

**Museum Alliance for Science and Technology
P.S. 154 PTA - General Membership Meeting
Friday February 12, 2010, 9:00am
Multi Media Room**

Welcome

PTA President, Deb Capone opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

PTA Budget Update:

PTA Treasurer, Diane Bromberg went over the budget. She pointed out the new "Flusher fund" line item to put new flushers in the rest of the bathrooms on the first, second and third floors. She also noted other items in the budget that would go up and down as more income came in from the Winter Fair and out to Scholastic for the Book Fair.

Upcoming Events

- Parent's Night Out
 - Scheduled for March 19 from 7-10pm at Posters Please in Chelsea. It will include food, open bar and a wine tasting hosted by Juice Bar. If wine is purchased to be picked up or delivered later, 100% of the profits will go to the PTA. Price of ticket is \$60.
- Music Matters – March 18th – Old time music and folk
- Music Matters – May 14th – All school concert outside - Haitian Ra Ra Band
- The Read-a-thon
 - There will be a bookmark design contest and a bookmark with the winning design will be given to all students.
 - Students who read the most in the grade groups will receive gift certificates to Barnes and Noble and the winning class gets to read to Mr. Ortiz.
- Movie Night – March 12th – movie TBA
- PTA meeting – March 9th
- Book Fair – March 15th – 19th

PTA Budget Item Vote

The proposed budget item for Acoustic Sound Panels for the cafeteria passed. Those present voted to add the item for \$18,000 acoustic sound panels which reduce the noise level in the cafeteria over 50%. Installation should take three days and is proposed for Spring Break. Two additional fundraisers were proposed.

- Staten Island Yankees fundraiser – Tickets would be sold to three games, two are against the Brooklyn Cyclones, one is a day game on Father's Day and on one day students from PS 154 could come on the field for the Star Spangled Banner and run the bases at the end of the game. Tickets would be \$12 each or \$18 package ticket including food and non-alcoholic beverage etc.
- Additional Parent's Night Out – At Rebar
- Other possible funding streams are the approximately \$5,000 extra raised by the Boo Bash and Winter Fair and the PTA "safe fund" of over \$20,000.

Address from Jim Brennan

State Assemblyman Jim Brennan brought good news to the meeting. He said that the \$30,000 that he promised in September 2008 has been approved. Principal Ortiz noted that the funds are allocated to technology including

replacing some laptops and purchasing new computers for the computer lab. Assemblyman Brennan also stated that the school receives \$7,000 per year. He brought dire news about the Governor's current budget that cuts state aid to schools by 5%. Also the state cuts make the budget more dependent than ever on federal funding. He distributed handouts on the budget.

New Name for PS 154 Vote

The proposed item to change the name of the school back to PS 154 The Windsor School passed. Principal Ortiz stated that the name change was brought up at the SLT meeting. The school no longer receives magnet funds and it was felt that the name The Museum Alliance for Science and Technology Magnet School was confusing.

New Business

The Garden Committee has been working hard to prepare for the opening of the garden. They would like to do a ribbon cutting on Earth Day. Principal Ortiz said that the school would fund the construction of the garden beds at \$160 per bed per grade.

The PTA leaders of PS 154, 10, 107, 321 and the Brooklyn New School will have a working meeting with Brad Lander on the week of February 24. PTA President Deb Capone will attend.

Questions/Comments

There was a question about Going Green and the biodegradable lunch trays. PTA President Deb Capone answered that now the DOE is offering a biodegradable lunch tray option for an additional \$350 per month above the price of the Styrofoam trays. PS 154 was able to get the first 6 months free and now the cost is being covered by private donors, not PTA funds. If you would like to donate, please contact the PTA.

There was a question about shutting down the playground after school at 4pm. Principal Ortiz and PTA President Deb Capone stated that there was a safety issue around the supervision of the 2 after school programs sharing the playground with parents supervising their children and other children from the community. There was a lot of discussion.

There was a question about the fee for the school play. It was explained that the play was actually part of the after school club program so a fee was assessed. It was also said that this information was handled poorly as parents did not know about the fee until after auditions. This problem was taken care of and many students didn't have to pay. Also members of PTA Executive Board did not know that it had become a club or about the fee. There was a lot of discussion.

The meeting came to a close at approximately 10:30am. The next PTA meeting will be March 9, 2010 at 6:30pm. Thank you to Beth Techow for taking the minutes. Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman