

**Minutes**  
**PTA of MS 54, Inc.**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
**September 9, 2008 at 7pm**

Present: Please see attendance sheet

- I. Welcome by co-presidents Bijou Miller and Lori Greene
- II. Introduction of the MS54 Executive Board and the Parent Coordinator Anne Pejovich
- III. Minutes of the 06-08-08 General Meeting will be distributed at a later date
- IV. Principal's Report
  - a. Dr. Elster welcomed parents in Grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. The principal spoke about the High School application process. It will be explained in detail at a meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - c. She explained how important the students are at MS54. There is a staff of one hundred and a student population of about nine hundred.
  - d. At the end of the meeting will be a whole discussion on transitioning to Middle School.
  - e. MS54 is having its own mock election on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - f. MS54 received \$400,000 in grants from Scott Stringer's and Melissa Mark-Viverito's offices to upgrade electricity, technology and air conditioning.
  - g. September 18<sup>th</sup> is back to school night and the principal encourages parents to attend.
  - h. Dr. Elster also explained the expanded early academy and how this year 6<sup>th</sup> Grade parents have the opportunity to attend.
- V. Fundraising/Community Events
  - a. Lori Greene reiterated how important fundraising is in the face of budget cuts starting with the phonathon.
  - b. Coleen Harrison discussed the auction and the need for volunteers and donations. We also need a new space for this year's auction as Synod Hall is closed for renovations.
  - c. Lyn Herzog spoke about the Potluck Wing Ding on October 15<sup>th</sup> in the gym.
  - d. A call for class parents volunteers to help organize and coordinate all the events.
  - e. Hospitality needs volunteers for events and bake sales.
  - f. Jennifer Freeman needs help with Grant Writing.
  - g. The year MS54 will have its first musical, Bye Bye Birdie.
- V Safety
  - a. Parent Safety Patrols, also called the Safety Walk is a great benefit for the students of MS54. It will start soon.
- VI. Introduction of Community Services
  - a. St. Luke's Wellness Clinic
    - i. Offers Mental Health Services
    - ii. Need consent forms from parent or guardian
    - iii. They explained screening and services.
  - b. Ryan Center
    - i. Parents need to sign orange form. If the child gets sick they can't be treated without a consent form.
    - ii. This year they will offer flu shots to all students.
    - iii. Staff was introduced
- VII Featured Panel "Transitioning to Middle School"
  - a. Mr. Bergen, Delta Student Coordinator and Ms. Williams, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade humanities teacher spoke about preparing your child for the year ahead.
  - b. Together with Dr. Elster they answered questions regarding
    - i. Planners
    - ii. Social Skills
    - iii. Writing
    - iv. Back Pack Size and Weight
    - v. Checking and Taking Notes
    - vi. Accessing help

- vii. Early Academy
    - viii. Home Work
    - ix. Class Size
    - x. After School
    - xi. ESL Classes
- VII District News
  - a. There is no District news except the grant that Dr. Elster mentioned in her remarks.
- VIII Old/New Business
  - a. There is no old or new business that has not already been covered.

The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for October 14th 2008 at 7pm