

PS 889 Parents Association General Meeting Minutes January 19, 2021

Call to order: 6:34 p.m.

Approval of minutes from Dec. 15, 2020 General Meeting

- Approved unanimously

Racial Equity & Social Justice Committee Report - Femi and Natalia

- Committee has conducted a needs assessment survey.
 - Raised \$6,200 for 25 families before winter break in partnership with Relief for Flatbush Families. Gave out \$300 gift cards.
- Current initiative: Virtual book drive, based on parent input, to build a diverse and inclusive library.
 - Needed 219 books, have 137. Once all purchased, they'll be distributed to grade teams. At 62% of goal. Keep going!
 - Also worked to improve diversity in enrichment.
- Next initiative: Antiracist education training for the school community.
 - RESJ has partnered with an antiracism trainer, Dr. Warren Chalklen.
 - He will run four sessions, on 2/3, 2/10, 3/3, and 3/10 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.
 - All parents are encouraged to participate.

Principal's Report — Ms. Anderson

- Strongly support the RESJ effort on antiracism. The school is also working on workshops for the staff.
 - The school may be able to give teachers some per-session pay.
- Enrichment:
 - Ifetayo, dance residency, coming to 889 starting at the end of January. All the classes, even the new ones, will participate.
 - Eight Wednesdays from Jan. 27 to March 24. Schedule to follow.
 - Children's Museum of Manhattan (science program) comes a month later, running through mid-May.
 - DOE gave additional funding in the mid-year adjustment, so we have enough to fund both programs, with PA support.
- 5 day in-classroom program is going well. 5-day remote is also going well.
 - Working on reducing the student-to-teacher ratios in remote classes, especially K and 1.
 - There's no change in safety protocols.
 - Air purifiers are now in all the classrooms.
- 889 has the highest percentage of uninterrupted school days.
- The K enrollment period was extended to Jan. 22. Emanuel, tech intern, is working on a virtual tour to go on the school's website.
- Parent coordinator:
 - We now have a posting and have received 10 resumes. RESJ will be sitting in on the interviews along with a teacher and Ms. Anderson.

- Posting closes Jan. 25. Interviews Feb. 1. Hoping to have a hire by Feb. break.
- School has requested professional development for math instruction. Will solicit parent input.
- Ms. Ralph was hired out of supplemental funds given by the DOE for Covid teaching. Ms. Anderson created a role for her. Splitting time between K and 1.

President's Report

- We need a grants committee. We had one last year but it fell by the wayside. Jobs will be research, calendaring, and similar tasks, primarily for next year.
- We also need a communications committee. It's as simple as putting dates into the Konstella calendar.

SLT Updates – Nat

- You may have received a form email from DOE situation room about a Covid case. In the future, Ms. Anderson may share a cover note.
 - It was a family who tested positive in the community. But they were never in the school since testing positive.
- Only SLT members can speak at meetings but parents are always welcome. If you have questions/concerns, please email: slt.ps889@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report

- Ran out of time so we will circulate the budget online, with no major updates.

Fundraising & Events Committee - Piyali + Tracy

- Read-a-thon coming Feb. 1-12. Next Monday, parents will get a packet with a login.
 - You can sign up as a mystery reader!
- No virtual events planned for Feb. to give space to antiracism training.
- More themed events coming in future months.
- Considering career videos for students.
- Other plans to come: Yearbooks, school photos, and more.
- Email your ideas to the PA!

Old Business - NA

Adjourned: 7:36 p.m.