

**Minutes**  
**PTA of MS 54, Inc.**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**October 14th, 2008 at 7pm**

Present: Please see attendance sheet

- I. Welcome by co-president Lori Greene
- II. Announcements
  - a. A potluck get-together for families will be held on 10-15-08 in the school.
  - b. The phonathon on 10-06-08 went well.
- III. Budget Update
  - a. Mariet Morgan, co-treasurer, reported that we are off to a good start. We raised \$22,000 which includes the capital fund drive and the phonathon.
  - b. We are spending at a similar rate to last year.
  - c. Every teacher will receive a \$300 check for their teacher fund.
  - d. The PTA sent a fruit basket to guidance counselor Barbara von Zerneck since her son was killed in Afghanistan.
  - e. The PTA is concerned about the budget cuts. The principal Dr. Elster is down to the bare bones with her budget, and it is important to be successful in fundraising to support the school.
- IV. Minutes of the General Membership Meeting of June 11, 2008 and September 7, 2008 were approved, subject to a small change in the June minutes.
- V. Special Guest Speakers from the school's Guidance Department introduced themselves
  - a. Darlene Collet, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and bi-lingual counselor
  - b. Shauna Dewar, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade counselor
  - c. Robin Stolar, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade counselor
    - i. All counselors work with kids at risk, mediate among kids, parents and teachers, refer to St. Luke's, help with High School articulation, facilitate mandated counseling for students with IEPs, and collaborate with each other.
    - ii. Shauna Dewar gave some insight into the High School articulation process.
    - iii. The school website has a link to High School acceptances last year.
    - iv. All counselors make themselves available to the students during lunch. If a student has an issue the parents should encourage him/her to speak to a counselor.
    - v. The counselors recommend programs available outside of BTW54, such as Big Brothers, Prep for Prep, Heath and others.
- VI. Presentation by Julian Vinocur and April Humphrey from the Alliance for Quality Education about Mayoral Control.
  - a. Julian Vinocur explained that they represent a coalition that believes that Mayoral Control needs reform when it is scheduled to end in June 2009.
  - b. Julian Vinocur opened a discussion of how Mayoral Control has affected MS54 and District 3.
  - c. April Humphrey reminded of the need for greater transparency, the lack of public participation, and accountability. On Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> there will be a citywide speak out for this.
- VII. Old Business
  - a. Including the phonathon we raised about \$20,000 with our pledge drive.
  - b. The grant that we received for technology will come in soon.
- VII. New Business
  - a. We paid for the rights to produce the musical 'Bye Bye Birdie'. Auditions will be soon.
  - b. There will be a meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2008 to start working on the annual auction. We are still looking for a location for the auction event.
  - c. The Potluck Wing Ding for families will be held on 10-15-08 in the school.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

