

## SPRUCE PTA GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

November 20, 2013 - 8:50am – Cafeteria

Minutes Approved:

Meeting called to order at 8:50am by Ashley Duncan.

Quorum present (please see sign in sheets).

Executive Board members present: Ashley Duncan, Caroline Rouine, Laetitia Damiani, Danielle Solomon, Kristin Moshonas, Charlie Collins, Abi Raheel.

Minutes from last month's meeting held on October 16, 2013 were distributed and approved.

### **Treasurer's Report – Charlie Collins**

- Budget report distributed. See attached.
- The request to increase the budget for merchandise by \$1,500 was approved.

### **SLT Report: Chris Growney**

- SLT distributed a handout with responses to questions asked via lobby "SLT Question Box" and in the last SLT meeting.
- An SLT subcommittee has been created regarding Middle school's questions. Nancy said that they don't know yet if we will have a middle school but the DOE will have to let her know by the end of this school year because if we do have a middle school parents should start the application process.
- SLT noted about appropriate email correspondence with the teachers and that the guidelines need to be followed.
- If you have a question for the SLT, please deposit it in the SLT box in the lobby.

### **President's Report – Ashley Duncan**

- Proposal to hold General PTA meetings in the morning was voted on and approved.
- Dirty Socks Funtime Band concert on Friday Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm was proposed, voted on and approved.
- Other announcements included:
  - Movie Night: Mark Your Calendar November 22, 6-8pm – tickets on sale now!
  - Pie Sale: Distribution on Tuesday, Nov 26 at 2:30pm in Cafeteria. 330 pies were sold.
  - Green Team Meeting took place. Team members will visit PS 89 cafeteria to learn how they handle trash separation with the kids
  - Spring Gala: May 17<sup>th</sup>. Please come to our first meeting tomorrow!

Thursday, November 21st after drop-off in rm 351.

- Scholastic Book Fair Dec 9-13
- Ashley noted that the PTA will work to improve the website and accessing info from the site and also corresponding with parents who have emailed the PTA email box. Asked for parental volunteers who maybe technically savvy.
- Girl Scouts will be spoken about again

### **Principal's Report – Nancy Harris**

- Nancy and members of the SLT gave a presentation about the School Progress Report, which compares Spruce to peer schools. See attached. Highlights of the presentation:
  - Overview of components of the overall grade and how the data is collected.
  - A list of peer schools was provided. Per Nancy, when comparing to these peer schools, our overall grade of C, was similar.
  - Our school environment score was a grade D. The score is driven by student attendance rates and the NYC School Survey (learning environment survey) previously completed by parents, teachers and students. The feedback from NYC School Survey has already spurred improvements in communications at Spruce that have been or will be implemented.
- After parents voiced their specific concerns regarding communication at school, Nancy and SLT presented some measures to address these concerns:
  - SLT is forming the following committees: (1) Issues related to children who require specialized education (IEPS and special education), (2) Adult to adult communication, (3) Anti-bullying, (4) New programs, and (5) Middle School
  - Some parents said there is too much communication and that it is not differentiated, making it hard to discern the more important information among the many emails from school.
  - Although the school web site is greatly improved they will continue to make it more useful and hopefully have homework and a more useful calendar in the future

### **Q&A**

- Parents asked at what time and where a child is considered late. Some parents were upset because their kids got a late pass for being 1 minute late and that kids have to line up to get a late pass in the lobby instead of being sent directly to their class.
  - Nancy said that the 8:40 am is the latest time for drop off after that a child considered is late and the school front doors is where a child is considered late (and not the auditorium or classroom).

- Nancy said that she will make sure that all the school clocks will be verified and adjusted to the same time because some parents said that their watch said 8:39 am but the school clock said 8:41 am.

Adjourn – Meeting adjournment called by Ashley was approved.