

SPRUCE PTA GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

October 16th, 2013 - 8:50am – Cafeteria

Minutes Approved: November 20, 2013

Meeting called to order at 8:50am by Learan Kahanov

Quorum present (please see sign in sheets)

Executive Board members present: Ashley Duncan, Learan Kahanov, Caroline Rouine, Laetitia Damiani, Danielle Solomon, Kristin Moshonas, Charlie Collins, Mame McCutchin, Marjorie Zarin

Minutes from last meeting on September 19, 2013 were passed out and approved.

1. Treasurer's Report – Charlie Collins

- a. Charlie reminded attendees about two ways to contribute toward PTA funds: Direct Appeal, currently underway, and purchasing goods through the Spruce website Amazon link
- b. Charlie distributed budget report – see attached
- c. PTA requested to increase Spooktacular budget by \$1,000 from \$2,500 to \$3,500.
 - i. The funding increase is not incremental to the PTA budget – it is a shifting of funds from Taste of Seaport to Spooktacular. Less funds are needed for Taste of Seaport because Howard Hughes company is contributing more.
 - ii. The incremental budget will go toward items such as bouncy house and decorations. Decorations purchased this year will be reused in future years.
 - iii. Vote: Approved unanimously

2. Principal's Report – Nancy Harris

- a. This past Friday was school-wide research project. The grades studied:
 - i. K – Community
 - ii. 1st – Their teachers
 - iii. 2nd – Louis, custodian
 - iv. 3rd – Their heritage
 - v. 4th – History of our school

Nancy Tweeted about the projects and reminded families to check out her Tweets.

- b. Jump Start letters go out next week to those families whose students are invited. Sessions will start on Tues, 10/30 at 8:10am. Jump Start is time for extra help, e.g. small group reading support, math skills, test prep for 3rd and 4th (starting in Jan).
- c. In response to parent questions, Nancy stated:
 - i. There will probably not be “clubs.”
 - ii. The jumpstart letters will include information written in at the bottom about why the child is being invited. For more information, families can meet with staff when Jumpstart kicks off.
 - iii. The decision to hold Jumpstart in morning vs afternoon is based on teachers working out the schedule. There are pros and cons of each time of day.
- d. Julie Lam shared that the Spruce website has launched grade specific pages. You can navigate to them as follows:
<http://www.sprucestreetnyc.org> → About Spruce → Group Pages → Click on your grade group page
- e. Parent - Teacher meetings will take place November 20.
- f. There are additional adults in the classrooms. They are 7 student teachers from Pace and NYU, America Reads tutors, and NYU students on work study.
- g. DOE is requiring increased amount of in-class teacher observation for teacher reviews. As a result:
 - i. From now until end of year, Nancy and Hillary will be in teacher classrooms – doing lots of classroom visits and teacher observations.
 - ii. Because Nancy and Hillary will be harder to reach, please use as points of contact, Julie, little Nancy, and Reena. That said, Nancy and Hilliary are always available.
- h. Nancy Tweets via handle: @SpruceStreet397. Feed of Tweets is on website, too.
- i. Monthly Update: big picture view of the school
 - i. Safety – Yard soft surface is finished
 - ii. Protesters – Have stopped whistling. They moved when we have fired drills. Building clears in 4 minutes. First lockdown will be practiced.
 - iii. Community Events – Meryl 4th grade teacher, UFT Rep (e.g. shop steward) will attend morning PTA meetings as teachers’ voice.
 - iv. Community Events – Community involvement makes a school

successful. Please attend and/or volunteer for upcoming events:

1. Spooktacular
 2. Taste of Seaport
 3. Picture Day
 4. Book Fair
- j. Parents raised concerns about 3rd graders not eating lunch together or having recess at the same time. Nancy shared that there will other school opportunities, like common work time and community meetings, for the grade to be together. Learn added that the arrangement is a function of the space in the school, at some point each grade will need to be separated.

3. President's Report – Learn Kahanov

- a. Taste of the Seaport will be on Sunday, October 27, 11am-4pm on Front Street between Beekman and Fulton Streets. Volunteers Needed Contact: Maggie Lava @ mltlnyc888@gmail.com o
- b. Spruce Street School Spooktakular will be on Friday, October 25, 6-8:30pm Rooftop Gym @ School Volunteers Needed Contact: Kristin Moshonas @ kmoshonas@yahoo.com Or Danielle Solomon @ dgalbraith@earthlink.net
- c. Amazon Link – Start at the school website, Click on Amazon link, then login and shop. Cart must be empty when you start. Marjorie Zarin will research the in's and out's of Amazon process.
- d. Green team, part DOE combined with Wellness committee. Contact Julie to be a part of team. First meeting in next couple of weeks.
- e. First Pie Sale to be held before Thanksgiving
- f. Book Fair to be held in earl December

4. Special Expedited Elections for Members at Large

- a. Jennifer Greenblatt, district and family advocate, was in attendance. She noted favorably that the PTA meeting had a very large turnout for District 2.
- b. Jennifer facilitated an election for members at large. Members at large are part of the Executive Board, they get to vote, and will lead a committee.
- c. Alessandra Medigo and Abi Raheel were nominated and approved unanimously.

5. SLT Report: Chris Growney

- a. Anyone can attend SLT meetings

- b. SLT minutes available in the binder in school office
- c. Next meeting 10/22 at 3:30 – 5:00. Agenda to include:
 - i. Report cards
 - ii. CEP – specific school goals
 - iii. Forming committees – non LST members are able to join the committees
- d. If you want to get on the agenda for an SLT meeting, it must be approved 7 days in advance
- e. In response to parent inquiry, SLT will look into childcare for during their meetings.

6. Community Education Council (CEC) Report: Sonni Munn

- a. Sonni was elected for 2 years to CEC, which is an advisory panel to DOE for District 2. Among other things, CEC decides on zoning.
- b. Use Sonni as a contact for topics that should be brought up at a district level. Parent voices make a real difference. Example of PS 150 not moving to Chelsea cited as example.
- c. By opening of school next year, we should know if Spruce goes up to 8th grade, due to timing of application process for 5th graders. Middle school is a choice process, 5th graders apply; priority given to kids in the same school.

7. Q&A – No questions asked.

8. Adjourn – Meeting adjournment called by Learan was approved.