



MINUTES

MS54 PTA General Meeting
February 9 @ 7:00 PM, Zoom Mtg
BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org

Call to Order & Minutes (7:00 - 7:02)

- Welcome! Happy Kindness week, Happy Lunar New Year, Happy Black Cultural Awareness month + Happy Valentine's day!!
- ~150 participants

Presidents' Report (7:02 - 7:10)

- Kindness Week + Upcoming Events -- So many wonderful things happening this week!
 - A **Little Library** is now open in the lobby of the school. Open from 7:30 - 3:30 each day so you or your child can come in and pick up a book or drop off some of their own favorites to be included
 - **Bring home-baked cookies to the Food Drive for our families (this week only)**
 - An alumnus and his dad built and donated 10 **desks** for our students who didn't have workspaces at home. We know that there are many more students who would benefit from having a desk -- there are kids working in closets, or even their bathrooms, in an effort to get a little space of their own. Anne Pejovich has polled the teachers and there's a need for about 20 more desks, which would be \$1000. PTA vote approved almost unanimously the \$1000 to fund the additional desks
 - **Tomorrow night the Booker T. Asian American Alliance is hosting a Lunar New Year family night where students will share the story behind Lunar New Year, how different cultures celebrate, offer some recipes, and lead a Kahoot to test your knowledge of Asian art and culture.**
- SLT Update
 - Spending time talking about both reopening and getting ready for an incoming class of students who haven't been screened. Dr. Elster and our teachers are more than ready
 - The focus through the spring will be around continuing to keep a unified school while simultaneously supporting a range of academic needs
- Safety Update
 - The school is ready to re-open on 2/25 - rooms have good ventilation, new air purifiers
- CEC Update - CEC is holding their monthly business + calendar meeting tomorrow night starting at 6:30 and one of the topics will be sibling priority for middle school admissions. Will make the Zoom link available for anyone interested

Principal's Report (7:10 - 7:15)

- Return to school on 2/25!!
 - Will host a town hall dedicated solely to Return to School
 - Schedule will not be completely overhauled
 - Planning to consolidate sections (going to create full sections)

- No teacher changes
- Most of the teachers have the vaccine; many have the second dose
- Hoping to put all the 6th graders on the same time schedule and add a period of the day for all 6th graders. Adding in-person music and/or art
- Kids who are 100% remote can Zoom into the room so they can follow the lesson in the classroom. Will be able to hear but not interact
- Bringing in some students 5 days a week who need quiet, safe, stable place to work
- 73% of students are coming into the building

Treasurer's Report (7:15 - 7:18)

- Review of Interim Financial Report which will be provided to the DOE
 - Total income of \$1mm
 - Ending Fund Balance of \$992k
- **Profit and Loss**
 - Annual Appeals @ 75% of our goal - doing very well
 - Fundraising income (all other) @ 50% of budgeted income
 - After-School program totals \$6800
 - Other expenses have included: Quickbooks, insurance, school supplies (planners, library furniture, Epic reading program, etc.)
 - Not included in the expenses yet: \$150k on the educational expenses and upcoming PTA speakers

New Business (7:18 - 7:20)

- PTA is going to start sharing Parent Skills on Social!
 - If you have a business product or service that can help our students or faculty. We plan to feature on Facebook and Instagram to connect parents and also share expertise
 - Send your submissions for a chance to be featured:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJaBWYvcfsyMChEgd5eRxE11yAde97I8Kiv6MTcQ2SEfK35w/viewform?gxids=7628>
- Share your kids' art to be featured as new Zoom backgrounds:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMi-EN-i8yqkgl_n1bMA1eV1tGuBCXSe_Ew9SDvdEHPTuMdw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Community Updates (7:20 - 7:40)

- Fundraising (2 min).
 - 54 for 54 Challenge will be coming up in May. Encourage participation for different methods (run, ride, skate, crawl, practice your instrument, abstain from vices, etc.)
 - A few more virtual events planned - talent show, family game night
- Wellness Committee (1 min)
 - 2/26 is the next meeting. Wellness Day is 3/16. Recruiting presenters. Discussing topic of "Tween Independence"! 2/14 Winter Weekend Wellness Walk
 - Check out the Child Mind Institute links/events in the newsletter
- Equity Team (15 min)
 - Schools increasingly segregated by income as well as by race

