



MINUTES
MS 54 PTA Meeting
April 9, 2019 7:00 pm
BTW54PTA@ms54.org

CALL TO ORDER & MINUTES

- Reviewed and approved March minutes

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- **Safety meeting (April 1) recap** – concern that lots of kids run around unsupervised in the mornings, and want to put better practices in place to control it.
- **Update on 108 construction** - Next week, survey of site; May-Oct/Nov will be demolition; everything has been going very smoothly and they are doing more than their part to be good neighbors
- **Equity Team** – Next meeting 4/17 5pm, with Matt Gonzalez from Appleseed joining to talk about closing the achievement gaps (*will look into recording or sharing materials for those who cannot make it*).
- **Lobby redesign update** – got approval to do a mural; there is a new security desk; adding bench and plants and other things to create a more welcoming environment at the entrance and lobby
- **2019-20 PTA planning.** PTA Executive Board and SLT Nominations. We need help across the board – PTA, SLT, lobby redesign, equity, auction, and more... all is happening in the next few weeks, so please get involved in what you're interested in – contact the nominating committee, elections will be in June.
- **Civics Day** - likely to be May 17 or 24
- **SHSAT admissions update** –
The CEC3 HS committee is growing and has been active advocating for D3 kids in general regarding access issues to HS, which are further compounded by the current & proposed changes to SHS admissions. There is a new draft resolution for CEC3 (*focused on more transparency, removing barriers to HS entry, increasing college-prep HS seats city-wide*) that they feel will pass the vote.

There are a number of advocacy opportunities shared among our communities, i.e. Senator Robert Jackson Community Forum, a Tuesday, April 30th bus trip to Albany to meet with Assembly members, etc. We will send an email on Friday to gauge interest in attending / driving / getting busses to go to Albany, and make a plan from there. Parent voices can make a difference.

The growth of Discovery isn't capped... under the current model, it's being projected to 20% of SHS seats, but there is nothing preventing expansion to 30-35%. If the mayor goes unchallenged, he will do what he wants. There are good things about the Discovery program, but there is a real impact from the changes in what defines economic need – from ENI of the individual student family, to ENI of the middle school they attend (i.e. Booker kids no longer qualify for Discovery because Booker is not a high need school overall)

Booker T parents have learned there are opportunities to appeal just missing the Discovery cut off by article 78. In previous years they would have qualified due to their personal economic need. Asked if Booker T would participate in an amicus brief to the Christa McAuliffe lawsuit, at this time we will NOT.

- **Topics for upcoming PTA meetings**

- Apr (4/9 7pm)--Wellness
- May (5/14, 8am)– (*Budget Presentation/ Student panel on the high school process*)
- Jun (6/14, 7pm)– *PTA and SLT elections/budget vote*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- School update
 - 61% of 8th graders got SHS offers
 - The climate walk-out happened last month – completely organized and executed by the students
 - Booker's Model UN team won "best Model UN delegation"
 - Expect MS acceptances will go out at the end of this week – the schools have already been notified
 - Reports cards to go home Friday 4/12
 - There is a third round of P/T conferences in May – by invitation only, targeting individual students for academic or next-year placements (for Regents) etc. – because there is limited time.

TREASURERS REPORT

- Treasury update – Year on year is on target, although annual appeal is down about 20K (but everything else is up). Will send email encouraging donations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fundraising
 - Auction was a success, thanks to the co-chairs
 - Just had NYCFC soccer game last week (4/6)
 - Next up is Yankees game 5/19

OTHER BUSINESS

CEC Elections update – Monday 4/15 at 6-8:30pm CEC3 Candidate's Forum at PS 242: 134 West 122nd Street, between Lenox Ave. and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd – take 2/3 train to 125th Street station. There are 30 candidates. Folks running from Booker: Alison Gardy and Laura Adams are running. If Booker parents go, please provide feedback on favored candidates to the PA.

[Post-meeting update: Booker parents running for CEC are Alison Gardy, Eric Wright, Justine DiCostanzo, Janet Pouchot and Ana Fernandez]

Next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 14 at 8:00am

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Elizabeth Cohen "Helping Your Kid Cope With Anxiety"

Don't make any decisions if you are HALT (Hungry, Angry, Lonely or Tired)
(presentation available)

Book recommendations:

The Whole Brain Child, by Daniel Siegel

The Yes Brain, by Daniel Siegel

Parenting from the Inside-Out, by Daniel Siegel

The Teenage Brain, by Frances E Jensen

Untangled, by Lisa Damour PhD

Mothering and Daughtering, by Eliza Reynolds