

Minutes
PTA of MS 54, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
June 8th, 2010 at 7:00pm

Present: Please see attendance sheet

- I. Welcome and Announcements by co-presidents Lori Greene and Bijou Miller.
 - a. The 8th grade graduation party will take place on June 22nd from 6:00 – 9:00pm. Tickets will be \$5 each.
 - b. Minutes of the May 11th General Membership Meeting were approved.
- II. Principal's Report by Dr. Elster
 - a. Thank you to the current members of the PTA and SLT for serving this year.
 - b. The Graduation letter and information went out via backpack and is posted on School Hub. The letter includes all of the information on graduation and logistics.
 - c. High School News: The 8th grade this year was the smallest class in a very long time, with 210 students total. The breakdown for acceptance into High Schools, not including several schools which accepted one student each, is: Stuyvesant 14, Bronx Science 36, Brooklyn Tech 9, Lehman College High School for American Studies 12, City College H.S. for Math, Science and Engineering 8, Brooklyn Latin 7, LaGuardia 35, Beacon H.S. 50, Eleanor Roosevelt 32, Bard H.S. 15, Lab 8, Environmental Studies 22, Millennium 15, NEST 3, iSchool 3. The list goes on, and there are currently 4 students who have not been placed in a High School.
 - d. For next year, Chinese (Mandarin) will be added for 6th grade, as well as Drama. Chinese will be taught by Ms. Trout, Drama by Ms. Merkel.
 - e. We may need to modify the periods, and hope to increase Math for 6th grade because this year we had to decrease the periods of Math due to the budget cuts. We want to maximize our Math if possible. 7th and 8th grade will have the same number of periods of Math.
 - f. Programmatic changes – Health Class will be brought back for 7th Grade. Other changes depend on the budget, and will become clearer in June.
 - g. There will be orientation for each grade the week of September 13th: Monday and Tuesday for 6th grade, Wednesday for 7th grade and Thursday for the 8th grade.
 - h. The School budget has been reduced by 4.2% from last year, which is in addition to last year's 4% budget cut. This could mean that 4-6 teacher positions would have to be cut, which comes out to \$400,000 from the budget. We hope that the PTA can help close the gap by funding Education Consultants. Both Assistant Principals are retiring, and we will probably not have the funds to replace them. The budget consultation will take place tomorrow morning, June 9th.
 - i. Overall it was a very successful year academically, socially and on all fronts.
 - j. There will be summer assignments which will be posted on School Hub, and the supply list will be posted there too.
 - k. Dr. Elster and Anne Pejovich are at school and available over the summer if anyone needs help.
 - l. Questions were raised as to how the retirement of both Assistant Principals would affect Dr. Elster if they are not going to be replaced. Ideas for office help were

brought up including hiring a part-time administrative assistant, which could be funded by the PTA. Rose Fluellen will also be in the office. Another proposal was to have parent volunteers in the office on a regular basis to help out, preferably in the morning.

- III. Budget presentation by Lorie Coulombe
 - a. Lorie presented changes to next year's budget. The greatest need is for Educational Consultants so that amount has been increased. This year was a good year for fund raising, so this will help cover the increased amount. Budget outflows have been calculated using real numbers from the current year (2009 – 2010).
 - b. Budget was voted on and approved.
- IV. Elections for PTA Executive Board run by Pat Schlegel.
 - a. Each prospective member spoke briefly giving her name and a brief bio: Co-President: Robin Klueber, Co-President: Karen Saltser, Vice President of Fundraising: Liz Bruder-Frydman, Corresponding Secretary: Patty Fondrie, Treasurer: Lorie Coulombe, Recording Secretary: Deborah Gottesfeld, Recording Secretary: Margaret Yates.
 - b. It was noted that the position of Assistant Treasurer is still open and needs to be filled.
 - c. The Slate was approved by a quorum.
- V. Elections for SLT run by Pat Schlegel
 - a. Karen Saltser is automatically included in SLT as PTA co-President. The slate for election was presented as follows: Michele Abrash, Jolie Kapelus, Hollis Kegg, Barbara Reiser, Mary Sharkey.
 - b. Announcement was made for any nominees from the floor, Ilissa Sternlicht volunteered.
 - c. Motion was raised for approval and the slate was unanimously approved, with the note that an 8th member is needed and will be elected in the fall.
 - d. Patty Fondrie thanked the outgoing PTA personnel for their participation this year and in past years.
 - e. Bijou stated that the OFEA election form must be filled out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Next meeting will be held September 14, 2010.