



Parents Association of P.S. 196Q
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Minutes of PA Meeting – December 20, 2016

Opening: Stephanie Cooper started the meeting at 7:38 PM. The meeting was held in the lunch room.

Board in Attendance: Meredith Kaback (Co-President), Stephanie Cooper (Co-President), Yvonne Venezia (Treasurer), Karen Solomon (Co-Secretary).

Susan Migliano (Assistant Principal), Ellen Maurer (Parent Coordinator), Maria Romero (After School Director) were also in attendance.

STEM Cart

Alyssa Pollock gave an introduction of Karen Koslowitz who provided the funds for our new, upcoming STEM Cart. K. Koslowitz has been our tireless advocate and for Forest Hills, too! K. Koslowitz explained how she gets great pleasure in helping get our students what they need.

Our STEM team of Teachers (Ms. Hellman, Ms. Miles, Ms. Martello, Ms. Roller) were on hand to help explain STEM to parents, and to also see the demonstration by STEM Lab, who will be supplying the cart. Ms. Hellman explained that STEM learning started in all grades this year, even though we don't have the cart just yet. The lower grades are more engineering based, and the upper grades are being introduced to a deeper level of science.

STEM Lab then presented the STEM Cart and its capabilities, which included:

- Technology based teaching platforms
- Exposing kids to technology
- Cart just rolls and plugs in
- Document Camera (like an overhead projector)
- BOSE Sound
- Wireless tablet to allow the teacher to move around the room
- Data management and assessment tools for the teacher
- Teacher can blank all the kids' screens to get their attention
- Teachers can limit the websites that students are allowed to access or not allow at all
- Teacher can co-browse with students then release them to explore
- Clickers – one per child- allow the teacher to poll the class throughout a lesson
- Science Probes- light/ sounds/ temp/ humidity/ etc
- Additional materials for experiments included
- Teacher training and support
- 3 year warranty (cart should last 5 years)

E3 Recess Program – Ariana Palacio

A test run was conducted and we are scheduled to begin the program in January. There is some equipment to be purchased. Kids usually get about 20-25 minutes recess during lunch. There are also cognitive games for those that don't want to be as active.

PA voted on this expenditure, \$24,000 for the remainder of this school year, and it was approved unanimously. This includes 2 coaches, and our aides support.

Mindful Program Vote

Meredith Kaback presented this program for vote and it was approved 37 (yes) to 1 (no). This program will include chair yoga, breathing, and mindfulness exercises in the classrooms and will be \$6000 for February through June.

Afterschool Program (ASP) Report – Ms. Maria Romero

Fall Semester will end 1/31. Sign up for the next semester will start on 1/9/17.

Parent Coordinator's Report

Ellen Maurer reminded parents Sunday Night Update are happening! If you have not received this call, the school does not have your correct number, and you should call (718) 784-3314 to update your number.

By Laws Vote

As discussed last month, our By Laws require updating to allow for 3 Vice-Presidents. This was presented for vote and was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Please see report generated by the treasurer.

PA President's Report

Our Chipotle Fundraiser raised \$400. Cheeburger Cheerburge fundraiser is coming the 1st week in February! We are working on another with Shake Shack.

Bank Bus is coming on January 9th! Compassionate Communication Workshop is coming.

Sunshine Committee has sent gifts to a few teachers who have recently had babies.

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.