- Diversity generates benefits for all learners - respect, empathy, exposure to people different than ourselves improve cognitive thinking
- District 3 is less diverse than city as a whole
- Not just about racial/ethnic. Segregation on other metrics (economic needs, disabilities, English language learners, etc.)
- PTA Resources are Highly Unequal
 - Typical white student as \$65/student (more than double than typical Asian and only 1/10 for Black/Hispanic)
 - Booker T. does well even than typical white student. Not a bad thing - a resource
- Listening Tour on Admissions Changes for Next Year
 - Opportunity for our school - viewed as a positive
 - Lacking a truly representative schools
 - Fear about change and also fear of lack of change
 - Want to voice enthusiasm for a more inclusive Booker T.
 - Future Meetings

Guest Speaker: [Justine Fonte](#), Intersectional Health Educator (7:30 - 8:30)

Justine Ang Fonte is the Director of Health & Wellness at The Dalton School and is a sexuality educator, consultant, and speaker on intersectional health and sex education for teachers, parents, and students in both public and private institutions across the United States.

She received her Master's in Education from the University of Hawai'i and her Master's in Public Health from Columbia University.

- Links will be shared with resources for those not present at the PTA
- Use them to teach/reinforce with your kids at home
- Parent Sex Ed 101
 - Goal - safety, fulfillment, pleasure
 - Promoting kids to make good decisions - slowly building a good foundation for the future in age appropriate ways
- There are three topics
 - Body Agency - they have a say in who makes them comfortable. Understand your body and your body
 - Identities - others identify me in the same way as I see myself. Understand the spectrum of identities
 - Healthy relationships - biggest and most in demand topic. Promote consent culture! Anyone can change their mind at any time. Just because someone hasn't said NO doesn't mean they have given consent (if drink/under influence not able to legally give consent). Amaze.org videos are a good resource. Intimacy is not the same as intercourse (pleasure based/intimacy building blocks delay sex, lower STI, etc.). Consent education - the platinum rule --- treat others the way others want to be treated (not everyone wants

the same thing!). This rule promotes communication! Check out the Al Vernaccho Ted Talk! Use the pizza metaphor (hunger - what do you want??) versus the baseball metaphor (two teams in opposition; someone wins)

- How is online presence starting to suggest things and be literate?
- Will be talking about relationships with the kids in the Spring at Booker T (topic 3)
- Barriers: most kids about 3-6 years behind basic sex ed benchmarks so sex educators are constantly doing remedial work. This is a health & wellness topic!
- This should be an ongoing topics in age appropriate ways
- Sexual violence can be prevented by education
- Want our kids to have a sex positive definition of sexuality
- Barriers to the goals: stigma (sex negative approach), anxiety, misinformation (media, porn, social media, celebrities, etc), gendered expectations (toxic masculinity, heteronormativity, etc)
- How do we tackle - parents are the top sex educators (parent involvement in child schooling, and connectedness to parents). Sex ed at home, and at school. Don't think about "the talk" (1 one hundred minute talk); think about 100 one minute talks. Watch tv/news and talk about others situations- easier!
- Porn literacy. Your kids might stumble on this online. Teach them that porn is complete fantasy and doesn't show realistic healthy relationships!
- 4 steps for answering your kids questions
 - Validate the question - that's a great question
 - Get a baseline of their knowledge (what have you heard) so you can give a response just above their level of knowledge (reference on how advanced their knowledge is)
 - Answer the question honestly, provide medically factual information. Or say you don't know if you don't
 - Follow up - does that answer your question?
- The last thing we want is for them to fear
- You can also start conversations if they don't initiate
 - How did that news story make you feel?
 - What does non-binary actually mean? Teach me
 - When do you think sex ed should be taught?
 - Whoa what were those song lyrics?
- Speaker offered a few book recommendations (sex is a funny word; scarlet teen; puberty for girls; period). Kids gravitate to websites (sex etctera; Amaze.org; our bodies ourselves). Newest favorite book is called "Sex positive families". Book/website list will be available
- Check out the speaker's website for resources and videos