

Minutes
PTA of MS 54, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
December 14th, 2011 at 7:00pm
FINAL

I. Attendance:

- a. **Present for the Board: Liz Bruder-Frydman, L. Coulombe, D. Iocco, M. Martin, K. Saltser, B. Servetar**
- b. **Also Present: Dr. E. Elster, A. Pejovich and Guest Speaker, Kate Miller from the Freedom Institute.**
- c. **A quorum was present.**

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

- a. **Barnes & Noble MS54 Day on Thursday, December 15th 2011. Shop at Broadway & 82nd St. location to benefit MS 54.**
- b. **Barnes & Noble Online December 16th through December 20th 2011. Shop online on behalf of MS 54.**
- c. **Barnes & Noble Gift Wrapping Event on December 17th 2011. (3-10 pm) Volunteer to wrap or have your presents wrapped by BTW volunteers at 82nd St. & Broadway.**
- d. **January 5th 2012: Auction Committee Meeting at 8:00 am**
- e. **January 10th 2012: Fundraising Committee Meeting at 8:00 am**
- f. **January 17th 2012: PTA Meeting, *Race to Nowhere* screening at 7:00 pm followed by Q & A with Dr. Elster and several MS 54 teachers.**
- g. **March 3rd 2012: MS 54 Auction**
 - **there is a critical need for volunteers to join the committees**
 - **Friday December 18th: students will be coming home with flyers on the auction and donation forms.**
- h. **February PTA Meeting has been changed to Wednesday, February 15th 2012**

III. November 15th Minutes are approved.

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

- a. **Dr. Elster has volunteered to wrap presents at the Barnes & Noble event on December 17th 2011. She is looking forward to this event and hopes she will be generously compensated in tips!**
- b. **This academic year, MS54 is using an online reading and math program called Study Island. Teachers are using it in a variety of ways – either to supplement class work or to target specific skills for those students in need of remedial work. The website is: www.studyisland.com. Students log in by using their initial and last name. They can see their progress report. Dr. Elster believes it is a great resource.**
- c. **BTW is scheduled for a Quarterly Review on January 10th & 11th of 2012. Observers will be interviewing students, examining their work and appraising staff teaching.**
- d. **Common Core Task:**
 - **goals are to improve ELA skills for all students and specifically the English Language Learners (ELL)**
 - **goal in teaching planning is to coordinate teachers with common tasks.**
 - **goal is to increase communication among school body.**

Dr. Elster is open to any suggestions parents might have.
- e. **MS 54 is now at mid-point of 2nd quarter.**

Parents should have received information from their teachers if there is an issue with their child.

V. Treasurer's Report: D. Iocco

November was a very active month.

a. Pie Sale (Harriet Clark)	\$1,700.00
b. Bake Sale at Parent Teacher Conferences (Michelle Abrash)	\$350.00
c. Magazine and Gift Drive (Karen Starr)	\$4,000.00
d. Phone-A-Thon (Lorie Coulombe)	\$13,000.00
e. School Store	Ongoing Sales
f. Photo Day (Jessica Chornesky) 4 Families participated	\$425.00
g. Private Donations/Matching Grants	\$2,500.00
h. Raffle tickets for the Auction (Robin Klueber)	Ongoing Sales

VI. Guest Speaker: Kate Miller from the Freedom Institute: *What Every Parent Should Know about Bullying.*

- a. Freedom Institute was founded in the 1970's primarily as a means of preventing substance abuse.
- b. Kate Miller has been working at the Freedom Institute for 2 years. She holds an MSW. All Freedom Institute staff are licensed clinicians.
- c. Bullying and cyber bullying were defined.
- d. Signs and symptoms of victims of cyber bullying were enumerated.
- e. Some statistics on adolescents and their online activities:
 - students on average spend 7 ½ hrs online/day (includes online & texting)
 - there is an average of 2,200 texts/month/student.
- f. Alcohol and marijuana tend to fuel bullying and cyber bullying.
- g. Freedom Institute has recently published a parent guide, Stay Connected: Helping Your Teen Navigate Tough Choices.
- h. Freedom Institute is offering a series of 6 "Stay Connected" Parent Workshops. (a flyer was distributed with information on fees & registration)
- i. Freedom Institute also goes into schools and offers workshops for teens.
- j. Speaker Kate Miller would be available to come and offer a workshop to our students if BTW parent body and Dr. Elster were interested. PTA would have to fund the workshop/s.
- k. More information on the Freedom Institute can be obtained by visiting their website: www.freedominstitute.org

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Next meeting is on Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 pm.