

PA October general meeting Thurs Oct 19th, Note taken by Hiroko Nishimura

Attendance: 20 people plus PA board members, Ms. Darrell, Ms. Squadrito, Ms. Butt

Agenda 1) Election, voting for VP 20 votes counted. Re-An elected as Vice President

2) Vice Principle Squadrito presented safety protocol review →see the note

Parents question Q: The school starting time change- why?

-- It was DOE decision, we did not want to change time but it had to be changed due to bus schedule agreement and teacher start times, We have latest possible start time, we do not have grace period, students must be in school at start time which is 8:20

-- We try to utilize the best of the limited amount of time kids are in school, please be on time

- -First 15 min of the school day is very important and if they are late, they are missing a big part of the school day

- -We cannot open the door earlier at 8:20 to get kids seated due to the labor contract for teachers

Ms. Darrell comment on absence:

The school has an issue with high number of students with “ chronic absence” marked by DOE record due to extensive vacation taken by parents.

-100 students are “chronically absent” due to extended vacations, there are parents who leave in April and come back in October due to “cheaper plane tickets for vacation”

-10 days absence in a school year (90%) child will be in danger of being marked “chronically absent” in DOE record, if they are sick they will be marked as sick

-If your children has 10 days of absence, your kids will be in jeopardy of repeating the grade

Parents question: Q: What if we provide a doctor’s note ?

--It does not change the absence record but it will be noted

-Absence is %, child who is absent 3 days already are coded as “chronically absent”

- You will get letter for absence warning, automatically generated and mailed out

Q: What about a case where child is enrolled in the native country’s school during the vacation? -

Parents who enroll children in the school for education should communicate with school/principle, we would like to know this information

3) Voting: on conversion of PA to non-profit ---approved -Budget approximately \$350 for registration

4) Update report on dues collected-\$2178 raised -a little concerning that the dues are less than last year

5) Report on tape donation (for courtyard)

6) Report on the first “Meet and Greet” -it was a success

7) Report on Picture Day - Codes –have not been sent out yet - There is make up day on Jan 5th

- 8) Update on Holiday Shop by Eric, committee chair: Holiday Shop will be Dec 19, 20, and 21
- Last year was fun. Volunteers run the shop, parents are encouraged to join, it is very rewarding
- We have picked the merchandise, we need budget how much will be used for buyout, first or second week of November
- We can store the merchandise in the side room in the cafeteria, or somebody's room, parent volunteered storage area

Question from parents: NIA after school program - Will it be a free program if we have 60 participants? - We need to get funds to make it free, not sure if that is the case