



PARENT ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 16th @ 7:00PM

Attendance:

Sarah Panag, Kathryn Fitzgerald, Christen Russo, Jessica Fitts, Genevieve Smith, Colleen Fleming, Katherine Ulanowsky + via Zoom

Call to order

Principal's Report

Ms Panag went over the Spring events @ PS39.

- *April themed days have been a blast*
- *Closing out April w AttenDANCE on Friday*
- *When we return from break: field day, K graduation, school concerts, 5th grade events, carnival*
- *Field trips: New Victory Theatre (I'm Possible) last week*

Computer based testing has begun and seems to be familiar to students

Treasurers' Report

Jessica said we will be voting on the budget for 2024-25 @ next general mtg (prelim budget; final budget in fall)

Wit & Wisdom literacy curriculum

Katherine Fitzgerald explained District 15 is about to roll out Phase 2 of the NYC Reads Curriculum; schools that are mono-lingual will roll out "Wit & Wisdom". All teachers have received their 3 days of instruction provided by DOE; everyone is ready and prepared.

Ms. Fitzgerald then introduced our Instructional Coach for Wit & Wisdom Katherine Ulanowsky, who is a 5th grade teacher at PS 39. She explained this is a shift from the current skills based curriculum to a knowledge based curriculum.

- *Literacy curriculum (as opposed to a reading curriculum)*
- *Compelling topics & engaging texts*
- *Writing portion builds into the reading portions*

- Fiction, non-fiction and multimedia (broad exposure to complex texts)
- Direct vocab
- 15 min/day grammar instruction
- Wit & Wisdom itself does not have a phonics component; PS 39 will pair it with Foundations (already use) & Heggarty (training June 6 for teachers)
- Four yearly modules (units) each focused on a theme or topic (topics may repeat throughout K-8 curriculum) to build a knowledge puzzle
- Next academic year will only expect to do 3 modules as we gradually roll out
- [See slide deck for sample curriculum/modules/themes](#)
- Module 0 being rolled out in K-2 now (3-5 after testing): used to get kids excited about reading
- Parent tip sheets by grade w focus questions and reading lists for home as well as field trip suggestions
- Zoom question: will curriculum address diversity appropriately to reflect the values of PS 39? Ms Panag assures this will be taken into consideration.

New Business

- o Motion to Approve \$3,600 expense (\$20/student) for Take-Two Nitehawk showing for grades 3-5
Jessica explained that Take Two is working with grades 3-5 on their own documentaries and would like to do a "film festival" on June 20th to showcase their work on the big screen. Likely there will be leftover funds from grades 3-5 field trip funds to subsidize, but would like approve full amount today.
Move: Jessica Fitts
Motion unanimously approves (8 people)
- o Committee updates
 - Gear
 - Fundraising
Angelica: Kona Ice has a Ice Truck we are looking into having @ school
 - Class Parent Liaison
 - Gardening
- o Possible Parent Seminar with Max Stossel (June 11)
Genevieve discussed possibly partnering w other schools to put together a package as the fee is quite steep (\$2500 fee for parent talk). Ms Panag will look into this.
Child facing curriculum: tech talk to get kids off phones
Parent curriculum: how your use of phones affects kids
- o Upcoming Community Events
 - Matilda the Musical at Gallery Players (May 4)
 - Tickets are \$25; reserve through gear store
 - Readathon (May 10-17)
 - Literacy Committee

Genevieve discussed the new online platform which will be easier for sponsors/donations and so our kids can see goals/school progress.

(Will have paper available as well)

There will be a book swap, reading in the yard, and a Books are Magic Friday event w pizza

- Spring Carnival (June 1)

Jessica thanked the great, dedicated volunteers!

- Activities fair? (June)
- Cyclones Game (June 23)