

**Minutes -- FINAL**

**PTA of MS 54, Inc.**

**General Membership Meeting**

**September 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM**

- I. Attendance :
  - a. Present for the Board: Karen Saltser, Liz Bruder-Frydman, Anne Beckmann, Denise Iocco, Marika Martin.
  - a. Also Present: Dr. Elana Elster, Anne McIntosh, Andrew Bergen, Patricia Fondrie, Lorie Coulombe, Beth Servetar, Michele Abrash, Anna Kahn, Sandra Levy, Susan Woods.
  - b. 40 attendees
- II. Welcome and introduction of the PTA Executive Board and announcements by PTA Co-President Karen Saltser.
  - a. Friday September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:05: school wide class breakfasts in your child's homeroom. Bring whatever was suggested in the letter you received. Items requested are based on your family's last name.
  - b. Thursday September 22 : Back to School Night
  - c. September 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm : 8<sup>th</sup> grade High School meeting with High School Guidance Counselor Barbara Von Zerneck
  - d. September 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am: Fundraising Committee meeting
  - e. September 29 & 30 : Rosh Hashanah Holiday.
  - f. October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am : Auction Committee meeting
  - g. October 10<sup>th</sup>: Columbus Day Holiday.
  - h. October 18<sup>th</sup>: next PTA meeting with guest speaker Clara Hemphill, author of *The Guide to the Best New York City High Schools*.
- III. Elections for PTA position of Co- President and Corresponding Secretary and for Two SLT positions.
  - a. Motion is made to approve Lorie Coulombe as PTA Co-President and Beth Servetar as Corresponding Secretary. Both who ran uncontested are approved.
  - b. Outgoing Corresponding Secretary Patricia Fondrie is thanked
  - c. Lorie Coulombe introduces herself
  - d. Beth Servetar introduces herself
  - e. Paper ballots are distributed with candidates' bios and those present are asked to write in names of 2 candidates of their choice. Ballots are collected and counted at the end of the meeting.
  - f. The 4 candidates for the SLT positions introduce themselves: Michele Abrash, Anna Kahn, Sandra Levy and Susan Woods.
  - g. Winners are announced: **Sandra Levy and Michele Abrash.**

IV. June Minutes are approved.

V. Principal's Report:

- a. Dr. Elster thanks the parents and PTA for their generous support and for the many donations contributed over the summer.
- b. Dr. Elster states this will be her 19th year at Booker T. Washington. She came in 1993 to teach Math. Subsequently she was a Program Coordinator, an Assistant Principal and finally Principal.
- c. School budget was cut by the DOE . As a result, Dr. Elster has had to make some difficult decisions.
- d. Some of the classes have had to be doubled up for gym and she had to reduce foreign language from 4 – 3 periods per week in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The ESL class has been eliminated. The students who were in an ESL class are now in regular classes with supplemental ESL help. All teachers now have 1 extra teaching period in their schedule and Dr. Elster has had to eliminate 2 teaching positions.
- e. There are 3 new teachers and 1 returning teacher.
- f. Back to School Night starts at 6 pm in your child's homeroom. You will follow your child's schedule and go from subject to subject.
- g. Testing: you can now log into ARIS and see your child's test scores. If you do not have your login id Anne McIntosh can provide you that information.
- h. Letters will go out to parents regarding Early Academy. Teachers need to assess which students would benefit from coming to Early Academy.
- i. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade have 2 state tests: ELA & Math and Predictive ELA and Predictive Math to evaluate their abilities.
- j. Dr. Elster is always available if you have any concerns. She always answers e-mails and is looking forward to a great year with your children.

VI. Treasurer's Report: 2010/2011 wrap up and 2011/2012 Budget by Anne Beckmann:

- a. Copies of the budget are distributed and reviewed by attendees.
- b. Anne Beckmann discusses some aspects of the budget on the revised budget she has prepared for the attendees.
- c. The estimated opening balance is \$170,000.00
- d. Capital Fund Drive is set at \$45,000.00
- e. Educational Consultants Restricted Funds is set at \$65,000.00
- f. The total inflow is set at \$425,250.00
- g. Educational Consultants is set at \$103,000.00
- h. Hospitality is set at \$6,250.00.
- i. Fundraising for the Auction is now set at \$26,000.
- j. The closing balance is set at \$170,900.

- k. Motion is made to approve the budget. **Revised Budget is approved.**
- VII. Fundraising Appeal from Liz Bruder-Frydman:
- a. Parents are thanked for their Capital Campaign Donations
  - b. The Auction is on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011 at Landmark on the Park
  - c. 2-3 co-chairs are needed for the auction as this is the biggest fundraising event of the school.
  - d. Donations are needed and any amount is welcomed
- VIII Transitioning to Middle School: Mr. Andrew Bergen, Program Director of Delta
- a. Mr. Bergen has been at Booker T. Washington since 2,000. He first taught Science and then worked part-time as Director of Program with Mr. La Senna who founded the Delta program 30 years ago
  - b. Mr. Bergen wants the 800 + students at Booker T. Washington to have a good experience. He works closely with Dr. Elster and the guidance department and Mr. Rosario, the dean of discipline.
  - c. Mr. Bergen says that Booker T. Washington has Zero tolerance for bullying – at school or online.
  - d. Mr. Bergen wants parents to contact him if their child is being bullied so that the situation can be immediately remedied.
- IX. Question and Answers from Attendees to Dr. Elster and Mr. Bergen
- X. Communications:
- a. Paul Garrity, a BTW parent, will be updating the school website ([www.ms54.org](http://www.ms54.org))
  - b. Everyone should be on the Yahoo list serv group; please join if you are not.: Send a blank e-mail to : [Btwms54pta-suscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Btwms54pta-suscribe@yahoogroups.com) and you will automatically get all the school news every week.
- XI. Closing Remarks from PTA President, Karen Saltser
- a. Karen Saltser asks PTA attendees if they have suggestions as to what topics could be discussed at PTA meetings and if they have ideas as to how to increase the enrollment of people attending the PTA meetings.
  - b. Suggestions are welcomed and can be sent to the PTA via e-mail: [btwms54pta@gmail.com](mailto:btwms54pta@gmail.com)

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.