



MINUTES
MS 54 PTA Meeting
March 12, 2019 7:00 pm
BTW54PTA@ms54.org

CALL TO ORDER & MINUTES

- Review and approve February minutes - Approved

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Update on 108 construction
 - They're on track and continue to be cooperative & quiet
 - No current concerns about impact to our school community
 - Demolition to be complete in April, then they will start building up
 - Asked if contractors/architects might be interested in presenting to our school on the relevance of science/engineering/math to their work
- Equity Team update
 - Next team meeting is 7:30 am Friday, March 29th with data presented by Judy Scott Clayton
 - She has already created two documents on the MS54 site on the Equity page
 - There is a parallel effort being done district-wide and those efforts will be shared at that meeting as well
- Lobby redesign update
 - A parent who's a professor at Pratt is helping with the project and has applied for a Teconic fellowship grant to support the project
 - The funding can be used for materials/labor/expertise, etc
 - First step is security desk, bench and plants to make the space more welcoming
- SHSAT admissions/letter update
 - Mayor's plan is moving forward as proposed
 - Information about this year's admissions will start being made tomorrow to schools first
 - Discovery Program change from 5% to approximately 13% has impacted the SHSAT cut off score from 481 to 486
 - A few hundred Booker T parents have sent letters already expressing concern about the lack of high-quality HS options
 - The coalition letter from multiple middle schools expresses similar sentiment that the DOE needs to invest in more higher quality high schools, particularly in D3, which currently has none
- 2019-20 EB planning
 - Call for new EB members representing a diversity of voices and perspectives
- Civics Day
 - Will bring in politicians & other civic representatives to speak to kids about what they do in mid-April
- Coalition letter
 - PTA meeting attendees voted in favor of the letter coming not only from the MS54 EB, but the PTA as well
- Topics for upcoming PTA meetings
 - Mar (3/12 7pm) – *Teachers talking about state tests*
 - Apr (4/9 7pm)
 - 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

- Climate walkout planned for Friday
- Parent conference sign up starts tomorrow morning – will be talking about the parent survey during the two days of conferences – a very low % of parents fill out their survey – please do!
- Consider joining one of the committees/PTA board next year – your help is appreciated!

TREASURY

- Treasury update
 - Please support the auction whether through donations, contributions and/or coming to the gala

GUEST SPEAKERS

MS54 teachers talking about the upcoming state tests: Ms. Mistal (ELA) & Ms. Hannon (Math)

- ELA – April 2nd and 3rd
- Tests will be the same as last year – two days, one day of writing (6-8 written responses depending on grade) and one day of multiple choice (35)
- A variety of texts (very boring) for all grade levels
- Reminders are: sharpened pencils, early to bed and a big yummy breakfast
- Students will have until the end of the school day to finish the test
- Old tests are used to get students ready, but it's a full-year effort to prepare them, not something that's done right before the tests; these are skills that are built throughout the year

- Math – May 1 & 2
- Design is a little different for 6th grade with slightly fewer questions
- First day is all multiple choice, second day is a variety of responses
- The questions are very long, so they need to be able to read the questions first, not just do the math
- Students should bring a book to read when they're finished
- Send them with a plastic water bottle (not a swell – too noisy!)
- For the short/extended response question you need to show three different strategies to solve the equation
- There will be some additional test-prep in Math, but all year the quizzes have been made up of multiple choice questions from previous year's state tests, so the students are familiar with what they'll be seeing
- Overall, the math curriculum is more advanced than what the state tests will be evaluating

EngageNY.org has parent & family resources for testing (but hasn't been updated since 2017)

Feedback from the teachers is that the kids are generally anxious about the taking the tests even though they know the information, and are well prepared.

Next PTA General Meeting: April 9 at 7:00pm