

MINUTES

MS 54 General PTA Meeting: 12/5/17

The meeting was called to order and presided over by co-presidents Katie Miller and Jerome Kramer.

Quorum was achieved.

CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT

- **Approved November meeting minutes**
- **Red Cross Babysitting**
 - Hoping to increase numbers on day offered or add another day
- **Community Service**
 - Natalie Silverstein from doingoodtogether.org held separate assemblies for 6th, 7th and 8th grade on Dec 4
 - Students should get involved if/when they can
 - How to vet a company
 - Part of larger initiative including community service fair where students can sign up on the spot
- **Coat Drive is ongoing**
- **Thanksgiving Pie Sale**
 - Raised \$900 for school
 - Pies not picked up were donated
- **Tutor Fair January 9**
 - Learn about different options and price points
 - Spread the word
- **CPTKD Residency**
 - Not offered to every class
 - Help alleviate overcrowding
 - Will come to tutor fair to do demo
 - 6 week program starting January 10th on Wednesdays
- **West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH)**
 - Coming to MS 54 on December 13 at 8:00 AM
 - Coming at school's invitation to answer questions from our community about upcoming construction
 - Will send a link to ask questions in advance in Friday's e-newsletter
- **CEC Meeting on Blind Admissions (December 13, 6:30 pm at PS 241, 240 West 113rd Street)**
 - Beginning 2018-2019 admissions cycle, admissions will be blind so parents will rank but schools will not see rankings
 - Middle schools will need to see many more students without any additional funding
 - Could change admissions policies

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- **Open School**
 - Many visitors last week
 - Hope to do again in the Spring (March timeframe)
- **Community Service Assemblies (December 4)**
 - Staff will try to continue to engage

- Quality review on December 19 and 20

TREASURY UPDATE

- Budget Overview given as of December 5, 2017:
 - Balance in Checking Account: \$278,212.67
 - Balance in Money Market: \$250,906.92
 - Total Income: \$218,502.43
 - Total Expenses: \$407,197.72
- Significant expense this month was auction venue, teacher appreciation lunch, and purchase of a laminator for ~\$1,700
- Significant income was Broadway Night and pie sales which brought in ~\$7,000
- Reminder to use Amazon link on MS54.org website

ANNUAL FUND / AUCTION / FUNDRAISING

- **Annual Fund**
 - Encourage people to donate
 - ~\$5K behind where we were last year
 - Use money for great initiatives, e.g., Shakespeare professional development
- **Auction (March 3, 2018)**
 - Had table during Parent Teacher conferences
 - 70 donations collected
 - Sold ~80 tickets
- **Fundraising**
 - December 5 is double points day at Fairway
 - Looking to do Trader Joe's and Costco fundraising
 - Knicks Fundraiser in Spring
 - Yankees Fundraiser Friday night in May (exact date TBD)
 - Reminder that companies are doing matching gifts

GUEST SPEAKER

- Natalie Silverstein, NYC coordinator of doinggoodtogether.org
- National organization that provides services for communities
- Find volunteer opportunities either on specific dates or ongoing
- Newsletter comes 1x/month at the end of the month for the following the month
- Encourage kids to act locally
- People who volunteer are happier, healthier
- Kids who volunteer have higher academic achievement
- Those who volunteer with their parents are most involved
- Some kids feel it is more important to get good grades than be a good citizen
- Every family can make time to volunteer together
- Need to say no to something to say yes to this
- Will never regret a good deed

PTA and SLT information, member lists, meeting dates and minutes are on the school website under the PTA and SLT tab. The PTA Exec Board welcomes your comments and suggestions any time. Email us at pta@ms54pta.org.

Next PTA General Meeting: January 9 at 7:00pm (Tutor Fair)