

## PS 175 Parents Association Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2015 at 7:05pm

Officers Present: Elena Aminova (President), Nancy Baxter (Co-President), Shinya Mitsuta (Co-Vice President), Beatrice Grosu (Co-Vice President)

- Welcome New Members/Board Member Introductions
- Updates from PA
  - Middle school applications and flyers about middle school open houses have gone home in red folders
  - Cool Culture passes expected to arrive in December
- Guest Speaker — Nate Dechongkit, Assistant Principal of J.H.S. 157 Stephen A. Halsey
  - J.H.S. 157 Principal Suraci was supposed to speak, but could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.
  - Mr. Dechongkit spoke at length about Halsey's education policies, programs, admissions.
  - Invitation for interested parents to attend Halsey's Open House on Nov. 13 at 8:30-10:30am and Information Session on Nov. 19 at 6:30-7:30pm.
- Cherrydale Fundraiser
  - Julia Veksenfeld asked for volunteers to handle boxes of goods that will be shipped to school
- SLT Report
  - Outdoor Recess: Currently, there aren't enough aides to stand at the exits to prevent children from leaving the playground, and that is why recess takes place on a limited basis. PA Co-Presidents and Principal Cooper have written letters to the city and elected officials to ask that the basketball court section of the park be closed to the public and fences closed during school hours so that students can go there for recess safety.
  - Mary Sweeney, Parent Advocate for CEC (Community and Citywide Education Council) of District 28 was invited and observed the Nov. 10 SLT meeting to help us with this recess situation.
  - Principal Cooper said that soap had been removed from the bathrooms because dispensers had been destroyed and soap was on the floor, causing a safety issue. But she is looking at bringing soap pump-bottles back into the bathrooms. She prefers soap over hand sanitizers.
  - Principal Cooper said that the school has 4 two-way radios but wants more. Would accept donations, but they cannot be any radios because they have to be set to the city frequency.
- Thinking Cap After School Program
  - Lots of changes are taking place. Meetings have been held, and Thinking Cap has been listening to the PA and incorporating suggestions.
  - Thinking Cap is hiring teachers, aides and paraprofessionals.
  - P.S. 175 teachers have applied to become After-School staff, and if they are accepted, they will become important assets in Homework Help.
  - Thinking Cap is also letting go of some staff that have not met standards, a sign that the process of maintaining capable staff is working properly.
- Special Election for PA Treasurer to fill vacant seat
  - Lana Eliyahu introduced herself and talked about her bookkeeping and accounting experience.
  - Since there was only one candidate, vote was taken with show of hands. 20 voted for Lana becoming the new treasurer, with 0 opposed and 0 abstaining. Lana was officially elected as the Treasurer.
- Parent Coordinator Fran Sternberg reminded everyone that P.S. 175Q will hold a middle school workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 2:30-4:00pm

8:25pm MEETING ADJOURNED