teachers, administrators. Made this an open and inclusive PA. Had great auction turnout, best revenue ever for BooBash and book fair. Still a lot that we could do for our kids. Diane and I make a great team.
* Ballots are distributed, completed and collected by election committee. Votes are tallied and winners are announced.
* Vote tallies:
  + # of eligble voters: 84
  + Laura & Diane: 61 votes
  + Pavitra & Pricilla: 15 votes
  + Abstentions: 2
  + (Several parents left early/did not turn in ballots)
* PA Co-President winners are Laura Moukas and Diane Salanto.
* The rest of the slate is uncontested and is also voted in.