

**The Windsor School**  
**P.S. 154 PTA – General Membership Meeting**  
**Tuesday June 14, 2010, 6:30pm**  
**Multi Media Room**

**Welcome**

Deb Capone welcomed those attending the meeting. She gave an overview of the PTA's progress this year including that we are \$14,000.00 over what the budget anticipated for this year and that the new Wellness Committees are meeting. The PTA was also successful in hiring Brenna Beirne as our new After School Recreational Director.

**Current Budget Update**

Deb and Diane Bromberg fielded questions on this year's budget. A final end of year budget will be posted on the PTA website and also sent to the parent body via list serve.

**Upcoming Events**

- June 24<sup>th</sup> – Staten Island Yankee game – tickets will be sold in the school yard
- School Tool Boxes: Parent can order all needed supplies in the spring through the PTA in preparation for the fall. Order forms will be going home in the kids backpacks and parents can also order on-line.

The meeting came to an end at approximately 8:00pm. The next PTA General Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 6:30pm. Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman.

**After School Program**

Deb reviewed the process and transition of the After School Program over the past year. Last year PS 154 started to phase out Kids Orbit due to some concerns of parents specifically around safety and accountability. The PTA Afterschool program commenced last fall with a reduced Kids Orbit program running simultaneously. This year, the PTA Afterschool Program was run by the PTA but administered via the Department of Education. This coming year, the PTA in the interim is obtaining its 501C-3 not for profit status, will run the Afterschool Program directly and will be a self-funded program saving 16% of the overhead that was being consumed by the D.O.E.

Brenna Beirne, the new Afterschool Program Recreational Director gave an overview of the plans for the new program. A number of the clubs will be continued as well as some new clubs added. New club ideas include: Kids Make Movies, Claymation, Cooking, Cartooning, dance Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Gardening, Composting, WCS Endangered Species Learning and Awareness, Robotics, and School Newspaper. The program plan will work on a trimester basis and scholarship opportunities will be set-up confidentially with a school official's approval and oversight. In addition, our new Assistant Treasurer, Denia Larios, will be the treasurer will be the financial person for the Afterschool program.

Some parents voiced their concern for the changes in the Afterschool program, the clubs that will be available to children going to afterschool multiple days and the phase out of Kids Orbit. Deb and Brenna fielded many questions. The ratio of children to teachers and/or assistants will be 15:1. The PTA program will cover ½ days. Kids Orbit is still available to families, offsite for school holidays. The plan for the new PTA Afterschool Program is that it improves the quality of the experience of children both in the enrichment clubs and in afterschool. Afterschool children will still have the same opportunity to be involved in clubs as they did prior to these changes. In addition children staying for afterschool will also have unique activities during their time after school. Mr. Ortiz addressed the process of Kids Orbit's dismissal and how parents were notified. Mr. Ortiz apologized for how Kids Orbit was dismissed and was sorry for the lack of notice that families received about Kids Orbit leaving. However, he expressed his confidence in his decision to move ahead with the PTA program. He emphasized his belief in how the new program will allow for increased safety and improved supervision for our kids.

#### **School Budget for Next Year 2010-2011**

Mr. Ortiz explained that he will be going to a budget meeting Monday where he will be getting more definite information, but expects a 4% budget cut across the board. At least one major change for the school that he can foresee is that the music program will need to be cut from the school budget. He asked the PTA to step in to assess what we can do to fund a music program for next year. Discussion ensued after which the PTA Executive Board agreed to meet ASAP to execute a plan.

The PTA meeting ended at approximately 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman