

## **MINUTES - FINAL**

### **MS 54 General PTA Meeting: 2/13/18**

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

Quorum was achieved.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Community Service @ MS54 update
  - Working to build community service into school ethos
  - 8<sup>th</sup> graders choosing a way to give back (day of service, party). They are currently developing 3 proposals to be presented to Dr. Elster when 1 will be chosen
  - Assembly with a panel of community service organizations will speak to students this spring
- Middle School Admissions changes update
  - Blind admissions where middle schools will no longer know how families have ranked them (first choice schools will be eliminated)
  - Want to achieve more academic diversity in middle schools
  - Next Middle School Committee Meeting on Feb 27 @ 6:30 PM at 154 West 93<sup>rd</sup> Street
    - More info on CEC website
- 2018/19 Board
  - Recruiting for next year's board
  - All positions open
  - Katie will be nominating chair since she is not running next year
- Project Cicero
  - Collecting donated books to distribute them to teachers
  - Collecting books March 1- 5, boxes picked up March 8 & 9
  - Can bring donations during PT Conferences
- Tutor Fair summary
  - Made ~\$10K for the school
  - Strong attendance
  - Will do next year (probably in February)
- SLT Update
  - Reviewed mid-year goals
  - Open to all parents at 7:20 am on Fridays
- Wellness update
  - PTA sponsoring yoga for teachers and staff on Wednesday mornings
  - Wellness Day for students on May 11
  - If you know someone who can help with physical/emotional/organizational wellness, please get in touch

#### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- Dr. Elster attended session by Academy for Teachers about speaking publicly and power of spoken word

- PT Conferences on March 6<sup>th</sup>, sign ups start February 27<sup>th</sup> (parents were emailed and letter was backpacked home)
- Progress reports open on February 28<sup>th</sup>
- No vacation homework, but should read everyday on break

## **TREASURY**

- Check Account Balance: \$426,635.40
- Money Market Balance: \$251,120.06
- Total income: \$401,174.68
- Total expenses: \$439,616.29

## **FUNDRAISING**

- Phoneathon
  - Raised ~\$16K
- Annual Fund Update
  - \$200K budget
  - Still need donations
- Auction, March 3
  - Student jazz band will play
  - Please buy tickets
  - Still taking donations
  - Need volunteers the day of, sign up on the website
- 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 SPEAKER**

- Justine Fonte: Making Media an Everyday Sex Ed Conversation
- Politicize media to talk about sex with your kids since it's not specifically about them or their friends
- Need to teach that a range of body types is normal
- Average age of exposure to pornography is 8-11 years old (could be by accident, not seeking it out)
- Of 8-16 year olds who have viewed porn did so while doing homework
- 90% of youth will be exposed to hardcore porn online
- 75 million visitors a day on Pornhub, 20<sup>th</sup> most trafficked site in the US
- Need to ask kids what does porn suggest about sex
- Porn can be good if sex ed is good, but sex ed is lacking in the US
- Porn is a wildly inaccurate fantasy
  - Because kids use it as their default education, they are not understanding what they are seeing
  - Skewed body image (photoshop, only one body type shown)
  - Absence of protection leads kids to believe there are no consequences
  - Absence of emotional component, it is all about the physical and it desensitizes viewers
  - Reinforcement of power structure – much of porn has entitled men to talk and see women in a misogynistic way
    - Women of color are fetishized and marginalized more

- Skewed perception of pleasure
- Absence of consent – Never see anyone ask, which suggests you don't need to ask
  - An explicit and enthusiastic yes needs to be the new threshold of consent

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 Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00pm for our next meeting.