

Minutes
PTA of MS 54, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
November 13th 2007 at 7pm

DRAFT SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION

Present: Please see attendance sheet

- I. Welcome by co-presidents Mary Beth Walsh and Mark Diller.
Announcements:
The community service afterschool club will be starting a food drive.
Thank you to all the volunteers for a successful International Dinner.
- II. Approval of minutes of 09/07/07 and 10/11/07 was postponed.
- III. Principal's Report:
The principal spoke about the students' and the school's report cards.
There have been small changes in how subjects are weighted in the overall score on the student report card. If the overall grade is above 90 the student is in honors group, if the grade is above 95 the student is in high honors group.
There can be no more than 3 absences or 5 lateness. Each grade will celebrate the achievements differently. If there are questions about the report card please contact the teacher or the team leaders.
A copy of the school report card was handed out and can be accessed on <http://schools.nyc.gov/>. Despite the mixed feelings surrounding the grades, Dr. Elster is very proud of the Grade A MS54 received. The report card was discussed and it was acknowledged that extra credit was received for achievements made in the CORE program.
Kids took the ELA Predictive Test last month. The results already came back and will be shared at Parent-Teacher conferences.
- IV. Treasurers Report by Pam Fairclough:
The month of September ended with a surplus of \$97,000 while Oct./Nov. are not reconciled yet. The big expenditures so far were teacher's grants given out in the amount of a little over \$13,000, and \$11,000 for garage band equipment. An invoice of almost \$25,000 for white boards has not been paid out yet.
The good news is that we collected almost \$20,000 against a capital campaign with a goal of \$50,000. The PTA is still committed to pay for the rewiring of the building for air conditioners. We are also hoping for grants that will cover for some of the work.

- V. Upcoming Events:
- a. Parent Teacher Conference 11/20
The Parent-Teachers Conferences will be held on 11/20/07 from 12:00-2:00pm and 5:30-8:00pm.
A guide from the PTA describing the conference procedure will be sent out to 6th Grade families. It is important to prioritize which teacher parents want to see most.
The PTA is also arranging for a bake sale and a Thanksgiving pie sale. Volunteers are still needed for the fundraiser (especially for the evening), and everyone is encouraged to bring a pie or treat (store-bought or home-made). There will be a raffle as well.
During the Conferences the PTA will hand out envelopes to collect towards the pledge drive. Only 82 families out of 900 students have participated so far. That is under 10% of families. Participation is important for grant applications, more so than the dollar amount collected.
- b. The auction is still looking for volunteers. Please contact Robin Klueber. Donations are coming in and more are welcome. Donation forms can be downloaded from the website.
- VI. Mary Beth Walsh introduced our special guest speaker Jill Greenbaum from Schools United Network, SunNYC. She gave a presentation of this grass roots organization that works with all levels of law enforcement to alert the public of criminal activities and provide safety tips. For email alerts please sign up at www.sun.org.
- VII. Mark Diller thanked Jill Greenbaum for her presentation and adjourned the meeting.

Minutes submitted by Constanze Doerr, Co-Recording Secretary