****

**General Meeting**

**March 18, 2016**

**9 a.m.**

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Begins:** 9:04 a.m.

**Principal’s Report (Bob Bender)**

**Showcase School Visit.** Today we are hosting schools from Florida and North Carolina.

**Kindergarten offers.** Kindergarten offers went out. It’s the first time ever that some off our zoned students were put on the wait list. We have 125 available general ed seats and 131 offers were sent out. There are 3 zoned students on the wait list. We have between 15-20 district siblings. If you are a district sibling and did not get an offer, hang in. Once we find out how many kids are registering and the G&T placements happen there might be seats. If you are a district 2 sibling and your child qualifies for G&T please email me immediately--even before you fill out the application. If your child qualifies for G&T you will automatically get a seat and we might be able to give a seat to a district sibling who did not qualify for G&T.

**Chess.** Our chess team took 4th place in the state tournament last week. Our Lego team took a 3rd place trophy at the recent competition at the Javits Center.

**Enrichment.** 3rd, 4th and 5th grade enrichment has started.

**Second grade show**. It’s coming up. Stay tuned.

**June Class Planning.** All of the classroom teachers get five full days of planning for next year. I believe it is very important for teachers to start the first day of school with a deep understanding of the curriculum for the full year. Teachers will be out five days (not in a row) in June in order to do this. We also plan to build next year’s classes much earlier next year. You will not know your child’s teacher until the last day of school. We will know much earlier. We’re going to build classes a month earlier and allow teachers to visit (unbeknownst to children) their kids in their classrooms in order to get to know them. They’ll be taking pictures of their work and charts in their room so that they will start the fall off knowing their kids better than they normally do.

**Illness.** Some people are still sending their children to school with a fever or having vomited that morning. I know that when your child is sick it’s hard to take a day off work. But if your are sending a child to school with a fever or vomiting at least three or four kids and possibly your child’s teacher will get sick. The rule is 24 hours without a fever and 24 hours after the last vomiting episode. We clean this building constantly but we have over 900 kids with ten fingers that have been up their noses all holding on to the same railing going up and down the stairs.

**Homework**. This year the SLT has been reading and researching every single piece of literature we could get our hands on with regard to homework and how it affects academic, social and emotional progress. The research is overwhelming that not only does it have no correlation to academic progress it has a negative correlation with academic progress. We have written a mission statement and philosophy for thoughts on homework. It will say that we believe that from 3:10 in the afternoon until 8:50 a.m. the next morning it is your decision how you spend time with your child. (Applause.) That being said, the research was equally as overwhelming that reading outside of school has enormous impact on the education progress. We will ask children to continue to read at home. We understand that homework for some families is a lovely ritual. Because of this we will spend a lot of time building a bank of resources per unit that you can work on with you child at home. This will be referred to as Home Optional Practice, or HOP. None of this work will be checked, marked or corrected. The one exception to all of this will be our fifth graders, who need to be prepared for homework in middle school. They will have standard homework nightly because in middle school and high school it is shown to have an effect. We will roll this out for one month. A group of teachers are meeting next Wednesday morning. We are still making decisions about jotting and writing at home.

**Show Me videos. (Dawn Rosevear)**

Last year a group of teachers started making tutorials for all the grade levels based on things we saw our students needed help with and parents needed clarification on in order to help them at home. We made over 20 videos, organized by grade level. We have added a feature in which parents can request a video. They are housed on youtube. We get over 2,000 views every month. We’re here and want to help you with your needs. Please let us know what subjects you’d like to see covered We have been making Kahn Academy style videos and are now making new shorter ones with iMovie and GIFs. We also now have a parent advisory committee. We are meeting together and getting feedback from parents. <http://ps11chelsea.org/ps11showme-tutorials>

**Participatory budgeting. (Michael Walsh.)** Participatory Budgeting is a process in which the community gets to vote on $1,000,000 dollars of spending for our District. This year PS11 has a project on the ballot: **A new sound system for our auditorium.**See the entire Ballot here: [PB Voter Guide](http://files.ctctcdn.com/e907387f001/ecf0c977-fc80-45ab-92c4-6e8e77d8c5ff.pdf) We need PS11 families and supporters to come out. Stop by anytime March 26thk from 6-8 and have your voice heard**. Voting after the even will be from Mar 26 – Apr 3**. See <http://www.coreyjohnson.nyc/pb/> for more info.

**Parent Coordinator’s Report (Stephen McGill).**

**School Survey**. Only 31% of families have completed the survey. It’s very important that everyone completes the survey. There is a lag in the reporting. We are a week off. But the report, as of today, is 31%. Our goal is 100%. Normally we are at about 80%. The deadline is April 1st. If you lost your survey you can still complete the survey. You have to phone: 1-800-690-8603 to get your identification number. That’s the survey hotline. They will give you another access code and you’ll be able to go online and complete the survey.

