



MINUTES

MS54 PTA General Meeting
April 7, 2020 @ 7:00 pm, Zoom Mtg
BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES:

- As minutes cannot be approved virtually, February minutes approval will be on hold for now

PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

- **Auction Update:** work-in-progress summary; final details to come:
 - Revenue: \$48,012
 - Event Ticket Sales = \$19,225 (181 tickets)
 - 50/50 Raffle = \$1,850 (37 tickets)
 - Cash Donations = \$3,125
 - Online Auction Sales = \$23,812
 - Expenses: \$14,777.66
 - Event Expenses = \$10,356.75 (includes caterer, décor and Giving Tree)
 - Subscriptions/Processing Fees = \$3,495.91
 - 50/50 Payout = \$925
 - Net Income: \$33,234.34
 - Noteworthy:
 - The \$8,837.52 to Melba's and \$1,625 for Décor/Giving Tree could be assets for future events.
 - We will continue to work with Melba's to have our payment recognized as a future credit.
 - Rodeph Sholom (\$4,200) and Cohen Partners Insurance (\$253) are processing full refunds.
 - We are in the process of delivering auction winnings for the people interested at this time. Access to the PTA closet will be necessary in order to deliver the items stored there.
 - Regarding a phase two fundraiser that would include revised Giving Tree and Teacher Outings opportunities, the DOE has asked fundraising be suspended.
 - A Spring Fundraiser/Auction Post Mortem will be delivered in the coming weeks
- **CEC/Community Update:** DOE FACE is communicating regularly via the Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council and CEC meetings and updates.
 - PTA and SLT rules are relaxed so that meetings can continue on a virtual basis, but the DOE has not yet determined how official business can be conducted, i.e. elections, budgets, bylaws, etc.
 - Other district-wide meetings are taking place virtually. The **High School Committee meeting has been scheduled for April 14.** Details TBC
- **108th Street Construction Update:** The Westside Federation for Supportive and Senior Housing is a 100% affordable housing facility and therefore qualify as an essential construction operation and continue to build. The General Contractor, Procida-Butz, adheres to all COVID-19 worker safety requirements that have been issued by both the State and the City DOB for workers on the site.

While construction continues, the work is proceeding more slowly than usual. Once the impact of the slowdown is better understood an updated timeline will be shared. The previous timeline had tenants arriving by October.

Jerome Kramer and Chris Giordano have been liaisons between Booker T and WSFSSH and neighborhood stakeholders in the Construction Advisory Group that meets on a monthly basis. Kyle Clayton has volunteered to take over those responsibilities. We have discussed inviting Westside Federation for Supportive and Senior Housing to join a future PTA meeting to share details and answer questions from our community

- **PTA Coffee Update:** none this Friday/holiday, but will have next Friday 4/17 8:30-9:30am

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Students and teachers have found their rhythm, everyone working hard to manage the transition – thank you also to the parents for their support through this process, and assure your children that the school understands that both technology and life glitches will happen and our goal is to support learning. If there are any problems, reach out to the teachers and/or our guidance counselors, psychologist, and para-professionals for anything you may need.

- **Zoom:** As we work to transition learning from Zoom to one of the approved platforms (Microsoft Teams or Google Meet), know that we have put several security measures in place. These include the use of the waiting room and locked classrooms. We are looking into how to transition 900+ students, teachers and staff onto a new platform – meanwhile, we will continue to use Zoom so as not to disrupt the learning process that we've already put in place and is working, and as we see whether Zoom improves its security features. Please take a few minutes today to upgrade your child's Zoom account (and your own!). There have been several updates that Zoom recently put out to address the privacy concerns that have been written about in the press and without these updates.
- While NYC Schools are officially open during the previously scheduled Spring Break, Chancellor Carranza has also given schools the leeway to schedule this time in a way that works for their communities. At Booker T:
 - **Thursday, April 9th through April 17th, no homework** will be assigned or will be due. Any enrichment or challenge work students choose to do during this period will be *completely* voluntary and will not be factored into students' grades. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many enrichment opportunities designed by the DOE.
 - **Thursday, April 9th and Friday, April 10th, there will be no instructional periods on Zoom.** Students who are not celebrating holidays on these days are encouraged to use this time to find a good book to read for pleasure, to catch up on missed work, continue with already-assigned projects, and to seek help from faculty members holding Early Academy hours. Please note that some members of the faculty will be taking off for religious observance and will not be available for Early Academy. This information will be on their Google Classroom.
 - **Monday, April 13th – Thursday April 16th, we will follow a modified schedule.** Students will have class on Zoom from 10:00AM-1:00PM on each of those days. While instruction will continue during this time, no homework will be assigned. This schedule will allow students time in the afternoon to take advantage of enrichment and family activities.
 - **Friday, April 17th,** we encourage students to continue to explore the DOE's enrichment activities
 - **After April 20th,** will go back to a tweaked version of what they've been doing, incorporating some learnings so far
- **Schools are required to give a "student engagement report."** It's similar to an attendance report, and means that the student has had some sort of interaction during the day (via zoom, google classroom, etc.). School is erring on the side of "engaging" and this report will in no way transfer to attendance records.
- **Started 4th marking period this week, with new rubric:** 25% engagement (participation, classwork), 50% assignments (reports, papers, projects, HW), 25% assessments
- **Report cards should be available sometime during the week of April 20th** – currently looking at how to report them out, since we don't have access to the regular system.
- **Regents:** NYS Education Department has issued guidance today on the cancelled Regents exams. 8th graders who complete and pass their regents course(s) will get credit and be exempt from taking the exam(s). The grade and the course credit will pass on to high school.

TREASURERS' REPORT:

- Roughly ~\$766,000 in the bank; a little shy from last year, but that is to be expected. Otherwise, very quiet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Fundraising – the May 16 NYCFC game is on pause and will be rescheduled TBA
- Wellness – meeting tomorrow at 8:30am, everyone is welcome to join!

UPCOMING MEETING TOPICS:

May (AM): Budget Presentation/Student panel on HS process; Jun (PM): PTA & SLT Elections/Budget Vote/WSFSSH

NEXT GENERAL PTA MEETING: May 12 @ 8:00 am

GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

- Ms. Samay: Everything a parent needs to know about Google Classroom (*recorded via Zoom*)
- Dr. Elizabeth Cohen: How to manage your anxiety and that of your family in challenging times (*recorded via Zoom*)