

The Parent Teacher Association at
The Rose E. Scala School
P. S. 71/Preparatory Academy at 71
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2017-2018 Executive Board

Elizabeth Cruz
President

Jasmine Ausanio
Recording Secretary

Jean Distefano
Treasurer

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017

The meeting was called to order by the president, Ms. Elizabeth Cruz, at 7:21 PM, following the Ribbon Cutting ceremony with Councilman Vacca for the cafeteria. There were 57 people in attendance, which met the quorum. The membership and guests rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The president greeted parents and thanked them for coming. She introduced the Executive Board: Jasmine Ausanio, Recording Secretary, has 2 children in the school, very active parent; Jean Distefano, Treasurer, has 1 daughter, and herself. She has 2 daughters in the school, one in 2nd grade and one in 7th. Elizabeth gave a summary of the PTA. She explained that we want to empower our parents; our motivation is to meet your goals, educate you and keep you abreast of what's going on in your child's school.

Minutes: June's minutes were distributed for review. The minutes were accepted as presented by the membership.

President's Report: Ms. Cruz reported that she attended several meetings over the summer. She spoke about the upcoming CEC meeting and let parents know who our Parent Coordinator is, Anna Ortiz, and provided her contact information. The Budget revision was presented to better allocate monies and implement current goals. The membership voted to approve the budget, and the revised budget was accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer, Jean Distefano, presented the monthly expenses of the PTA. The opening balance was \$7,098.75. The closing balance was \$8,334.25.

Correspondence/Report of the Committees: Mr. Margolis' correspondence regarding a request by Mr. Frishman, who heads the Mock Trial at 71, was discussed. Interest for an evening workshop with a legal team to discuss specific laws was voted upon. Membership agreed on a Tuesday at 7 PM in October, TBD. The letter of resignation from Tiffany Collazo, Corresponding Secretary was read.

Old Business: Nominations for PTA Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and two School Leadership Team parent representatives' vacancies were taken from the floor. Two parents self-nominated for SLT: Dawn Albit and Melissa Rivera. There were no other nominations and, therefore, uncontested.

New Business: The revised budget for the year was presented and accepted. A copy of the revised budget is attached. In accordance to the Chancellor's Regulations, updated and revised Bylaws were presented for acceptance. Ralph Ausanio motioned to accept which was seconded by Jennifer Mahoney. The membership unanimously accepted as presented.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Miranda welcomed parents; let everyone know about the school website, please visit, a work in progress. She discussed the idea of parent reps per class to share information as liaisons between teacher and parents. There is a continuation of work from last year. Scores for ELA went down, expected when a new program is started. They are working with teachers to improve areas specifically regarding curriculum that was implemented last year. Afterschool and Saturday programs will begin for students categorized as "pushables/slippables", high 1s/low 2s on state scores, as well as those needing enrichment. The partnerships with Fordham and Chancellor's

coach will help with ELA; New York Historical Society, and others will continue. Staff is being trained, through District 8, by Yale University on how to implement social emotional intelligence: RULER – Recognize, Understand, Label, Express, Regulate. It will be taught to the students next year. Ms. Miranda reviewed information from the September In the Loop, notices and letters sent home regarding traffic control, early pick up and the school handbook. She explained that “Learning Leaders” no longer exists but they will be reaching out to parents who've been screened to continue helping in the classroom. The school will also be implementing a volunteer system where others can get involved, receive training and be screened.

Guest Speakers: Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Reilly and the CEC reps were unable to attend. Ms. Guzman, 7th grade self-contained special ed classroom teacher, on the PBIS team outlined the program which will be kicked off on the 29th. She also sang the song that goes along with the program that was created by the music dept. and goes to the tune of “Count on Me” by Bruno Mars.

General Discussion: Is the PBIS program for the Middle School too? Yes, there is more focus on relational rewards specific and relevant to middle school.

Mrs. Miranda also discussed the “Inspire to Read”, share a book review with the principal and peers that will be displayed on the large bulletin board on the second floor.

The door prize, a \$25 gift card to AMC theater, was won by Migda Rodriguez #945042. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.