

## GENERAL PTA MEETING

May 9, 2018

### CO-PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Reviewed and approved April minutes
- Looking for nominations for the PTA Board and SLT for next year; election at next PTA meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM
- Community Service Update – Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> all classes attended a Community Service Panel with representatives from 5 organizations. Students had the opportunity to sign up for more information on projects that they could be involved in. Students were able to package new baby items that were donated for the Good+ project. Our school website will add a tab with information on these community service partners.
- Middle School admissions update- Current proposal on the table to increase diversity in our schools is to create academic floors (must offer seats to 10% students scoring 1 on state tests; 15% scoring 2). It is still possible to be a part of this conversation – email your thoughts to [D3feedback@gmail.com](mailto:D3feedback@gmail.com) and/or attend one of the next two scheduled meetings to discuss this proposal – 5/16 at 6:30 pm at PS242 and 5/22 at 6:30 pm at PS162. Your voice matters.

### CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

- City Council approved project on West 108<sup>th</sup> Street
- We are working with Mark Levine's office to insure safety precautions
- Opportunity for parents to get involved and be part of a health and safety committee

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (given by co-Presidents)

- Increase in Fair Student Funding for next year
- MS54 won \$200,000 tech grant through Mark Levine's participatory budgeting vote

### TREASURY

- Budget update
  - Thanks to the auction, annual fund and school musical we are in the black!
  - Vote on next year's budget at June PTA meeting

Balance in checking \$583,445.45

money market \$251,426.34

Net operating income \$115,086.22

### FUNDRAISING

- NYC Soccer Team game coming up
- Annual Fund update-Hit our GOAL!
- Fairway – please remember to use your card when you shop
- Amazon – please remember to click on the Amazon link on our website prior to shopping

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Panel – High School Admissions

Students introduced themselves and shared the name of the high school that they would be attending next year.

QUESTION: How many high schools did you visit?

ANSWERS: Between 6 and 15 schools

QUESTION: What tips do you have for avoiding stress in the high school admission process?”

ANSWERS: Tour as many schools as you can, try to get a feel for the schools, be open-minded, don't have your heart set on one school, prepare for interviews/auditions/SHSAT, keep a calendar of all the tours/interviews, if you can, find time to relax and have fun, remember that there are a lot of great schools and no matter what you will go to high school

QUESTION: Why did you choose your high school?

ANSWERS: Enjoyed the tour, offered the sports/activities I am interested in, liked the environment/building/location/class choices/size/community/start time

QUESTION: How did you choose what schools to look at?

ANSWERS: Looked through book for schools, marked pages of schools interested in and looked up these schools online for more information. Eliminate schools that have commutes you are not willing to do, look for schools that offer what you are interested in – languages, AP classes, IB program, sports, arts.

QUESTION: How do you separate from your friends?

ANSWERS: Support your friends in their choices, it's OK to go to a different school than your best friend, there are so many new people to meet, it's important to move on

QUESTION: What scares you most about next year?

ANSWERS: the workload, not knowing people, meeting new people, the commute

QUESTION: When did you start looking at schools?

ANSWERS: There are a few schools you can see in the Spring of your 7<sup>th</sup> grade year, otherwise, the fall of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year

PTA and SLT information 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](mailto:pta@ms54pta.org).

Next PTA General Meeting: Please join us on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM for our next meeting which will include elections and a vote on next year's budget.

