

MINUTES

MS 54 GENERAL PTA MEETING: 9/19/17

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

Quorum was achieved.

Co-Presidents Report:

- Introduced new board members
- Vote on motion to approve minutes from the June PTA meeting.
Approved.
- Explained new Middle School Application Process
 - As part of Chancellor Farina's diversity initiative beginning in the 2018-2019 school year middle school admissions will be using blind ranking
 - The implication for our school is that the administrators will not be able to view family's rankings
 - The school will have to provide entrance tests to many more children not just those who rank Booker T 1st or 2nd.
 - The onus is on us as a school community to figure out how to make this change manageable for our community.
 - There is a CEC Middle School meeting on 9/25/17 at 9am to discuss this process further.
- Construction Update:
 - Jerome gave background on the 108th Street construction project. The school has been involved in the planning meetings and has direct contact with the construction company.
 - There has been a lull in movement on the project for the last 3-4 months, but there are plans to start a pilot project this month.
 - We have support from civic leaders who understand the importance of including us in the plans for this construction project.
 - The project is a phased project so it can take a number of years for the entire project to be completed.
 - Anyone interested in joining the committee please speak to Jerome
- Shades Project Update:
 - Thanks to Susan Matheson's help we replaced all the shades in the school after years of use
- Library Hours Vote:
 - Tue/Thu afterschool 2-430pm and M/F Morning 8-840am. Library hours
APPROVED
- Grant: We received a \$100,000 grant for technology from Gale Brewer's office

- Volunteers needed:
 - Nominating Committee chair
 - Co-Treasurer
 - Broadway Night Chair
 - Pie Sale Chair
 - 6th and 7th grade Representative: grade reps act as liaisons between teachers and class parents and assist the Parent Coordinator

- Vacancies on Board:
 - The Exec. Board has recommended Vijay Sinh for the vacant position of co-Fundraising Chair. Nominations from the floor now accepted. Vote at Oct. 18, 2017 PTA meeting.
 - The Exec. Board has recommended Michele Samarel for the vacant position of co-Assistant Treasurer. Nominations from the floor now accepted. Vote at Oct. 18, 2017 PTA meeting.
 - The Exec. Board has recommended Trista Soh for the vacant position of co-Recording Secretary. Nominations from the floor now accepted. Vote at Oct. 18, 2017 PTA meeting.
 - The Exec. Board has recommended Joanne Giordano for the vacant position of Corresponding Secretary. Nominations from the floor now accepted. Vote at Oct. 18, 2017 PTA meeting.
 - No further nominations for any of these positions were made.

SLT Vote

- o Request for nominations from the floor; there were no nominations from the floor
- o Candidates presented their bios.
- o Ballots were handed out and collected and tallied.
Barbara Denham and Liz Wedlan were voted in as new SLT members.

TREASURY

- o Budget overview given
 - o As of September 18, 2017
 - Balance in the PTA's checking account: \$200,089.23
 - Balance in the PTA's money market account: \$250,594.41
 - Total income \$34,802.44
 - Total expenses \$352,070.33
 - + Net income \$317,267.89
- o Presented the ~~EB~~ 2017-2018 Budget proposed amendment. Motion to move \$10,000 from the classroom upgrades budget line budget to the technology for upgrades budget-line which was APPROVED
- o Amended Budget voted on and APPROVED

FUNDRAISING / ANNUAL FUND / AUCTION

- o Annual Fund update
 - o Michelle made a plea for parents to donate to the appeal early in the year. We are down 20% from where we were last year at this time.

- o Request made for parents to attend the annual appeal phone a thon on 1/31/2018 6pm-830pm.
- o Please let us know if your employer has a matching program

Fundraising

- Amazon Update: Please use the Amazon button on the website before you purchase from Amazon and a percentage of the sale is donated to the school.
 - Fairway: New cards are coming next week for new families. If you need another one please ask Ann Pejovich.
 - We are considering doing a Jets/Yankees fundraiser
 - Yubbler: 443 Orders we made \$3,503.85, We have \$1,492.85 credit for school supplies.
- o Auction update(March 3, 2018). We are always looking for people interested in helping out. If you are interested please reach out to Vijay Sinh.
 - o 2017-18 fundraising calendar was presented and vote was APPROVED at general meeting:
 - a. Annual Appeal
 - b. Auction- 3/3/18- Rodeph Shalom
 - c. Fairway Community Partners
 - d. Broadway Night
 - e. Magazine/Gift Wrap- school year
 - f. Pie Sale
 - g. Amazon, bake sales, Box Tops- throughout the year
 - h. School Supplies Fundraiser
 - i. Jets Experience Fundraiser
 - j. Rock Night
 - k. Miscellaneous online or in-person ticket or item lotteries
 - l. Tutor Fair
 - m. Yankees fundraiser

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- o Dr. Elster thanked the PTA on behalf of the teachers who were able to provide extra opportunities to the children due to their donations.
- o Dr. Elster provided a detailed explanation of how the administration organized the students into pooled classes
- o This change was discussed with the SLT over the last year and was implemented this summer
- o There were many factors that went into deciding which kids were in which groups (electives, languages, individual needs, gender, teacher/student match).
- o Dr. Elster explained that all the curricula are the same the only difference being the depth of which the kids go into the different topics covered in class
- o All the seventh graders are taking the first part of the Algebra regents class. Most will take the second part in eighth grade. There might be some students who take 8th grade math next year and take the Algebra regents class in high school.
- o Two new initiatives at the school this year:
 - o Tracking reading more carefully- There will be less focus on the number of books read and more focus on the skills and strategies used for reading
 - o Civics will be pushed in all classes culminating in bi-annual Citizenship test.

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: October 18 at 8:00am.