

Minutes 1/17/18

Mr. Pavone –

Introduce Parent Coordinator and other staff

Photos from robotics competition – MS children

Last year was first time. Children learned from that experience and earned trophy and plaque this year. 4<sup>th</sup> place out of 25 schools, second year in competition. In partnership with SASF. Mr. Pistell worked with the kids on the program, built through legos, using software.

Students grades 3-8 will be participating in water program through EPA

College awareness day was Jan 11. MS children, during math, spoke about grants and finance. SS they spoke about history of school. Science spoke about application process. Language arts spoke about studying abroad vs. domestically. K children talk about savings accounts. All teachers wore their college gear.

Upcoming events – Jan 19 Fam Jam

Jan 23 – parent workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade after dismissal. Math workshop – how to solve multi step problems

Jan 24 – pre-k no school

Jan 31 – writing celebration

Feb 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trips

Feb 2 – 8<sup>th</sup> visiting Columbia university – college experience trip

Feb 8 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade trip

Feb 16 – 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip

Midwinter recess

Lakshmi- SLT Rep

Last Friday spoke about state tests in the spring. How are schools given Awards School Status. Test performance AND participation.

As a parent, Lakshmi offered for people to reach out to her regarding the tests since she has a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student. Award schools needs 95% participation rate. Award schools receive additional funding. Her experience is the test is not scary and teachers are very prepared. Last year school was at 94% participation, could be the difference of one student taking the test.

CHAMPS and SASF – which athletic programs school may want to do next year. Soccer participation was down.

Test prep – academies will be offered two days a week after school as well as Saturday mornings. Was positive experience last year.

Parent statement – parents should know that tests are optional. Percentage of students that opt out in NYC is lower than in NYS. Award schools show improvement year after year. Asking for additional information regarding the additional funding that school can receive. HS acceptance cannot discriminate based on whether or not student took the tests.

Ms. Morgan and Ms. Collins:

Student support services

Jessica Morgan – student counseling, college prep. Counseling in guidance office. Works with Ms. Collins in anti-bullying program. Works with student council for spirit days to celebrate school culture. Also works w students on MS application process in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 7<sup>th</sup> grade starts HS admissions process.

Sue Collins – SAPIS counselor at PS 78. Splits time with PS166. Presents evidence based curriculum for students 3-8. Will work with Ms. Morgan to teach an anti bully program to younger kids as well. Empathy and communication, bullying prevention, substance abuse prevention. Lessons are done in library period. Grades 3-5, life skill training. 9 week unit of study. Some students need additional support for social skills. Usually referred by the teacher for this program.

Parent question – when will this start?

Ms. Collins – likely mid Feb during respect for all week. Red ribbon week, starts with tobacco. Emphasis was on being safe, healthy and drug free

Yoshi – treasurers report

Gen – any donation helps. Recess fundraising push in Feb.

Yoshi – unpaid balance of 93K remaining

Gen – 7<sup>th</sup> graders were chosen again to UN Ambassadors program again. Only 20 schools selected. Personal tour of UN, visit from diplomat, exhibition at end of year.

Gen – Fam Jam on Friday night. Tickets are not sold out. 30 for adults 20 per kid. Food drinks included. DJ Suhel is 78 parent and donates his time. Tix available at the door. Raised 7k last year.

Gen – Save the Date – Mark Goetz, parent, came to PTA for fundraiser. Rock show at LIC Bar in March. Flier will be sent when we have more details.

Gen – need volunteers/donations for spring auction. Made almost 45K last year. Online bidding this year. Committee will begin to meet soon. Should be early May.

Bree – International potluck – end of March. 3 parents have volunteered to run that committee. Need more volunteers. Likely at Plaxall space.