

SPRUCE PTA GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

April 9, 2014

8:50AM - Cafeteria

Minutes Approved:

Quorum was present. Please see sign in sheets.

Meeting called to order at 8:50 by Laetitia Damiani.

Executive Board members present: Laetitia Damiani, Danielle Solomon, Kristin Moshonas, Charlie Collins, Marjorie Zarin, Abi Raheel, Caroline Rouine

Minutes from last month's meeting held on March 19, 2014 were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Charlie Collins

- Budget distributed – see attached.
- Budget Committee has been formed. This committee will draft the budget for next year, which will be approved this June. All parents are invited to speak at the first meeting to give input.
- Audit Committee has been formed for routine budget audit.
- Concert last week – Thank you to Allison for donating for it. Thank you for Kristin for organizing.

Presidents Report – Laetitia Damiani/Caroline Rouine

- Dictionary Daze: Final Details: Jennifer Rinehart
 - The artist Peter Tunney did something similar in Miami Dade School.
 - This exhibit created for Spruce. Each piece is 41" x 49"
 - Extra piece created for school to auction off or keep.
 - There is a book with intro letter from Nancy created.
 - Next Tuesday it will be unpacked. Installed in the stairway on Wednesday
 - Considering fundraising or other event in the Fall, e.g. reception. Peter willing to give a talk or art lesson. Contact Jennifer Rinehart to help plan Fall event.
- Spring Gala: May 17th: Moulin Rouge - Mark Your Calendar
 - Tickets early bird special \$60 until April 30th. \$75 thereafter. Will be in the gym.
 - Bidding for Good and ticket sales start April 23rd. Bidding will be via attendees' mobile devices.
 - Donations are still being accepted for auction items, which will . Selling point is that Bidding for Good is displayed nationally. Families reminded to support businesses that make donations.

- All the teachers are invited to come to the Gala for free.
- Volunteers needed! For data entry now (can be done from home) and for the night of, a shift. Email ashleykernduncan@hotmail.com
- Looking for someone to donate photographic services night of. Contact Danielle.
- Movie Night: April 25th
- Direct Appeal – Charlie \$58,640 raised, half of which is through corporate matching. Approximately 17% of families have donated. Goal is \$100,000 and 100% family participation. Planet Spruce poster in lobby is tracking progress.
- Green/Wellness Team – Marjorie Zarin – Next meeting tomorrow, Thursday, 8:50-9:20 am.
 - Please continue to sign up for cafeteria lunch volunteering. On a one off basis is fine.
 - Exploring culture of hand washing. Parents wanted to know what is done currently.
- CEC (Community Education Council) Update - Sonni Mun
- ELA test protests are happening in other districts.
- Charter School protest on April 10 at 4:00 pm NY Public Library Steps. For more information, you can email SaveNYCSchools@gmail.com. Concern is that it impinges on the physical space available for public schools.
- Issue of school seat availability / over crowding – Organization of parents formed to voice concern. Sign petition circulated by Sonni.
- SLT (School Leadership Team) Report – Chris Growney – not present. No update given.

Principal's Report – Nancy Harris

- Learning Environment Survey is still underway. Deadline is this Friday. Please complete it.
- Firedrills will be conducted after break, per regular requirements.
- Field trips are underway
- Jumpstart will be ending in early May and kids invited in for individual assessment.
- District 2 Protest of ELA Test – Friday at 8:00 – 8:30. Can drop off kids or have them stand with you.
 - We had done our best to prepare for the test. However the sentiment is that the test was not good enough quality – nit picky, intentionally tricky, unclear.
 - Protest is to raise awareness that test wasn't good and that the test itself is not released.
 - Frustration is also heightened because the test is a gatekeeper for kids' promotion and drives 40% of teacher evaluation scores.
 - Results come out in early August.

Q&A

- None

Adjourn