**PTA of P.S. 162**

**Minutes for the meeting held on**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2015**

Begins at 8:38am

\*Assistant Principal Schweiger is attending meetings this morning and is not in attendance.

**Updates from Linda Lovett (PTA Co-President)**

* Greets everyone.
* Minutes were reviewed and then voted on. Approved and passed.
* We need volunteers for the Lice Committee. It takes a minimal amount of time to go around to the classrooms and check the children for lice. Classes should be checked at least once a month. If anyone is interested please let someone on the board know.
* Some PTA members volunteered this week to check classes for lice. Some classes were found to have active lice.
* Lice are very common and treatable. The procedure followed is if there is a child suspected of having lice, that child’s name is submitted to the nurse. The nurse will then check those children whose names were submitted. No child with full blown lice is allowed back in school until it is clear. Children found to have nits may return to school. Classes found to have full blown lice MUST be rechecked, once children return to school.
* If a class is found to have an active case of lice, then the parents of all the children in that class will be notified with a letter sent home. Parents are asked to send in a bag that is big enough to hold their children’s jackets in class.
* There is a Vice President of Membership position open on the board. Anyone interested should fill out the ballot and voting will take place during this meeting.
* Elections take place and 2 new PTA members (2nd VP of Membership Co-Positions) are elected; Fei Ye and JiHye Lee.
* She attended the President’s Council this month and learned that a new high school will be created in District 26. It will be located across from Bayside H.S. It will be small one with only 750 students.
* The neighborhood is in opposition to this but if we give our support to this H.S., then we will have control about what type of H.S. we want it to be. The neighborhood does need this H.S.
* The District 26 Empowerment Conference is coming up. Information on this has been emailed and backpacked to all. You can spend the whole day there or just a half day, you decide. Encouraged everyone to sign up.
* Any new events will be posted on the PTA board.
* The Halloween Party is coming up, Friday, October 30th and looks forward to seeing everyone there. There will be face painting, popcorn, a magic show, dancing, arts and crafts, etc. The fees are, $10/child, children 2 and under are FREE, as well as parents.

**Updates from Cristine Divone (PTA Treasurer)**

* Reviews the budget. Only change from last year is the fee for Ballroom Dancing for the 5th grade. It went up $400.
* Budget voted on. Approved and passed.

**Updates from Principal Lee**

* Greets everyone.
* Letters notifying parents of lice have not gone out yet because it is being translated. It will be going out very soon.
* It has been a very eventful month. Busy in regards to safety and fire drills. Just today we had a “Code Blue” drill. We will be having a “soft lockdown” drill in the near future. All the various drills the school has are to ensure our children’s safety.
* She is looking forward to the upcoming Halloween Party and is very excited to do the story time. She hopes to see everyone there.
* Reminder to parents that during the 1st week of November, we have Election Day off and then Veteran’s Day the week after. Also, Parent-Teacher Conferences and Open School Week is coming up in the month of November.

**Updates from Mrs. Kaufman (UFT Representative)**

* Greets everyone.
* She is excited to be the new UFT Representative and is looking forward to an exciting year.

\*Presentation of the Great Citizen Awards takes place.

**Updates from Debbie Strassburg (Parent Coordinator)**

* Informs parents that she needs everyone’s email addresses in order for her to get important information to them, so please make sure you give her your email address.
* 3rd and 4th grade parents need to sign up for the new school account in order to attain their child’s grades on the state tests. This is the only way parents will get those grades.
* The Great Citizen Program is growing by leaps and bounds. Students are really striving to show good behavior, becoming increasingly difficult for the teacher’s to choose the Great Citizen of the Month. As a new treat, if the Great Citizen is wearing his/her medal, they automatically move to the front of the line.
* Another way children and classes are rewarded for their good behavior is to receive “PAWS”. The class or student with the most PAWS at the end of the month gets a reward.
* Snack Wednesday has been doing very well. Please continue to send a $1.00 in with your children on Wednesdays.
* The 5th Grade Committee has started and there has been a slight increase in the Graduation Dues because of prices increasing.
* A IDNYC workshop was held and unfortunately wasn’t very successful. She feels that it was so poorly attended because the parents were under the misconception that if they have a driver’s license, then they need not attend. This new form of I.D. will contain your emergency information and it has many benefits, like, free entry to museums and zoos, $8 movie tickets, etc. This I.D. has nothing to do with the driver’s license, but is very beneficial to have in addition to your license. It is FREE and can be used as an official form of identification. She highly recommends that those 14 years of age and up get this new I.D. card.
* This coming Monday the Food Harvest will begin and boxes will be placed outside her office for anyone to drop off canned foods.
* Informs parents that the school is yet again going to benefit from the C.A.S.A. program. This will be offered to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade only. 30 children will be selected. Please be sure that your child will have the time and dedication to be a part of this Broadway production of Finding Neverland before you commit. Rehearsals will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:20-4:30pm.

\*Meeting ends 9:35am