

**Museum Alliance for Science and Technology
P.S. 154 PTA - General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 6:00pm
Multi Media Room**

Welcome

PTA President, Deb Capone opened the meeting by welcoming all attending and thanking the 4th and 5th grade parents for hosting the potluck. Deb reported that the Art/Craft Fair went very well this past weekend. Fifty vendors attended with great things to offer. Thank you to Dara Oshin who did a great job and organized the entire event. Next year Dara has offered to help with the event again, but because it is a very big project, the PTA is forming a committee to run the fair next year. The Fair raised close to \$4,000.00.

Upcoming Events

- Science Night is this coming Thursday, May 14th from 6:00 – 8:00pm.
- The Spring Carnival is this Saturday, May 16th; rain date on Sunday.
- School Toolbox applications are going to be available this week.

Budget

Diana Plunkett reviewed the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget, explained changes and fielded questions. The Bulb fundraiser and ArtCards were eliminated because they did not bring in enough income for the amount of work involved in the project. This budget is based on this past year's budget. Review from last meeting: The Cinco de Mayo celebration was taken out of the budget because the PTA was unable to get someone to commit to coordinating this event this year. Icy sales have been added for this spring and will begin two times per week after school starting in May. The Chess Tournament is a new self-funded event. Band is going to move to an after school enrichment. The amount of funding for bio-degradable trays is reduced by 50% with the hopes of changing to a more affordable vendor. The Department of Education is offering an option to purchase the sugar cane trays from them. The money for these trays comes from outside sponsors, not funds in the budget. Lice Enders has been removed and will be substituted with education to the parent body including a demonstration at the fall PTA meeting. In-Class enrichments funding increased proportionally to the number of classes in each grade. Teacher mini-grants have also increased in amount. 5th grade line item is a total of the 5th grade fundraisers and 5th grade dues for graduation.

Other budget matters included reporting on the Spring Book Fair that made about \$3,000.00. The Mother's Day Flower sale (a 5th grade fundraiser) brought in about \$1,200.00 and the chess tournament made about \$800.00. Money for teacher mini-grants is still available, \$250.00 per teacher. Fundraising events have brought in \$10,000 more than estimated. \$12,000.00 has come in from fundraising and PTA dues which is below estimated amounts for this year's budget. Deb secured a donation from her children's dentist for \$3,200.00 toward ballroom dancing. Cynthia King Dance Studio and Elora's Restaurant have donated to PS 154 PTA and Crossroads is now the official PS 154 coffee sponsor. Connie Walsh and Lauren Disselt-Knowles visited all the businesses in Windsor Terrace asking for their interest in becoming a sponsor of the school. The PTA bank balance is \$25,000.00 about \$2,500.00 short of expectations.

Next Year's Executive Board Positions: Ballot for 2009-10 Officers

The Executive Board positions were reviewed at last month's meeting. At that time, Nicole Bilu Brier and Emily O'Connor were nominated for Co-Vice Presidents of Fundraising and Bill Tipper for Vice President of Publicity. Connie Walsh, Debby Wattenbarger, Annette Tacconelli, Brenna Beirne and Lauren Desselt-Knowles were nominated for Members at Large. The following positions still open for nominees with the exception of write-ins noted below:

Co-President: Oversee all PTA meetings and weekly Executive Board meetings, and oversee every PTA event, fundraiser and function.

Executive Vice President: Oversees standing committees, attends meetings and makes sure the PTA is following DOE regulations and by-laws.

Vice President of Membership: Primarily responsible for implementing yearly PTA membership drive and will play vital role in keeping the community involved at school. **Write-in: Terry Devine**

Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for maintaining open lines of communication between PS 154 and our local elected officials and institutions. Attends CEC meetings and makes sure that the greater community is aware of our school and what it needs. **Write-ins: Lauren Disselt-Knowles and Jessica Gowell nominated for co-corresponding secretaries**

Members-at-large: are elected in the Spring as well in as the Fall to give new families a chance to join the PTA. Members-at-large take on new issues and projects, chair events and generally help out in any way they can. Must also chair or co-chair at least one committee. **Write-in: Jennifer Johnson**

School Leadership Team: **Write-in: Suzie Treinen**

The 2009-10 Proposed Budget and PTA Executive Board Ballot were both submitted for vote.

