



The Parent Association of the East Village Community School

EVCS Parents Association Meeting
Sept. 18, 2008

Parents Present: Ethan Mass, Agus Sularno, Michael Rich, Alfonso Mogaburo Cid, Marta Iglesia Benet, Julia Donnadiu, Robert Gengerke, Nicole Dubach, Christian Huguenot, Joaquina Flores, Alison Kalfus, Chat and Gabrielle McGinnis, Nate Santa Maria, Tommy Gunn, Andrea Niall, Martha Kessler, Susie Hunter, Steven Hornsby, Mina Bowker, Helen Greenberg, Jayne Wexler, Ruben Peral, Elise Stone, Britt Hamre, Jes Levin, Eben Mears, Kimmy NG, Jack Livesey, David Klein, Lydia Lozada, George Robertson, Monique Ngozi Nri, Patricia McGuire, Mary Talbot, Joy Linscheid

All Parents were welcomed by Monique Ngozi Nri, Parents Association President.

Update from the Principal – Robin Williams

Introduced Bradley Goodman, the new Acting Assistant Principle.

The FY 08-09 School Budget is not as bad as originally predicted. Programs that have been secured are: Music with 3rd Street Music School, Spanish, and Responsive Classroom are funded from this year's budget. The school has money to pay for half of the Theater Arts Program and has asked that the Parents Association pay for the other half. (This allocation had been approved at the P.A. Executive Committee meeting of Sept. 8, 2008).

There have been a couple of recent grants given to the school. They are: A grant from Rosie Mendez's office for a tech upgrade, a grant from Nike to train teachers on Physical Education Activities and for some equipment.

One issue that needs parent's involvement is the Gym. Last year there were meetings where it was agreed upon to install an accordion wall in the existing gym in order to create two movement rooms and still allow for use of the entire space. Over the summer a solid wall was installed without anyone's knowledge – supposedly due to costs. This affects our school in particular since this was where we held our town meetings. We have moved the town meetings to the auditorium, but it is not the same feel or environment.

Questions?

What grades participate in Spanish and Music? A. Every grade.

Introductions of the Parents Association Executive Committee, Committee Chairs and members

President: Monique Ngozi Nri

Secretary: Joy Linscheid

Treasurer: George Robertson

VP Community Activism: Martha Kessler

VP Grants/Fundraising: Patricia McGuire

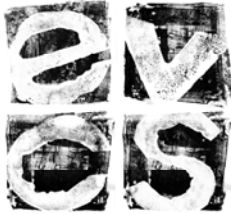
VP Communications Special Projects: Susie Hunter

Food Committee: Hilary Brougher, Helen Greenberg

Arts and Music Committee: Ahmed Abdullah, Alfonso Mogaburo Cid, Melvin Gibbs, David Nolan, Claude Grazioli, Andrew Warshaw

Building and Facilities: Michael Rich

Middle School: Lisa Brower



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Vacant Executive Committee positions and Committee Chairs

Membership Secretary:

VP Communications/Website:

Audit:

Anyone wishing to become involved with one of these positions please let Monique know
issmnn@hotmail.com

Tommy Mark agreed to help with the communications and website committee.

The Arts and Music Committee chaired by Ahmed Abdullah will be meeting next Wednesday Sept. 24th at 5:00 pm. Topics of discussion: The creation of a music CD featuring the talents of EVCS parents to be sold as a fundraiser; Music clubs; Music ad arts program at EVCS.

The P.A. Mission – presented by Monique Ngozi Nri

Communication and Advocacy Be a source of/communicator of information, advice, counsel to other parents in the community; Act as a collective voice advocating for the students and parents with issues like classroom management, curriculum, facilities/space and other issues that come up. Be mentors for new parents

Community-Building Events Potluck suppers. New parents meetings. Workshops for parents on progressive education, on our educational philosophy and on what makes our school special.

Fundraising Identify gaps in funding. Follow through with community fundraising tasks. Identifying fundraising needs at EVCS

Curriculum Help to make the curriculum known and understood by a wider group of parents and move toward more parent-teacher collaboration. Encourage gym and physical activity.

Community Activism Offer representation of EVCS at district wide and Community Education Council meetings..

Help that is needed to fulfill mission

Communication and Advocacy 1. Someone to help “person” a table in the yard at pick-up two to three times a week. There are different people at pick-up than drop off and it would be helpful for the P.A. to have a presence at pick-up as well. 2. Bulletin Board Maintenance. 3. E-mail updates. 4. Newsletter.

Community Building We would like to continue on some community building activities that were begun last year. We can use some help in planning: 1. Last Friday – a parent social hour with childcare provided, 2. Fall Ball.

Curriculum We are looking for a parent to be part of the School Leadership Team. The School leadership team is a small group of administrators, teachers and parents that work together to steer the Comprehensive Education Plan.

Fundraising We can always use help in planning fundraising events. We particularly need major planning assistance with the annual Gala and the upcoming Fall Ball on Saturday, October 25th, 2008. If you are interested, contact Susie Cunningham [HYPERLINK "mailto:susiecunnington@hotmail.com"](mailto:susiecunnington@hotmail.com)
susiecunnington@hotmail.com

Community Activism We need parents to represent us at meetings once a month on Thursday evenings for the CEC Community Education Council and once a month on Friday mornings for the Presidents

610 East 12th St., New York, NY 10009 tel 212.982.0966/0682 2

fax 212.260.4012



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Council. A forum has also been formed to comment on mayoral control of education. Issues like testing for kindergarten children may be reviewed. We need people to attend these meetings and report back to the EVCS community

Questions:

Will there be a permanent space for strollers to be stored during the day? A. For now please park your strollers at the bike rack behind the school. A more permanent solution will be sought for inclement weather.

Is there an opportunity for other languages to be studied? A. At the moment there is only space for Spanish. Clubs might be an alternative for other languages and if a parent wants to volunteer for that activity they should speak to Mary Talbot or Bradley Goodman

Introduction of Mary Talbot, the EVCS Parent Coordinator

6th Year as Parent Coordinator, 8th Year as Parent

My job is to try to meet your needs

Come to me when you have a concern, idea, or compliment.

There are many windows and doors for you to express your interests in this school community and you should take full advantage.

Be on the lookout for a flyer on Curriculum Night. This is an opportunity for you to get a great idea of what your child does in class.

Approval of the June, 2008 Parents Association Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes from the June 16, 2008 Parents Association Meeting

Seconded

Unanimous Approval

Treasurers Report by George Robertson

We have collected over \$3500 in parent's dues so far this year. Thanks!

We currently have a little over \$14,000 in our bank account.

Introductions

We went around the room and everyone introduced themselves, and talked a little about their interests and expertise. Many expressed an interest in working with the parents association and we will be following up with them.

Any Last Questions?

Can Pre-K classes eat in their rooms? A. The short answer is no, but this question comes up every year, and has been a little divisive in the past. There had been a building wide restriction on this activity several years ago to combat the rodent situation. Children's Workshop, another school in this building has begun to have their pre-k classes eat in their rooms. This is something that should be brought up and discussed at the SLT again this year. Try to bear in mind that as the school year progresses the children do get used to eating in the lunchroom.

Thanks to Everyone for coming and we hope to see you at more Parents Association Meetings.

Meeting adjourned.