



Parents Association of P.S. 196Q
71-25 113th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375 pa196.org
/ PAof196@gmail.com

Minutes of PA Meeting – February 28, 2017

Opening: Stephanie Cooper started the meeting at 7:32 PM The meeting was held in the lunch room. Meridith Kabacki (Co-President), Stephanie Cooper (Co-President), Brenda Zuckerman (Co-Vice President), Yvonne Venezia (Treasurer), Karen Solomon (Co-Secretary), Heather Brown (Co-Secretary).

Blimie Berkowitz (Assistant Principal, IA), Ellen Maurer (Parent Coordinator), Maria Romero (After School Director) attended.

Principal's Report – given by Ms. Berkowitz

- Math-A-Thon is underway. Our families have already raised \$11,667.00 Children can participate at any time through March 17th. Please help us help the Children of St. Jude's.
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on March 9, 2017. This is a half day of school. Conferences will take place from 1 – 3 PM and 5 – 8 PM.
- Saturday Academy / ELA will begin on March 18th and will start at 9:30 AM.
- Monthly grade newsletters will be emailed tomorrow.
- Principal's Newsletter will be copied and sent home on March 9th.
- We need all families to complete and return Learning Environment Survey's
- PS 196 is starting a new initiative: Parent Teacher Team. More info to follow.

Parent Coordinator's Report – Ms. Ellen Maurer

Learning Environment Surveys will be given out at Parent Teacher Conferences. Class Parents / Clockers will assist by having parents complete them during p/t conferences. Last year our school had a return rate of 88%. Our goal this year is to achieve an over 90% return rate.

Parent Teacher Team

A new group is being formed which will include Teachers, Parent Coordinator, Guidance Counselor, and Parents. This team will provide input to the school on what types of workshops parents are interested in attending. The Team will also work to improve communication between parents and the school.

Afterschool Report – Ms. Maria Romero

Spring Semester is underway.

New Class – Fun with Science implemented by Ms. Hellman has been a big success.

½ March 9 – Afterschool will provide childcare from Noon – 8PM. Sign up is in progress. Soccer Friends and homework help will be part of the days' events.

April Break – waiting to see if building will be available for holiday camp.

Treasurer's Report

Please see report generated by the treasurer

SLT Report

There is news that our school enrollment will increase to 1006 children in the upcoming school year. Principal Migliano has put in a request to cap enrollment at 945 children. In the event that enrollment does increase, 6 classrooms can be renovated to accommodate the increase in enrollment.

Technology

The school has received a \$35,000 grant for smartboards and ipads.

Assistant Principal – Interviews

Level 1 interviews have taken place and Level 2 interview will be taking place so that a finalist can be selected. Currently Ms. Blimie Berkowitz is serving as Interim AP.

Auditorium Update

The Auditorium may be ready for graduation. The school is looking for alternate spaces to hold the graduation ceremony just in case.

STEM LAB

The STEM LAB was delivered and will be up and running by September. Professional Development will begin soon for teachers.

Wellness Committee

Mindfulness Training for 3, 4, and 5 grades is in progress. They will be having weekly sessions focusing on breathing, yoga, and stress reducing techniques.

Sunday March 5 – Families are invited to a Mindfulness Practice at 10 AM in the Gymnasium.

Nut Allergies – The Wellness Council will be focusing on nut allergies and ways the school can support children with nut allergies.

March 12 – TITLE Boxing will be at the school for our Family Fun monthly event.

School Fundraisers

Valentine's Day Dance was a big success. Everyone had a great time! Families participated in the raffle and teacher time raffles.

The PA will continue to offer Restaurant Nights at local restaurants. Our first restaurant was Chee Burger Chee Burger. Our next restaurant will be Shake Shack. When families let the restaurant know they are from PS 196, the restaurant will give the school a portion of sales during the allocated week.

Scholastic Book Fair – will be held in the Library. Gina and Karen still need volunteers to help. Thursday, March 9th the book fair will be open during parent teacher conferences if parents would like to shop with their children.

International Night is scheduled for Thursday May 11, 2017

Families are invited to set up a display from their home country. In addition, we will be having a potluck and families attending are encouraged to bring a dish or make a donation if you chose not to bring food. Each Class is encouraged to make a basket that will be raffled off at the event. We are also accepting donations for gift certificates from local businesses. Volunteers are needed to set up, clean up, help with raffles and more! Please contact Tasneem if you are interested in Volunteering.

Upcoming School Fundraisers

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Participatory Budgeting Voting

The City Council holds PBV each year. Residents 14 years and older are eligible to vote. Voting will take place on March 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31st. This year PS196 is on the ballot. If our school wins, we would receive technology upgrades as well as bathroom renovations. There will be pop up voting locations and our school can be a location. We will need volunteers at tables during voting times. We will need 3 – 5 people per shift. Online voting will also be available.

Teacher Appreciation Day – May 5

Closing: _____ Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM