

MS 54 Booker T. Washington Middle School
PTA GENERAL MEETING

April 19, 2007

HANDOUTS: Minutes of the March 8, 2007 General PTA meeting, Tonight's Agenda, PTA Announcements, Budget update, Information on internet safety meeting 5/10/07.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. Mary Beth Walsh and Mark Diller chaired the meeting.

I. PTA Welcome/Announcements

- A. Minutes of our last meeting of March 8, 2007 were distributed and parents were asked to email Mark Diller at mdiller@nyc.rr.com by next Wednesday with any comments.

II. Principal's Report

- A. Regional Superintendent Gail Reeves visited the school today, it was not a planned visit, but went well. She toured the building and spoke to the staff, teachers and students.
- B. Two children from MS 54 have won the NY City spelling bee.
- C. Students taking the third interim assessment for Math; next week is the ELA. Report cards will be distributed tomorrow.
- D. The BTW Talent Show is next Thursday; the 6th and 7th grade Science Fair is May 2 and 3.
- E. The SLT is meeting on curriculum decisions for next year, empowerment school decisions, SLO, etc. and discussing the new Science curriculum which was adopted by the City, a new Math curriculum will be adopted next year, and other aspects of the school day. The CEP will be completed by the end of June and posted to the MS 54 website.
- F. Last night was the second High School night. Tuesday night the Guidance Counselors gave a presentation on high school admissions. Last night 29 students from local high schools came to share their experiences with our children; it was a wonderful exchange. Some parents expressed concern that Barbara Von Zurnak might not be here next year. As she explained on Tuesday night, she is semi-retired and was not sure the school would have the budget for her. Dr. Elster assured the parents and Executive Board that there is not cause for alarm, that Barbara will be back next year for the two days a week, and that she will be able to work with the students on high school placement. Anne Pejovich will contact the Class Parents to tell them this.

There was a discussion on high school prep classes and a suggestion was made that the PTA fund group instruction in September.

III. Treasurer's Report

- A. Auction Results/Income – Thanks to the efforts of the auction committee, it appears that we have surpassed last year's profits of \$50,000 by at least \$5,000. Money is still flowing in and out, and Bo will have final results soon. The Capital Fund drive is running about \$50,000 on the year vs. a budget of \$60,000. We will discuss doing a third drive before year-end.

- B. Expenses – A recess committee is being formed, to get supplemental supervision for Recess in the yard. The PTA does not want to be an employer, but may be able to hire through an agency. Supplies are still underspent, we may need to push purchases before year end.
- C. Budget Committee – a budget committee will be formed to discuss expenditures for next year, the budget and requisition process re-addressed.

IV. Dress Code Policy Revisited

The Executive Board gave a recap of the visit by Student Council to Executive Board meeting. Many CORE students are pro-uniforms, while most DELTA students are against. Sandra Stollar, a member of the SLT, spoke about the SLT vote on changing the dress policy. The policy is enforceable under the Chancellor's Discipline Code. There was a discussion of postponing a uniform decision, to "phase in" a new code. The vote will be at the next SLT meeting on April 20th.

V. Elections for the Executive Board

The Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations for next year's Executive Board. Sixth Grade parents are encouraged to run. Nomination forms will be coming home in backpacks. Meetings are held on the same nights; at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. The SLT needs five more members. Joe Gurvetz (jgurvetz atgmail.com) is the contact for nominations.

VI. Other Announcements

Community Education Council votes are at the end of the month, our Executive Board has a total of 6 votes. The Candidate's forum is next week. Jennifer Freeman is running from MS54.

Talent Show and Bake Sale/Bargain Sale next Thursday.

May 11 – Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, volunteers needed to bake and serve.

2006-2007 Executive/General Membership Meeting Calendar Dates: June 7

Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month unless there is a conflict on the school calendar. Executive board meetings are at 6pm prior to the general meeting unless noted (September 13, 7:30 am; October 11, 7:30 am)

If a meeting needs to be changed due to an unforeseen reason, a notice will be sent out as early as possible to let you know of the change.

Want to be up-to-the-minute on upcoming school and PTA events? Join the MS 54 E-mail update: subscribe to the BTW e-mail alerts by sending a blank e-mail to: BTWMS54PTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Not able to make the meeting but want to keep up with events? You can access previous months' PTA meeting minutes at: <http://www.ms54.org/PTA.htm>