Note: If parents are not interested in being on the Board but do have interest in committee work, the PTA has many committees to chair or co-chair:

International Food Festival, Boo Bash, Winter Festival, Spring Carnival, Art Craft Fair in Prospect Park, Poetry Extravaganza and Night, Meet the Author, School Concerts, Theatre, Chess Tournament (new), Movie Nights, Book Fair, Read-a-thon, Free Money, Weekly Newsletter, Graphic Design, The Green Team, The School Store, Lunchroom Volunteers (new), Sponsorships, Development, Class Parents, In-Class Enrichment Coordinators, PTA Meeting Coordinator (new), 5th Grade Committee (new), Class Trip Committee (new)

If you are interested in more information about committee work, please contact Deb Capone at depcapone@yahoo.com.

Principal Ortiz presents on the growth in the student body, class size, number of classes and plans for the future

The number of students per year is growing by an average of 20 per year. This year the Kindergarten population is bursting. Currently there is no budget out for next year yet. PS 154's building has 22 classrooms, 2 labs, 2 mini-classrooms, and the Multi-media room.

Current class make-up and three feasible plans for the future:

Grade:	Number of Classes:				Average Class Size:			
	<u>Now</u>	<u>Plan A</u>	<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Plan C</u>	<u>Now</u>	<u>Plan A</u>	<u>Plan B</u>	<u>Plan C</u>
Pre-K	3	2	2	2	19	18	18	18
Kindergarten	4	4	5	4/5	22	24	18-25	18-25
1 st Grade	4	4	4	4	18	22	22	22
2 nd Grade	3	4	4	3	19	18	18	24
3 rd Grade	3	3	3	3	17	19	19	19
4 th Grade	3	2	2	2	20	25	25	25
5 th Grade	2	3	2	2	25	20	30	30
Ms. Sheehan (Bridge 4/5)	1	1	1	1	10	5	5	5

This year there were 3 Pre-K classes which will be reduced to 2 Pre-K classes next school year. There was not a Collaborative Team Teaching program (CTT) in 5th grade, but a new 1st grade CTT. This spring there was a much higher number of Kindergarten applicants than in prior years. 103 zoned siblings have applied; there were 80 last year. 87 have been accepted and 10 accepted to the CTT. A waiting list has been created for sibling waiting who are out of zone and out of district. Mr. Ortiz expects additional in zone applicants to apply over the summer up until the 1st day of school for which he is obliged to hold some slots. All plans take into account an expected 6-10% budget cut.

Plan A: Mr. Ortiz presented Plan A as what he sees as most sustainable over the long term. Plan A assumes few to no new applicants to K. One Pre-K closes and a new 2nd grade opens. One 4th grade class closes and a new 5th grade class opens.

Plan B: This plan includes closing a 4th grade class and opening a new K instead of opening a new 5th as in Plan A. Again, it assumes closing of one Pre-K and opening of a new 2nd grade.

Plan C: This plan considers opening new K or not, closing one Pre-K, and closing a 4th grade.

Funds for a Literacy Coach this year were not used and can roll over into next year. Mr. Ortiz explained that it will be almost impossible to sustain 5 Kindergarten classes over the years. The school would have to close the labs and sustain an overall increase in class size. Consideration for space is important, but also is the need to be able to pay additional teachers' salaries. Mr. Ortiz fielded many questions and concerns from those attending including: the importance of teacher's aides to assist with larger classes, possibility of the Armory providing space for Pre-K, questions about the prioritization of Plans A,B, and C, etc.

The meeting came to a close at approximately 8:20pm. The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday June 9, 2009 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Altman