**Kindergarten registration.** We will start kindergarten registration the week of March 28th. You will receive a letter soon letting you know your appointment time and day. Registration will be at 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.. The instructions will be in that letter, along with information on what and who to bring.

**SLT (Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn: edrps11secretary@gmail.com)**

**Homework.** We have been reviewing and redefining homework policy.

**Quiet**. We discussed the book club book *Quiet* and ways we might thing about making our school introvert friendly.

**Mindfulness.** We discussed ways that some teachers are incorporating mindfulness into the classroom.

**Architecture night.** It’s Wednesday March 30th from 6:15 to 7:30 in the cafeteria. Start collecting boxes now and begin dropping them off Monday morning, March 28th, in front of the school.

**75 Morton.** **(Robin Broschi)** The new middle school will be zoned for the entire West side from PS111 down to the southernmost school. It’s not definite yet but the superintendant announced a possible admissions model. There will be two ways to get into the school. If you are zoned for it you will get in based on your address. Bu there will also be screened admissions open to the entire district, but all feeding into one program. Some other schools are for zoned and screened children, but they are funneled into certain academic tracks. Morton would be all one academic track. On April 11th  at 6:30 p.m. at The Clinton School the CEC will host a forum about the inter-relationship of academic tracking and segregation. We have very segregated middle school because of the academic tracks. We will talk about district two middle school and changes in the district. There will be two experts on hand to speak about the effects of academic tracking and segregation.

**President’s Report. (Alex Levi and Colby Trane: ps11ptapresident@gmail.com)**

**Communications.** The Friday blasts are going very well. We’re trying to be very targeted. If you don’t meet the deadline for the Friday blast your information will not go out.

**Membership Report. (Eric Ruben Hadzic & Stacey Vukelj: ps11volunteers@gmail.com)**

**Gala volunteers.** We’re focused on recruiting volunteers for the spring gala. There are a lot of simple tasks that can be done. Even if you don’t see something on the clipboard, write your name down and what you’re interested in doing and we’ll give you a call.

**Website.** Michael Walsh is looking to put together a team of people to revamp our website. It will require designers. We have one editor/designer involved.

**Auction Committee.** They need one person who can shadow the person in charge of fulfilling auction items.

**Events Report. (Liz Willette Danneels & Ivana Talgiamonte: ps11ptaevents@gmail.com)**

**Spring Fundraiser.** You should have received a self-portrait drawn by your child and an order form in your child’s home folder. There is a code on the back of the form specific to your child. You go to the website and put the number in online and the site will populate items with your child’s artwork to see what it looks like. Stephen also had the students do staff portraits. You can order those for teacher gifts. Codes are on the website. We will ask class parents to send home a Google doc with those codes. Those can only be ordered on the web. Order forms are due next Wednesday in order to get items back for Mother’s Day.

**Fundraising Report. (Sienam Lulla & Santhi Yarlagadda: ps11annualfund@gmail.com)**

**Annual Fund update.** We are going for 100% school participation to get a 30K match. For every 5% we pick up in participation we get 5k for the match. We were at 70% participation last meeting and we are now at 74%. If ten more families give we get the first five thousand.

**Paddle8 Contemporary Art Auction.** There are three days left on the art auction. It ends on Monday at 3 p.m. It’s easy to use. Please forward it around. Word of mouth works to sell art. There are 33 lots. Ten have bids. There’s 80k worth of art there.

**Spring Gala.** It’s two months away. It’s now crunch time and we need help at the gala and getting auction items. We could use help of everyone next 4-6 weeks, which is the period during which we get the bulk of items for donation. We have about 100 items and our goal is 400. We have things at every level. Tickets will be sold for one week at a price of $50 starting April 4th. After that, tickets will go for $100 each. VIP tickets will go for $250 each. VIP perks will include a champagne tasting and c cabaret dancers. The theme for this year is Shanghai. We are also looking for a restaurant to donate a set of hors d’heuvres or dessert.

**Programs Report.** **(Corinne Pascariu, Radhika Nagampalli & Program Chairs: ps11ptaprograms@gmail.com)**

**Lego Robotics.** Thank you for allowing us to move forward this year. We were successful at the Javits Center. We’re looking toward next year. Sophia will be taking over. We still need PTA help in getting a grant for next year. In May we will be talking to upcoming fourth and fifth graders about the team next year. We will have a meeting in about a month.

**Budget Report. (Michael Goldsman: ps11treasurerchelsea@gmail.com)**

**All on track.** We’re in a good place. Fundraising is continuing. Comedy for a Cause was a spectacular success. Sienam and Shanthi working hard on the annual fund. We have fundraisers popping up throughout the school. **\*Numbers available upon request.**

**Meeting ends:** 9:58 a.m.