

P.S./I.S. 78Q PTA

THE ROBERT F. WAGNER, JR. SCHOOL

48-09 Center Boulevard, Long Island City, NY 11109 (ECC)
46-08 Fifth Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

Telephone: (718) 392-5402 - FAX: (718) 392-5434
Louis Pavone, Principal
Deana Rombone, Assistant Principal



PTA Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2016

Call to order – 7:04PM

November meeting minutes - Anne Marie Tamis-Nasello noted that her last name had been left out (for consistency).

Minutes approved.

Anastasia and Jaclyn are not able to attend the meeting tonight.

Mr. Pavone also not able to attend.

SLT REPORT:

Esther speaking tonight. She's one of the 5 members of SLT team.

Meetings are public, they've always been public. You're more than welcome to observe any meeting. They take place on the Friday before PTA meeting at 7:15AM. As an observer you're not allowed to participate, just listen. Minutes of SLT meetings have always been available at bulletin boards at entrances of both buildings. You can also find the SLT minutes on the school website.

During the last meeting, SLT also spoke about recess.

Need for Parent Coordinator. If you know somebody, please contact the Principal. Also, there's still a need for Librarian and Foreign Language Teacher for the Middle School. Other languages can also be taught besides Spanish – idea of teaching Mandarin came up. We as parent representatives want to be able to help in anything we can so please email us.

Plans of developing a school newspaper. It would be after school.

Anne Marie also mentioned how Principal Pavone is also still in talk regarding street closures.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

We've had 2 fundraisers – Turkey Trot (\$2,425) and SHI event (\$1,200)

We've raised \$21,000 in 3 weeks for recess

Total of \$23,625 raised this past month

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KIDS ORBIT UPDATE:

Ronnie (Executive Director) for Kids Orbit speaking:

Trying to figure out the best way to help PS78 for recess

He's been working with schools for many years and has never had this problem where they didn't have recess daily. They currently work with 6 different schools.

We agreed that we would begin KO program at end of February. We'll have 4 staff members in ECC and 2 staff members in MS. We will also have 2 people outside. It will be 20 minutes outside and 20 inside. Classes will be flip flopped. It will be 4 separate short periods of recess per school. We will work on a fast transition in order for kids to finish eating lunch and also get out every day.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

Question: What's the duration of each recess and lunch?

Rombone: It will be about 20 minutes. Each building is different. We have to figure out those numbers at MS because we will only have 2 staffed employees.

Question: Do all the schools have 45 minute periods?

Kids Orbit: Most schools have about 50 minute periods, but since you have a MS in the same building and MS is supposed to have 45 minutes, both schools follow that schedule.

Questions: What do they do on rainy days?

Kids Orbit: It depends on the principal and the weather conditions. We will follow the school's rules. No matter what the conditions, there will be recess daily.

Genevieve: Street closures will be approved. Once that happens, everything will work even better.

LL letter will go out soon. Training days are January 11 and 12. You're required to attend both days and then background checks will be done. About 1 months later, the program will begin. You can't volunteer for your own child's lunch period.

As mentioned at the CDEC meeting, UPK will be zoned out, right now they take up almost a whole floor at ECC school.

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Question: What happens if your child is sick on a day you're supposed to volunteer?

Genevieve: "Just email or contact the school as soon as you can and let them know you can't attend. If you can't make the training dates we have scheduled, then they have offices in Manhattan and you can attend training dates there. I want to reiterate what Bree said and thank all for donating and I'm very excited about the program. We understand we are asking for a lot of money, but we need it. The school has said they have no additional money for other additional programs. Whatever we want, we have to pay for. Whether it comes from us or corporations, we still need to pay for it."

The most important and biggest fundraiser for school is Spring Auction. If anybody wants to donate time and have anything to give to the auction, please do so."

Question: What is the date for the Spring Auction?

No date set yet. Usually in early May.

Family Fun nights: We want to incorporate wellness into these nights. Tiger J and LIC Kids want to work with us. We are very happy to be able to do this. We also want to bring back movie nights. We will have a DJ party in January for the whole family. This will be at end of January and will be our first Friday Fun Night.

Winter concert next week. Tuesday, 12/20. Please come!

Looking into changing lunch menu. Less processed, little healthier food .

Our Harvest wants to work with us. Really great opportunity to give back to the community.

Question: Is there a link?

They'll donate up to 3% up to \$500 per family. They'll donate to our Family Fun Nights.

Question: Would they be able to come and set up little stand and do something for school?

Genevieve: I'll send home more information. I literally just got off the phone with them today.

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FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE PRESENTATION:

Tiloma & Sarah: Got recruited for fundraising

Slideshow presentation

February 2 – Save the Date for Cocktails with Content at The Oracle Club

\$500K Goal number

Graph used as an example of how much money our school can raise

\$700 per student = \$500K

We have to change the mindset of how we give money.

Rombone: Reminding parents that next Friday 12/23 is the writing celebration

STUDENT OF THE MONTH:

For the month of November - Friendship

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15PM