

Minutes
PTA of MS 54, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
June 11, 2008 at 7pm

Present: Please see attendance sheet

- I. Welcome and a call to order by co-president Mark Diller.
- II. Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of May 13, 2008 were approved, subject to changes handed in to Mary Beth Walsh by Friday, June 13th.
- III. Principal's Report
 - a. Dr. Elster thanked the outgoing 8th Grade parents Pam Fairclough, Mary Beth Walsh and Mark Diller for putting a tremendous amount of time and effort into the school. She is very grateful for their involvement in a wide range of projects. The school has truly benefited. She is looking forward to building relationships with the new executive board.
 - b. The principal doesn't see major changes ahead for next year. Program offerings and staff will mostly stay the same. The extra padding for supplies from the PTA will help next year.
 - c. At a teacher planning meeting it was explored how everyone can work better together. Therefore the Early Academy Orientation Program will be for both students as well as parents.
 - d. Acceptances for incoming 6th Graders are out and the principal is hoping for a full house. An extra thirty acceptances were sent out, since some students have double offerings. She is hoping that the right amount will enroll
 - e. The date for Back to School Night has been set for 9-18-2008
 - f. The ELA and Math scores are back at the school but may not be distributed, according to the DOE. They should be made available with the report cards at the end of the year.
 - g. There were some glitches during the admissions process. It's a new system that will be improved.
 - h. The Delta Program had more applicants than there were seats available.
 - i. In the Core Program accelerated classes are being kept together. Two classes will be divided in three groups for English and Math. The Core Program classes are homogenously grouped.
- IV. DOE Admissions Debacle, for the 2008-2009 school year
 - a. Parents who are unhappy with the admissions process this year, should let their voices be heard by officials at the DOE,; sfergus@schools.nyc.gov and MS_Enrollment@schools.nyc.gov, or elected officials like Gale Brewer gab@pipeline.net
- V. Safety
 - a. Parent Safety Patrols
 - i. There have been no residual problems of past incidents reported. However, extra security is in place in the mornings and the afternoons.
 - ii. Safety patrol walks are still active. It is very important that class parents help organize the safety patrol walks. Next year we will have a class parent coordinator to communicate this to class parents.
 - b. A MS54 representative should attend the 24th Community Liaison Meetings and urge Sergeant Vo to be more visible in the neighborhood.
- V. SLT Elections - Review of 2008-2009 SLT Nominees
 - a. We have a full slate of parent candidates for the SLT. Two current SLT members have missed nine consecutive meetings. Therefore we should elect five representatives this year.
 - b. The ballot was approved by the executive board and the nominees are
Tanya Espy-Disparti
Nina Frieman
Martina Garcia

- Judith Guberman
Pat Schlegel
- c. Call for nominations from the floor. Motion to close nominations, seconded and approved by a show of hands.
 - d. Motion to do the election for the SLT and the Executive Board by voice vote, seconded and approved by a show of hands.
 - e. Motion to accept the SLT slate, seconded and approved by a show of hands.
- VI PTA Elections – Review of 2008-2009 Executive Board Nominees
- a. The ballot for the 2008-2009 Executive Board includes
 - Co-Presidents - Lori Greene and Bijou Miller
 - Vice President, DELTA - Sandra Stollar (current VP)
 - Vice President, CORE - Maribel Rojas-Mirabal
 - Treasurer - Mariet Morgan
 - Assistant Treasurer - Ira Gershenhorn
 - Recording Co-Secretaries -- Robin Bromley and Constanze Doerr (current recording co-secretaries)
 - Corresponding Secretary -- Patty Fondrie (current corresponding secretary)
 - b. Motion to approve the Executive Board Slate, seconded and approved by a show of hands.
- VII Treasurer's Report
- a. Current budget and proposed budget for 2008-2009 distributed.
 - b. The PTA is in good shape, ending the year with a budget of about \$130,000 after making adjustments at the June executive meeting. We started the school year with \$120,000. The budget has grown in the last three years. A big project was the \$23,000 expense of converting chalk boards into white boards. The Garage Band was very successful. Dr. Elster has a robust school supply budget. Ann Pejovich has a budget for hospitality to build communication.
 - c. We raised \$67,535 from the capital fund drive and \$82,000 from the spring auction. We sold 59 tickets for the Judy Gold Fundraiser and grossed about \$2,700.
 - d. It is proposed that the capital fund drive will reach \$70,000 and an additional \$20,000 will come from the phonathon.
 - e. There is a proposed budget line of \$5,000 for a school musical. It was agreed that the budget will be reviewed after further consultation with Ann Pejovich and Dr. Elster.
 - f. There is a new line of the Principal's Discretionary Fund to support staff and students of \$10,000.
 - g. No changes to the budget were proposed. The broad subjects of the budget, as presented, were adopted. Motion to approve the budget as presented was seconded and approved by a show of hands.
- VIII Grant Review for the school year 2007-2008
- a. We received a \$5,000 grant from Danny O'Connell for fieldtrips for Core Program classes. Many trips to museums, plays and other institutions were taken.
 - b. The Grant from Loews for soundproofing has not concluded yet because the DOE has to first approve the specs for the melanin foam that will be used. Parents may have to install it to have it in place for September.
 - c. It does not look good for an arts grant for refurbishing art space. We asked for a stage curtain, but the head of theatrical programs at the DOE says that we need to hire a performing arts professional first.
 - d. Supposedly there will be a decision at the end of June regarding the grant to wire the school for air conditioners.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for September 9th 2008 at 7pm

Minutes submitted by Constanze Doerr, co-recording secretary

