BSI PTO General Meeting Minutes for December 21, 2015

- The meeting was called to order by the PTO President David Orsolino at 9:25 AM. There were 64 members in attendance. The Recording secretary James Ng read the minutes for the November 2015 meeting and they were unanimously approved by the attending parents.
- Ms. Griner and the 5th grade had a chorus performance.
- Principal’s report presented by Donna Taylor:
  - So nice to see the kids perform.
  - Thinking about goodwill, can’t believe it’s been 7 years. Would like to thank all of your support. We stumble sometimes, but the important thing is we always get back up. Thanks for being patient with us.
  - We’ve been interviewing for 8th grade teachers. Kids have voice in the process. If the kids really respond to them, they will probably be chosen.
  - Departmentalize 5th grade is part of DOE’s plan, if it works well then they will try it on 4th grade. We employ School Loop to help with kids on work with their executive function.
  - There’s an Australian initiative on teaching organization skill. We will pilot it on 7th graders.
  - We’ve apply for a $2.5 million grant with Eric Adams’ Administration for our STEM lab.
  - Question: Regarding the STEM Lab, do we need all the money before we start? Answer: They do, SCA likes to have money first to start the $3.5 million lab. We must come up with our own money.
  - Question: Is Common Core being rollback? Answer: No, but what is being rollback is using the test to evaluate the teachers.
  - Anna Moshura will probably with the new Assistant Principal.

- President's report was presented by David Orsolino:
  - What makes us great is the participation from our parents.
- Feedback is encouraged.

- EVP report was presented by David Orsolino in absence of Celeste Ivers:
  - 1/22 will be K-5 movie night. It will be “The Minions.”
  - Thanks for Hemalee and Sara for the coat drive.

- Treasurer's report presented by Mark Caserta:
  - Switching over to Investor Bank in progress, probably will pull out of Chase by January.
  - We’ve raised $122K by the end of November.
  - There is currently about $201K in the bank.
  - Remember to follow up on corporate matching donations.
  - Investor Bank offers us higher interest rate and any account related to BSI family will bring a 25 basis point donation to BSI account.

- Fundraising report was presented by David Orsolino in absence of Jim Butsikares and Alison Offerman-Celentano:
  - Hopefully everyone receive the holiday post card.
  - Donate online to make sure you get the tax benefit before year ends.
  - Barnes and Nobles fundraising event was a success and we made roughly $1500.
  - We need camp auction. We raised $14K last year. We’re hoping to raise more.
  - Ice skating event will be in 2/7.
  - BSI chess tournament will be in March.
  - Gala will be in May 13th with mobile bidding.
  - Gear is here, need to sort and deliver.

- PACE report presented by Willow Lawson:
  - Jean Soloman join the team.
  - Continues to push for City-wide G&T in Bronx.

- SLT report presented by David Orsolino:
  - Coordination of SLT & PTO.
  - Try to get SLT minutes in a timely manner.

- Question: I am new to this, what is the SLT?
  Answer: It sets CEP for school. Make up of elected parents and elected teachers, union rep, and Donna. Meetings are open to public.

- Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am