

Leadership Minutes
February 4th, 2013

* Ms. Allotta opened the meeting.

1. School Safety Committee

*Ms. Allotta addressed that we have noticed that some of the parents are coming into the building to unbundled their children. Parents have been asked not to use the lobby for this purpose.

*There was an incident where the safety agents were both absent. A phone call was made the day before that both agents would not be present but still no agent was sent as a substitute/replacement. Some parents were in an uproar because someone should be on duty. Once safety agents put in the call, they are supposed to be covered to ensure the safety of the building. The PA offered to volunteer if another incident happens like this. If the PA is willing to help out in that situation, is that acceptable? We will find out who a complaint goes to and the answer to that question.

*Yvette Abreu suggested that we need to send a letter home with an emphasis on "this is to protect your child" in regards to parents signing in at the security desk and going to the main office for a visitor's pass before going up to a classroom/meeting.

2. Review and Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

*Doreen and Lori approve the minutes.

3. Magnet School Grant

*Ms. Kaplinsky advised us that PS216 was invited to apply for the Magnet School Grant. This is a federally funded grant that will provide funding and opportunity for our school. It is a great way to bring more arts into our school as a school for environmental studies, science, and nutrition. If approved, all grade levels would be included and it is usually for 3 years. Only 30 schools will be getting this grant.

4. Garden Update

*Ms. Allotta advised us that she received an email from the garden staff that three people will be present to update us, but no representative was present at the meeting.

5. School Survey

*Helene Selter advised us that she will be attending a workshop on 2/6/13 at 10am regarding the school survey. Ms. Abreu agreed to distribute the teacher's surveys as she did last year. Parents and bilingual translators will be available for Parent Teacher Conferences to assist parents in filling out their surveys.

6. Promotion in Doubt

*If a student scores a level 1 in reading and math, they are offered summer school. However, they must then get a 2. Due to the fact that scores are anticipated to drop, teachers are sending home Promotion in Doubt Letters to notify parents. We are expecting that the levels 1 and 2 window will be curved or altered. BY 2/11/13, the hold over letters will be sent home. This is just a warning and also an advisory that the child will be worked with and getting extra support in school.

7. Mid-Winter Recess

*Schools will be closed to celebrate President's Day on 2/18/13-2/19/13.

School opens on 2/20/13.

*Spring Break will be 3/25/13-4/2/13. Schools open on 4/3/13.

8. New Laptops

*New carts were given to upper-grade classrooms to give students the opportunity to utilize technology across the subject areas.

9. New Business

*Yvette Abreu advised us that she went up on the rood with Marianne DiLauro to take photos of the garden as it is under construction. She advises us that it is indeed making progress.

*Groundbreaking for the Garden Kitchen should be sometime in March.

*Ms. Kaplinsky discussed forming a parent team for the Quality Review to answer questions on behalf of the parents. The PA president will form a committee with parents who represent different grade levels. Questions may be asked such as...

*Do you get enough feedback from the teachers?

*Are your concerns addressed?

*What is your child getting from PS216 as a school versus another school in the area?

*Is the administration always available?

*Are you able to speak to teachers is you have a question?

*Is your child being challenged by a rigorous curriculum?

During the QR, children will also be questioned.

*Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on 3/12/13. Two parents per floor will be asked to help with the survey as they do come in different languages.

*Grant for Puppetry-the fifth grade will be building a city of the future during the 2013-2014 school year.

*Helene Selter advised us that on 2/13/12, Kingsbay Y will be holding a Valentine's Day event for the entire school. This may possibly increase enrollment. People who are currently enrolling their children into the school for next year are asking about the Kingsbay Y program.

*Helene Selter also brought up the fact that we raised a lot of money through the Pennies for Patients. She would like for us to do that again as a school, possibly the end of February.

*The parents are asking for the March PA meeting to be in the evening so more can attend.

*2/14/13 Valentine's Day sale. 2/15/13 leftover sale.

10. Next Meeting Date: March 4th, 2013.

*Ms. Kaplinsky and Ms. Allotta closed the meeting.