

PS 175 Parents Association Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2015 at 7:05pm

Officers Present: Elena Aminova (President), Nancy Baxter (Co-President), Shinya Matsuta (Vice President), Beatrice Grosu (Co-Vice President), Henny Maddox (Treasurer), Hillary Kahn (Corresponding Secretary), Daniella Lednicer (Recording Secretary)

- **Welcome New Members/Board Member Introductions**
- **Last Meeting's Minutes Accepted**
- **Raffle Announced**
- **Treasurer's Report - Review**
 - PA raised total of \$20K for school in 2014/2015
 - Guggenheim Museum Residency — 4th Grade - Runs for 4 weeks, \$10K from PA
 - Marquise Studios — 1st and 3rd Grade
 - Donations requested - suggested amount \$50
- **New Music Teacher — Valerie Sciarra**
 - Planing a Kids' Choir for Grades 4 and 5; students would meet every Monday from 2:30 -3:15pm Starting October 19
- **Cherrydale Fundraiser — Forms Due October 15**
 - Julia Veksenfeld spoke at length - (2) volunteers needed to count money on Friday and following week
- **Guest Speaker — Iora from Chabad Lubavitch**
 - Spoke at length about Chabad Lubavitch Hebrew School , open to boys and girls grades K-8
- **SLT Report**
 - Outdoor Recess
 - Some classes are going out for recess while some are still watching movies. Concerns were raised at SLT, the issue is there are only 4 school aides to assist with both outdoor recess and lunchroom; parent volunteers are needed to assist in lunch room. (Side note: per new Union regulations, aides are not allowed to help students carry trays to tables or to garbage can
 - Ms. Cooper on board and willing to help out with any solutions parents can offer
 - Neighboring schools have parent volunteers — Sign up Genius could be used as it was used for Halloween Party volunteers
 - 2 parent volunteers are needed per period — 3 periods per day
 - Some Kindergarten classes go out once in awhile, while some never go out for recess, the reason being that the construction is blocking access to the side yard. Also, better communication between Principal and Teachers to make it clear that Kindergarten classes CAN go outside (discrepancy between what teachers and principal are telling parent)
 - Basketball courts can be closed off during recess to help corral the younger students, parents can meet with Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz or call 311 to request gates be closed during school hours.
 - The small side garden can be used for younger grades, decision was made to approach Ms. Cooper with the suggestion
 - Possibility was raised of using PA funds for a private company to run outdoor recess (as other school do)
 - Every parent is free to attend SLT meetings, regardless of SLT membership status.
- **Thinking Cap After School Program**
 - Ms. Cooper removed 2 classrooms due to minor infractions (e.g., something was moved out of place, etc)
 - Incorrect/incomplete homework - point was reiterated that parents bear ultimate responsibility for their children's homework
 - 1st Grade and Kindergarten get no playtime
 - Complaints about the cost of the program, point was raised that some schools have free aftercare. Response was that at \$290/month, it's still very inexpensive, and only Title 1 schools receive funding for free aftercare.
 - Elena and Nancy to meet on Thursday to present parents' concerns to Thinking Cap Program Coordinator Karen Fan
- **Raffle Prize winner Announced, reminder of need for Parent Volunteers at Halloween Party**

8:35 MEETING ADJOURNED