

Minutes from 11.21.18 General P.T.A. Meeting

Introduction:

Words from Ms. Hsu & Mr. Shevell - Thank you to the Community Bldg. Team and All Parent Volunteers for a successful Multi-Cultural Pot Luck last night!  
  
Next event is our Book Fair. 11/26 is set up and on 11/27 we will have a party at 6pm to launch the book fair-Pickle Pajama Book Party. There will be an author signing books, a Taekwondo performance and an open mic for upper grades. We still need volunteers for Thursday, 11/29 during the day.   
Book fair will open Tuesday 11/27 morning from 7:45am- 8:20am. Classes will all be visiting the book fair and flyers went home with class times and a book survey. Teachers will have wishlists as well for their specific classrooms.   
  
Morning Programs:  
Due to parent volunteers we are able to offer the following programs-  
Running Club- meets Friday mornings at 7:20am   
Yoga Series meets Tuesday’s at 7:20am for upper grades 4-5 and Thursdays for grades 1-3.  
Basketball Clinic on Monday’s and Tuesdays for  4th and 5th graders is run by a parent from the neighborhood ( Escalades)  
  
Library Update:  
Most of the shelves are now stocked with labeled, non-fiction books. All copyrighted 2012 to present. Teachers have started to sort the books for display so children can have easy access. Library should open for classes to use in the near future.   
  
Staff Benefit Show will return for the holidays on Thursday 12/13 at 6pm. There was such a great turnout last Spring that we will have a repeat performance   The theme will be “Something  Fo Everybody”. We will raise money for the whole school. Every grade needs something and the event will include Holiday raffles for show tickets and great items.   
  
We will have one additional soft lockdown drill before the end of the year. Notices will go home in backpacks to notify parents of date. 

Presentation from City Council Member Carlina Rivera and City Council Member Keith Powers

We are lucky to have our two Council Members here today, Carlina Rivera of District 2 and Keith Powers of District 4. Both are huge supporters of PS 116. They are recently responsible for two after-school grants that our school received. We now have partnerships with the Horticultural Society as well as the 92nd Street Y. In addition, they have been involved in school safety upgrades and are constantly checking in with the city regarding the construction in front of the school. The city is getting mandatory upgrades.

* Please attend upcoming Parks Department meeting about St. Vartan Park\*\*. This meeting will take place on the evening of **Wednesday, November 28**at NYU Langone (more details included in the flyer), and it will give local residents a chance to share their ideas for improving the park. \*\* Flyer eBlasted from PTA
* Please attend Community Board 6 meetings. CB6 holds a full board meeting and committee meetings each month. Based on the Q&A today, a few committees that might be especially of interest to P.S. 116 parents are the Health and Education Committee (next meeting is **Tuesday, November 27**), the Housing, Homeless and Human Rights Committee (next meeting is **Monday, December 17**), and the Parks, Landmarks, and Cultural Affairs Committee (next meeting is**Tuesday, December 4**). The next full board meeting will take place on **Wednesday, December 12**.\*\* Website eBlasted from PTA
* The [13th Precinct Community Council](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/precincts/13th-precinct.page), which, roughly speaking, covers Stuy Town/Peter Cooper Village, Gramercy Park, Madison Square Park, and Union Square Park, holds meetings in the precinct on **the third Tuesday of each month**at 6:30pm. The [17th Precinct Community Council](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/nypd/bureaus/patrol/precincts/17th-precinct.page), which, roughly speaking, covers Sutton Place, Murray Hill, Kips Bay, Turtle Bay, and Beekman Place, holds meetings at Sutton Place Synagogue on **the last Tuesday of each month**at 6:30pm. These meetings are a good opportunity for residents to share crime-related concerns.
* The playground on East 29th Street, Vincent F. Albano, Jr. is in negotiations between the M.T.A. and the N.Y.C. Parks Department to go forward on renovations with money that was allocated with Rosie Mendez, Carlina Rivera’s predecessor
* Property taxes were discussed and we were told that the Council Members are putting forward Bills to protect the middle class. There was discussion about having a forum/meeting to help home owners.
* There was a complaint about Traffic Cops, and how they were not helpful during the recent rain storm and both Council Members took note.
* Parents were reminded that the next P.T.A. meeting will have our new NYPD Neighborhood Coordinating Officers as guest speakers. Officer Marilyn Noa and Officer Raul Rodriguez are scheduled Wednesday December 19, 2018
* Parents were concerned that the SCHOOL SIGN warning drivers there is a school nearby should be moved further from the school (it is ½ block away presently).
* Homelessness / parents expressed concern over hotels in the neighborhood for the homeless. Neighborhood has fair share already, what programs exist to prevent homelessness?  
  - $16 million dollars to Social Services to help homeless students
* Job Readiness Programs
* Anti-Eviction Services (this is a big problem)
* Food Pantry
* Mental Health Services / can’t force the issue
* Urban Pathways and other Programs being explored
* Both Council Members have already pledged to move away from the ‘Homeless hotel’ model. Starting to see improvement this year, 1st time in years there was no growth in homeless numbers.
* It was strongly encouraged for parents to have the 311 APP and to use it to report when we see anything in the neighborhood that needs reporting whether it be a homeless person who needs intervention, a garbage situation that needs attending, anything that looks unsafe or of concern. These reports are needed for documentation.
* Dangerous intersection at East 35th Street with tunnel traffic. Council Member Powers took note.
* What can we do as a community to help and see change?

1. Attend meetings! (see links above)
2. <http://cbsix.org/>
3. Get 311 APP

* Council Member Carlina Rivera and Council Member Keith Powers took a moment to thank their hard working staff members, reminded us all that we can all play a role in how funds are allocated to our community through “Participatory Budgeting”.
* Through Participatory Budgeting, community members – like you – directly decide how to spend at least $1,000,000 of the public budget in participating Council Districts. Share your ideas on the map for capital projects. Community members can propose and vote on projects like improvements to schools, parks, libraries, public housing, and other public or community spaces. After you submit your idea on this Idea Collection Map, your idea will be given to community volunteers, called Budget Delegates. Budget Delegates work in your district to turn ideas into real proposals for a ballot, with input from city agencies. These proposals will be up for a community-wide vote in the spring.  
    
  See links below:  
  <https://council.nyc.gov/pb/>  
    
  <https://council.nyc.gov/pb/participate/>