

SPRUCE PTA GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

March 19, 2014 – 8:50 AM - Cafeteria

Minutes Approved:

Meeting called to order at 8:50 by Learan Kahanov

Quorum present (please see sign in sheets).

Executive Board members present: Ashley Duncan, Learan Kahanov, Laetitia Damiani, Danielle Solomon, Charlie Collins, Mame McCutchin, Marjorie Zarin; Alessandra Medigo;

Minutes from last month's meeting held on February 12, 2014 were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Charlie Collins

- See Budget Status handout. No major revenue or expenses since last meeting.
- Parent asked how much money is being spent for to AUSSIE program—Professional Development is the largest budget line. Charlie will look into it.
- Budget Committee Explanation & Formation – Per the by-laws must have committee of five people, including Charlie as chair. Committee plans next year's PTA budget. People in attendance volunteered.
- First meeting will take place in April and parents are strongly encouraged to attend if they would like to provide input into the budget. In subsequent meetings, discussion limited to the five committee members.
- 2014/15 PTA Budget will be presented at June meeting and voted on by PTA.

Presidents' Report – Ashley Duncan/Learan Kahanov

- Audit Committee Explanation & Formation - Audit Committee – needs to take place prior to budget committee. People volunteered.
- Foreign Language Afterschool update – Ashley and Learan met with Manhattan Youth about next year; they are looking into Spanish because that has the most demand Downtown. Got list of all the programs Manhattan Youth offers so we can take a survey of what programs we would like. Biggest concern about bringing another vendor is safety. If you bring in another vendor, they need to bring in their own safety officer.
- FYI – Manhattan Youth having input session for all their programming next Weds at 6pm.
- To make language part of school curriculum is a topic for SLT.
- Learning Environment Survey – Please fill one out if you haven't already done so – hoping for 100% participation! Survey for eldest child at the school counts.
- Dictionary Daze: Peter Tunney Installation in the stairwell of our school. Artist talk in the Fall. Vote on Installation Budget of \$800 unanimously approved. Reallocation of recess staff money.
 - Art is letters A to Z.
 - Art would go up during Spring break and stay up through next Fall.
 - Artist will give a talk and donate one of the letters.
- Spring Gala: May 17th: Moulin Rouge - Mark Your Calendars!
 - Donation Forms on our website. Loose deadline for donations is April 1st. Goes live on Bidding for Good from April 14 until the gala.

- Tickets can be bought on Bidding for Good.
- Ashley spoke to Manhattan Youth about babysitting – it is not possible.
- Volunteers needed! Email ashleykernduncan@hotmail.com
- Taste of the Seaport: Date Set! October 18, 2014
 - Teaming with Peck Slip School, under a new non-profit whose board has members from both schools. Learan, Hope Flamm and Tammy Kurtz represent Spruce. Committees to be formed.
 - If you know of a corporate entity that would want to be a sponsor of this or any event, please email Learan.
- Classical Concert: Kristin – March 28th at 6:30. Parent is on board of Concerts’ Artists Guild, they conduct int’l competitions for artists and they help the artists develop their careers. Nice opportunity to expose kids to music. Will also do session in the school for the kids. Look on Spruce website under donate to buy tickets or go to brownpapertickets and search PubliQuartet.
- Movie Night: No movie Night this month due to Classical Concert. Remaining Movie Night April 25, May 30, and June 13.
- Spirit Project – Last year in June helped with Sandy Relief. This year for our music department; our hope is Howard Hughes runs and Spruce supplements with children’s activities. Date and details to come.
- Direct Appeal – Mame McCutchin – looking for increased family participation
- Green/Wellness Team – Marjorie Zarin – solicited volunteers for lunch shifts. Additional Green Team topics include hand washing, cleaning supplies used and items requested on parent supply lists.
- PTA – nominations in May and elections in June for both PTA and SLT

SLT Report – Chris Gowney (substitute)

- We have met March benchmarks for CEP goals.
- Potential 4th “Be” to add to our 3 “Be’s”
- 3 of 4 subcommittees have met. Details to be provided in minutes.
 - IEP – Weds, March 26 at 9am
 - Behavior – Fri, April 11 at 9am
 - New Programs – Tue, April 1 at 2pm. Covers both programs during the school day and after the school day.
 - Middle School Planning – Thurs, March 27 at 3:30
- SLT will be looking for more parent members as the school grows in size.
- Discussed website – what we need from teacher and staff perspective; PTA pays for the website. Will also gather parent input. Should we stay with eChalk or go to another website.

Principal’s Report – Nancy Harris: Enrollment

- Nancy last newsletter was about kindness.
- New Studies are starting, e.g. 1st grade Farm and Market Study
- Testing for 3rd and 4th graders – April 1st ELA exam; Math test April 30, May 1 and May 2. Test stress workshop next Tues evening
- Safety – Remind caregivers that the plaza is a public space – be careful of others when playing and do not go in the chained off area
- Protesters noisy again; Nancy meeting with detective from first precinct
- Enrollment – school is growing
 - 2014-2015 – Kindergarten online application process is closed. Offer letters come in a few weeks. Slated for 3 classes. 80 applicants, will have small wait list. Pre-K

enrollment extended until end of April. We are slated for 2 morning; 2 afternoon, same as this year.

- 6th Grade for Sept 2015 – We will take in students from District 2 to fill the classes. SLT committee meeting to start envisioning what the middle school will be like.
- Right now we have room for doing above. Good for the next 2 years.
- Workshop for 4th grade families in the Spring about middle school process.
- Anticipate combining the 3 First Grades into the 2 Second Grades.

Q&A

- Parent reminded everyone to attend next Thurs 6pm 1st Precinct Community Meeting to complain about protesters.

Adjourn