

## SPRUCE PTA GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

May 21, 2014 – 8:50 AM – Cafeteria

Minutes Approved:

Meeting called to order at 8:50 by Laetitia

Quorum present (please see sign in sheets).

Executive Board members present: Ashley Duncan, Laetitia Damiani, Danielle Solomon, Kristin Moshonas, Charlie Collins, Marjorie Zarin, Alessandra Medigo

Minutes from April 2014 General PTA meeting were distributed.

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

- Current budget – see handout
  - Vote required for Spirit Project - \$2,000 which can be reallocated from other line items. Approved unanimously.
- Budget Committee
- Draft 2014/15 Budget - see draft of next year's budget hand out.
  - We need to raise more \$ this year in order not to go into 2015/16 with a short fall.
- 33 families have donated out of 190 families. Need \$30,000 more. Suggestions were made as to how to increase giving rate and survey reason for giving or not.

### **Presidents Report – Ashley Duncan/Learan Kahanov**

- Executive Board Nominations were solicited
- SLT Update – Jeanne Madej
  - Nominations – 1 year term and 2 year term positions nominated: Saida (2 year) and Karen Stonely (1 year)
  - March minutes distributed
  - Seeking support on Proposal for Anti bullying. Took an integrated approach:
    1. Behavior handbook – have parents sign that they have reviewed
    2. Behavior management tracking system, so you know when to escalate
    3. Appoint a point person in the school for behavior management
    4. Anti bullying training for all staff, teachers and parent volunteers
    5. Supplement recess and cafeteria staff (paddle raise at benefit)
    6. Enhance community building:
      - Among students, e.g. buddy classes between different grades

- Among parents, teachers, admin, staff. Idea to have chair of community building on PTA, e.g. afterschool yoga class to bring everyone together.
  - Send feedback to Jeanne
- Manhattan Youth's Director of Afterschool Programs, Theseus Roche reported that they are seeking to release the schedule of afterschool programs available to Spruce by June 1.
- Build Schools Now – Sonni Mun, Wendy Chapman, Buxton Midyette - Spruce voted to be a supporter of Build Schools Now, a group of concerned families advocating to increase the number of school seats downtown. Would like to create a trigger in the government to create schools relative to amount of development. [Sign online petition.](#)
- Community Education Council District 2 Chancellor Townhall: Debrief - Marjorie Zarin - If the new teachers' contract gets ratified, time used for jumpstart will be reallocated to professional development and parent/teacher conference. (If that is the case, Nancy will work on alternatives for jumpstart.)
- Spring Gala: Recap – thank you
- Spirit Project: June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Community fun event. 4-7 or 8 pm approx.. Will be raising funds for music department. Need volunteer help. There will be food trucks, bands, donated wine/beer. Email Ashley if you have ideas kids' activities. Howard Hughes will match whatever we make.
- Taste of the Seaport: October 18, 2014. Volunteers needed on all levels. Please contact Chair of TOTS, Tami Kurtz, directly [tamikj@gmail.com](mailto:tamikj@gmail.com). Meetings happen on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Committees meet in between those meetings to move forward. Please see committee list. Also seeking business/corporate sponsors.
- Movie Night: Frozen, May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Green/Wellness Team meeting tomorrow, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:50 am. – Marjorie Zarin

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

- Year End Events to watch for:
  - Auction was a great event.
  - Grade celebrations – calendar coming out soon
  - Field Day permission slips going out soon
  - Music Performance
  - Science Expo
  - Be aware of calendar - Half Days and non attendance days

- New Teacher's Contract – nothing has been ratified yet; in voting process now
  - Changes impacting families – Extended day: 150 extra minutes (jumpstart) will be reallocated from extra help to professional development and increased parent engagement, e.g. parent-teacher conferences four times per year
  - Contract not ratified yet, but, if jumpstart goes away, Nancy will look for solutions. That said, quality of teachers will most impact your students.
  - PTA can not pay for teachers' salary, e.g. to add extra hours.
- Enrollment
  - Kindergarten enrollment deadline is Friday.
  - Full day pre-K for first priority is for zoned siblings.
- Safety – Nancy elaborated on the incident this weekend where an intruder was found in the school and arrested. He entered through non-Spruce space on the fifth floor. Nancy is meeting with authorities and parties that share the school's physical space to address this safety lapse. No communication will be made to the children about the incident, as it did not impact them.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct has regular meetings which community members can ask questions/bring up issues.

### **Q&A**

Q: What is the status of middle school?

A: Nancy: Will be confirmed when book comes out in Aug/Sept. Sarah holding middle school session for 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Q: What about a foreign language?

A: Ashley: SLT new programs committee is looking at it.

### **Meeting Adjourned**