

Minutes
PTA of MS 54, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
January 17th 2012 at 7:00pm

I. Attendance:

- a. **Present for the Board: A.Beckmann, L. Bruder-Frydman, L. Coulombe, D. Iocco, M. Martin, K. Saltser, B. Servetar**
- b. **Also Present: Dr. E. Elster, A. Pejovich**
- c. **A quorum was present.**

II. Welcome and Announcements by PTA Co-President: K. Saltser

- a. **Auction Action: January 19th at 8:00 am in Room 133 and January 31st at 6:30 pm**
- b. **Staff Talent Show: February 2nd, 6:30 pm. Tix on sale January 23rd in Room 144**
- c. **Fundraising Meeting: February 8th at 8:00 am., Room 133**
- d. **February SLT Meeting: February 10th at 7:20 am**
- e. **February PTA Meeting: day and time change!!
Wednesday, February 15th at 6:30 pm. Speaker will be Dr. Fred Kaeser – “Understanding Child Sexuality and How to be an Approachable Parent”**
- f. **Studio MS 54- OUR ANNUAL AUCTION: March 3rd 2012**
 - **Critical need for donations –big and small –**
 - **Parents are asked to solicit donations from businesses they patronize**
 - **Liz Bruder-Frydman : “\$10,000 worth of donations are needed and we are way below that amount.”**

III. December 14th Minutes are approved.

IV. Principal’s Report: Dr. E. Elster:

- a. **A Quality Review was conducted on January 10th & 11th 2012 by Dr. Esther Friedman, the Interim Acting Superintendent of District Three. Dr. Friedman observed classes and met with students, teachers and parents. Dr. Elster is grateful to those parents who were able to meet and speak with Dr. Friedman on Wednesday, January 11th 2012.**
- b. **Dr. Friedman was generally supportive and gave our school a preliminary good review.**
- c. **Dr. Elster will share the final report with the parent body when she receives it.**
- d. **Students will take a predictive ELA and Math exam on Wednesday, January 25th and Thursday, January 26th. (these exams simulate the actual state exams and provide teachers with data to use to prepare for upcoming exams.)**
- e. **Students will take ELA when they come back from their Spring break.**

V. Treasurer’s Report: Anne Beckmann (see Handout: PTA of Booker T. Washington, Comparison of Budget to Actuals as of December 31, 2011)

- a. **To date has been a strong financial year. Capital Fund Drive only \$3,600 from goal. Here is an itemization of some of the monies raised:**

Magazine and Gift Drive (QSP)	\$3,600.00
Phone-A-Thon	\$12,000.00 +
School Store	\$9,000.00
Bake Sales	\$748.00
Raffle tickets/Auction	\$1,000.00

Barnes and Noble (Gift Wrapping)	\$ 500.00
Amazon	\$46.00
Box Tops	\$45.00

b. Largest amounts of monies needed are for:

Afterschool Sports/Clubs	\$7,000.00
School Supplies	\$25,000.00

VI. Community Announcement: Karen Saltser

- a. Michael McCourt, UFT District 3 Representative came to inform us of the DOE's intention of closing Wadleigh Middle School in District 3.
- b. Our PTA is discussing writing a resolution protesting the impending closure of Wadleigh Middle School.
- c. There will be a public hearing on January 26th at 6 pm at Wadleigh (125 W. 114th St) to protest DOE's decision to close the school.
- d. PTA encourages BTW members to attend the meeting.

VII. Screening of movie *Race to Nowhere*

VIII. Q& A with Principal, Dr. Elster:

- a. Questions and concerns were raised about the amount of homework at BTW
- b. Questions and concerns were raised about the amount of pressure students are subjected to – especially in 7th grade.
- c. Questions and concerns were raised about the Honor Roll and the High Honor Roll.
- d. Dr. Elster has decided not to show the movie to the students in school as she feels it might be too overwhelming for them to watch it.
- e. Dr. Elster plans on having BTW staff watch the movie.
- f. Dr. Elster found the movie very compelling and hopes to devote another PTA or other meeting to a follow-up discussion. She welcomes any thoughts you might have had about the movie *Race to Nowhere*.

IX. a. Thanks to Liz Bruder-Frydman for suggesting we screen the movie *Race to Nowhere*.

- b. Many thanks to Dale & Thomas for the popcorn donation this evening and to our own parent Jill Bennett for securing this and the many goodies you have been enjoying at this year's PTA meetings.

X. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 15th 2012 at 7:00 pm.