

**General Meeting**

**Dec. 11, 2015 9:00 AM**

**Minutes**

Minutes approved.

Gala and auction

The gala will be held May 15, 2016. Adrienne promises an amazing evening. There will be a silent auction and a live auction at the event, and another auction that will run for a couple of weeks around the event. This year’s theme is Shanghai Nights 1930.

We will need a lot of help. It’s a great way to volunteer for the school. You can volunteer in person or at home. The kickoff meeting is Wednesday, the 16th, in the cafeteria. Please join us. The email to get in touch with the organizers is ps11auction@gmail.com.

Principal’s report

Serena says Bob is presenting on our professional development at a superintendent’s meeting.

We have a very large stomach virus going around the school and some strep. It’s mostly concentrated in fourth grade. We have a theory that parents are sending their kids to school when they are not healthy yet. They are supposed to be fever free for 24 hours without any medicine. We know it’s difficult. If you have a doctor’s note that your child was sick and send it to the office, it is coded differently--it shows up that the child is sick.

If it’s for an extended period of time, we have in the past sent letters to the middle schools explaining the situation with illness.

Newsletters will be emailed instead of posted on the website. We track that, and like three of you in this room go to the website. We’re also concerned that it’s too much information to be public on the website.

Congratulations to our chess team. Our fourth graders came in fifth place. The science fair is coming up and the students are very excited. We’re excited about professional development in math. We thank the PTA for that. Shrek has been cast--50 fifth graders have been cast.

Character days are coming up. Check the website.

SLT report

Robin reports that we had a curriculum connection on Wednesday.

75 Morton St, a new middle school, is opening in time for this year’s fourth graders. There will be a meeting at PS 11 on Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 6:30. Babysitting and pizza will be provided.

President’s Report

We have started a community committee to keep us informed of community events. Talk to Robin and Mike Farrah.

Comedy for a Cause

The show sold out in about two-and-a-half hours. We might be able to arrange a simulcast in the lounge with half-price tickets. We’re working on it. We need help with the auction. And we are working on Comedy for a Cause for Kids with Scott Land on Feb. 27th.

Fundraising

We’re still taking donations for our auctions. We’re soliciting donations from the whole school.

Annual fund update--We’re at 63% now. Two classes have won the ice cream party. Several other classes are very close.

Jay Lehman says we’ve changed the name of our Paddle8 auction to the PS11 Contemporary Art Auction, hosted by Paddle8, because it’s about the school. Last year we raised about $30,000 and we’re hoping to bump that up. It will launch at the end of February. The hard deadline for images and commitments is Feb. 1.

The Antonio Prieto fundraiser brought in about $2,300.

Events

Shrek will be Jan. 29-30. Rachel promises a fabulous production. We’re looking for vintage suitcases, hatboxes, paint, vintage dolls, lantern, a knight’s helmet, foam. We are having work days with the kids on the 9th or the 23rd. We need seamstresses to help make costumes, and a videographer.

Budget

We’re on track; nothing new to report.

Eleven kids went from PS11. The fourth graders were 5th in the country, and we had two individual winners. Chess NYC has provided log-ins for all the kids; 200 have started using it so far.

We have a Twitter account--ps11mchess.

We have coffee donated by Foragers for Family Friday.

Membership

If you are running a program or activity, now is the time to let Stacey know and she will get you set up with recruitment sign-up forms online.

We encourage you to do the parent survey--you can earn a FIKA coffee coupon for filling it out.

Buses

Erica is going to try to get the bus parents together. We can at least communicate, and maybe find ways to get a better sense of what we have the power to do to improve the bus system.

Communications

We will be sending home a list of upcoming activities. Put it on your refrigerator.

Adjourned 9:44.