



SEPTEMBER, 2017
PA General Meeting
Tuesday, September 26

Guest Speakers:

Principal Kelly, Assistant Principal Kerstin Kobetitsch, Parent Coordinator Laura Hui, School Safety Officer, NYPD and Youth Officer from the 112th Precinct

MEETING MINUTES

7pm

• Meet the Principal

- Welcome address by Principal Kelly
- Introduction of guest speakers and an update on School Safety.
They were there to listen, assure, and communicate.
- Dialogue between Speakers, Principal and concerned parents about an isolated, unusual incident on school grounds. The activity took place on the afternoon of 9/15. As the NYPD Detectives reiterated the alleged incident is an open and ongoing investigation and no further information could be shared.
- Principal Kelly answered questions from parents and reiterated that it was an isolated incident, and that school safety was of utmost importance to the administration and that all protocols had been followed with the DOE. Media reports do not reflect the daily actions around the school. Frosted glass is on every window on the lower level and all have gates and grates and anything opening within arms reach has been directed to remain closed. The school is safe. Sgt Diaz is always at the front door signing people in and out, staff are trained in emergency response, there are monthly safety meetings with staff.
- Principal Kelly has a direct line of communication with the 112th and for now there is an increased visibility of school safety officers at entry and dismissal.
- The minutes from the monthly school safety meeting of select staff and the PA President are posted on the school website.
- Parents voiced concerns not so much about the isolated incident but that they found out through the media rather than the school and that the lack of communication translated as a loss of confidence.
- Parents made demands for more transparency.
- Principal Kelly and Assistant Principal Kerstin Kobetitsch, stated that protocol was followed and that it was not for secrecy but for accuracy.
- Requesting for additional NYPD backup in response to outside safety.
- A suggestion for auxiliary police as an extra eyes and ears for the school; parents could volunteer
- Request for funds for CCTV
- Principal Kelly will research other district schools and if they have CCTV. Something to bring to the Community Board for discretionary voting. Our voices count. Parents should vote on these.
- Parent input needed

- Principal Kelly was invited by parents to share her Welcome address
- Goals for the 2017-18 school year.
 - Critical Thinking, Communicate, Collaborate and Contribute
- Principal Kelly put out a call for families to volunteer and be more involved.
- Families, please contribute any way you can, in any way that you are comfortable with.
- Library Tuesdays have begun.
- 150 Dads came along to Dads bring your kids to school morning
- Over 200 parents attended the Curriculum afternoon, with more coming to the evening sessions
- New staff: Mr Pizza for STEM and a new STEM lab is up and operating, Miss Borges for Physical Education which is now twice a week. New Special Ed teacher, new Speech Therapist, New Kindergarten teacher
- Computers for Grades 1-5 twice a week
- Music Studio is open
- A/C for the Auditorium is in the design phase, and approved for funding. Hopefully in the Spring. Thanks to NYC Council.
- Math Olympiads continue from Grade 4 and 5
- Scripps Spelling Bee continues
- Young debaters Program continues from the 5th Grade
- Lots of new books (Simple Solutions was mentioned)
- Looking forward to a new wave of online learning. Purchasing i-ready and i-math
- A monthly email is uploaded to the website that states the goals of each grade
- Afterschool program details are being finalized
- Robotics Club is building up
- Principal Kelly thanked the PA for their time and support
- New Executive Board Members of the PA were all in attendance, and introduced.

- **PA President, Introduction**

- New PA President Bobby Valiente made his introduction and put out a call for volunteers and stated that our strength is in our families.

- **PA Editor, Introduction**

- New PA Editor Yanhai Wan made his introduction and put out a call for a more comprehensive after school program, running daily with longer hours and expanding to summer camp.

- **PA Treasurer Report**

- Continuing PA Treasurer David Heath presented the budget. The budget is balanced with \$600 over. The new budget was proposed, voted on, and passed.
- David has applied for 501(C) (3) status for the PA and it has been approved. Formal letter and notification from the IRS has been received.

- **SLT Report (School Leadership)**

- Minutes were read from the most recent SLT meeting

- **PA Vice Presidents, Introduction**

- Malini and Evan Daniel introduced themselves and noted upcoming events for which volunteers will be requested. They took email addresses, for Remind App and will implement SignUp as another way to recruit and monitor volunteers for upcoming fundraising.

- School Spirit days were discussed
- Picture Day going ahead 10/16
- Cherrydale is ongoing until 10/10
- Halloween Party scheduled for 10/29. Planning Committee need to be put in place urgently. It is a big annual fund raiser
- Likewise the Scholastic Book Fair needs to be planned. Another big one. Scheduled for November

• **Closing**

- Parent suggestions were made for fund raisers
- A karaoke night was suggested
- Members Dues were discussed. All in agreement. A letter needs to be drafted and sent out soon.