

**Museum Alliance for Science and Technology  
P.S. 154 PTA - General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2009, 6:00pm  
Multi Media Room**

**Welcome**

Deb Capone welcomed the crowd with the expectations of a smaller and shorter meeting due to the energy expended for the Winter Festival this past weekend. Thank you to Laura Yoo for catering tonight's meeting for the Kindergarten classes.

**Budget Update**

Deb discussed the school cuts for this year falling somewhere between \$30 - \$60,000.00. Principal Ortiz has been able to account for the loss with some leftover Magnet funding, but the school will not have the same fortune with expected cuts for next year running near \$120,000.00. Since the school no longer receives Magnet funding, Science and Technology will be hardest hit. For instance, computers in the school are close to 5 years old and replacing them is very costly. Events like Science Night were also covered by Magnet funds. As a result, the PTA will be looking into options like corporate sponsorship and a variety of sponsorship packages so that all fundraising does not solely fall to the parents of the student body.

The PTA does not have 501C3, not for profit status which is needed to apply for larger grants. Mary Dove is looking into the logistics for applying and maintaining 501C3 status as an organization. Diana Plunkett explained that not for profits also need to have an outside audit performed regularly as one of their obligations which can run about 10K. If any parent is an eligible auditor, please contact Deb Capone.

The Bulb fundraiser, Boo Bash, Parents Night Out, Book Fair, Election Day Bake Sale, Thanksgiving Raffle and Winter Festival (proceeds still being counted) have all netted more income than anticipated. Please refer to the PTA budget summary posted on the PTA website for more detailed information.

**School Construction Authority (SCA) Meeting at P.S. 321, Thursday Dec. 18, 2008**

A meeting of the SCA at PS 321 will be held next Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. In preparation for this meeting, a Community Education Council representative came to meet with Deb and Mr. Ortiz to identify capital improvements at PS 154. Anticipating modest help being offered, Mr. Ortiz and Deb kept the requests to the following priorities:

- A) Redesigning the space of the Multi-media room to provide an enclosed art room, a small library, closed offices for therapists, ensuring privacy, and optimum space and aesthetic expediency for the larger space
- B) Plumbing issues, including the replacement of current difficult flushing mechanisms
- C) Sound proofing the cafeteria

## **Committee Reports**

The *Winter Festival* was a successfully executed and orchestrated group effort and seemed to provide a lot of fun for those who attended. Financially, the numbers are still coming in, but it seems that the net income will have exceeded anticipated amounts.

An outline of *Sponsorship Packages* has been designed as a new fundraising tool by the PTA. Sponsorship packages will include categories of sponsorship for "Contributors" like small businesses, Annual Sponsorship opportunities, Individual Event Sponsorship, Product Sponsors, and Program Sponsors. Each category of sponsorship will offer perks like listings on the website, ads in the yearbook, etc...

Sarah Goodman spoke on the *Africa Project* which she reports is going well. 35 boxes of books, toys, supplies, and equipment have been packed and ready for shipment. Sarah can use some help Thursdays and Fridays to sort and box items that continue to come into the PTA office. Contact Sarah at [saregood@aol.com](mailto:saregood@aol.com) if you are able to help. In addition, if anyone is interested in sponsoring a teacher in Zimbabwe, \$250.00 will cover an entire year's salary. Many of the teachers are fleeing to South Africa for more secure employment. Sarah has these details as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm. The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman