

PS 889 Parents Association General Meeting Minutes February 23, 2021

Call to order: 6:33 p.m.

Principal's Report: Ms. Anderson

- MS890 is preparing to bring students back on Thursday, Feb. 25.
 - There will be 115 students at 890, plus 150 from 889.
 - 889 comes in at 8:30, 890 comes in at 8:45. 889 exits at 1:50, 890 at 2:15.
 - Budgetary changes are happening with the middle school reopening. Substitute days have been removed from some budgets to open up for other schools.
 - 889 is still able to maintain the same programs and staff. But we have to be careful about how we use substitutes to make it through the end of the year.
- We've seen noticeable difference with parking issues at entry and exit—thank you!
- Custodians are working to remove the snow so we can use the playground.
 - Snow hasn't been removed from the little kids' playground because custodians can't use power equipment on the asphalt.
- There is still no move for remote students have another opt-in period.
- There will be a principals meeting on Feb. 24; more updates may follow.
- Parent coordinator update:
 - A new hire was supposed to be introduced at this meeting, but there were processing issues. That hire is on pause. Appealed to superintendent.
 - There's a hold having to do with checking the number of years of experience.
- Testing: The latest information is that state testing will commence at the end of April and in May. It's still unknown how much testing counts for promotion, if it counts for a school's accountability scores, how it's done for remote.
- Parent-teacher conferences will be next week. Grading policies will be discussed at those meetings.
- Student data, including report cards, will come through NYC School accounts. Only 14 families don't have a NYC Schools account; we're working with them. In-building students will also get report card backpacked.
- 889 had another winner in the Respect for All contest: Layla Aguilar, who did an amazing poster and was recognized district-wide.
- We're finishing up Black History Month. The school will continue to work with parents on programming.
- Trying to find ways to incorporate music into the beginning of the day.
- The district leader in math visited. She gave suggestions to teachers and would like to do parent workshops. They would likely be during the day.
 - One of the suggestions was about tilting the camera so teachers are looking at the child's work, not their face.
 - Parents have reported content errors for grade 1 students. That's inexcusable.
 - Also discussed the idea of giving students advanced problems beforehand.

- Some of the remote teachers are floating; managing them can be a challenge.
- In-person Covid testing: All students in-building have a consent form. If any family member wants to revoke their consent, they can call and do so. As it stands they would not be removed from in-building learning.
- Windows: The custodial office has produced documentation saying windows should not be opened. But if a parent requests windows to be open, the school needs to be able to do so. The issue has been escalated to the School Construction Authority.
- Custodian update: John has moved a position closer to his home. We're now in a temporary care custodial position.

Racial Equity and Social Justice Report

- Book drive: All classes received a bundle of books that was representative of our community. Delivered a total of 219 books costing over \$3,400.
- Every child at 889 got a copy of Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o.
- This is not a one-off. RESJ intends to continue to build the library.
- Antiracism training: Next session is March 3 from 7:00. p.m to 8:30 p.m. It's geared toward teachers and will also give parents tools to engage with the education system. Sign up:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/what-does-it-mean-to-be-anti-racist-an-interactive-webinar-series-registration-136886642633?keep_tld=1
- Next session is March 10, same time.

Minutes from Jan. 11, 2021

- Unanimously approved

New Business

- PA proposes spending up to \$2,500 to buy high-quality masks for students.
 - Subject to Principal Anderson's approval.
 - PA would purchase and distribute at least 5 KF-94 masks to all students (remote and in-person). Use is optional.
 - Vote: Approved, 20 in favor, 2 opposed.
- PA proposes increasing the mailing budget to \$580 to cover higher costs.
 - Vote: Approved unanimously.
- School Photos
 - Stomping Ground will not be a good fit for us this year. Looking into alternatives.
 - One option is Picaboo, but it would require heavy parent involvement.
 - Announcement to come on Konstella seeking volunteers.

Treasurer's Report

- \$15,385 in the bank
- Read-a-thon did really well. Net proceeds: \$11,220.
- Current balance of unallocated funds: \$13,076.29.

- The newly approved expenses (\$2500 and \$580) would come out of that money.

Fundraising & Events Committee

- March is Women's history month. Working with the school to prepare.
- March Madness is coming up; we'll have events planned. Suggestions welcome!

Grants Committee

- Grants committee restarted. More volunteers needed!
- Submitted for the Grow NYC grant for \$2,000.
- Snapdragon grant for books. Submitted and asked for \$20,000.
- Councilman Mathieu Eugene is term-limited. Ms Anderson is on board to develop a relationship with the new councilperson to seek discretionary funds.
- National Grid Foundation has a STEM grant for \$5,000-20,000. Will apply.

Old Business - NA

Adjourned: 7:44 p.m.