**PTA of P.S. 162**

**Minutes for the meeting held on**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016**

Begins at 7:09pm

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

* Greets everyone.
* Reviews minutes. Approved and passed.
* Budget reviewed. There was a line item for art added. Prior amount allotted for art was $1365. Now it is $3000. Approved and passed.
* PTA positions were reviewed for elections to be held in May. Anyone interested please fill out the form and send in. PTA Bi-laws need to be reviewed. Anyone can be on the Bi-Laws Committee. If anyone is interested let Linda know. She is on the committee.
* There will be 2 SLT positions opening up. Anyone who wants to be considered for these seats, please fill out the form and send it in. Elections will be held in May.
* There will be a new after school program starting in September 2016. There will be no application fee if you register your child before August 15 2016.
* Next Thursday there is a UFT Dinner. There will be dinner and dancing and some scholarships will be given out.
* At the last President’s Council, Councilman Koo attended and class size was discussed and getting Pre-Kindergarten into PS 162. The school actually has room for a Pre-K class but the Board does not see the demand for it. Also discussed were the smartboard issues. The lightbulbs are going out on the old smartboards and it is quite expensive to purchase new ones.

\* Presentation of In Motion After-School program made by Oleg, Director in program.

**Updates from Ivana Kardum (PTA Co-President)**

* Greets everyone.
* Urges parents to start petitioning and/or writing letters regarding the request for Pre-K.

**Updates from Mrs. Lee (Principal)**

* Greets everyone and thanks them for attending the meeting.
* Hopes that everyone considers registering their child(ren) in the new after school program.
* “Breakfast in the Classroom” has started this past Monday. Everything went better than expected and she is confident that there will be no future concerns.
* 2 letters were sent out by the Chancellor, one concerning lead in the water. The school’s water was tested and no lead was found in our water.
* The second letter was in regard to the upcoming ELA and Math State exams. This year the tests will not be timed. The children will be given as much time as they need to complete the tests. Simulation tests have been given to the children to find out which students may potentially need extra time. Students who require extra time will be removed from the class and placed in another where they can continue taking the exam.
* Prior to the State exams, parents should send their children to bed early the night before and feed them a good breakfast, so the students will be relaxed and well rested for the tests.
* The “Sip and Chats” have started and has been a great success. She really enjoys the conversations she has with the parents. Thanks the PTA for the drinks and refreshments. Thanks teachers for various presentations.

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

* Greets everyone and thanks the parents for coming.
* Congratulates all the Great Citizens.
* No new updates.
* Proud of all of the PTA’s accomplishments this year and thanks them for the teacher’s stipends and for all that they have done for the school.

**Updates from Mrs. Schweiger (Assistant Principal)**

* Greets and welcomes everyone.
* The children in grades 3-5 are in great hands with their teachers and they will do well during the State exams. Each child will get the maximum time they need to complete the test and not feel pressured. The will go to lunch and return to the test if need be.

**\*\*Presentation of Great Citizens.**

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

* Ms. Schender, Ms. Augello and herself dropped in unexpectedly at another school where the new after school program was in session and were very pleased with what they observed. They are confident that this new program will be a great fit with the school.
* By September about 18 classrooms will be getting new smartboards. These new smartboards will no longer have the costly lightbulb issue.
* She is working on a new project, which is trying to get 3 way stop signs 56th Avenue. She is lobbying and petitioning for this.
* The Blood Drive and Movie Night were a great success. Thanks parents for participating.
* Thanks parents for filling out the school survey.
* Broadway guild actors came to the school to perform, thanks to the C.A.S.A program, and the children absolutely loved it! It is thanks to Councilman Koo that the school has been receiving the C.A.S.A. program for 3 years now.

\*Meeting ends 8:15pm