



MINUTES

MS54 PTA General Meeting
May 12, 2020 @ 8:30 am, Zoom Mtg
BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES:

- Approved March & April minutes

STUDENT PANEL ON HS ADMISSIONS PROCESS:

- Students share how they approached the HS admissions process and what they learned along the way
(summarized on separate document)

PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

- **Auction Wrap Up**
 - Revenue: \$47,354, expenses: \$16,208, net Income: \$31,146
 - Value of Melba's credit (\$8,837) and décor (\$1495) for future use (total \$10,332)
 - Auction gift cards were all sent out last month; about 1/3 of auction items that need to be delivered to winners are locked in the PTA closet - we are working to get access
 - A Spring Fundraiser/Auction Postmortem was delivered this week along with a thank you letter to all the volunteers and everyone who contributed their hard work and time
- **CEC/Community Update**
 - PTA and SLT rules are relaxed so that meetings can continue virtually and move forward as long as there is full transparency on how official business can be conducted, i.e. elections, budgets, bylaws, etc.
- **108th Street Construction**
 - The Westside Federation for Supportive and Senior Housing (WSFSSH) is a 100% affordable housing facility and therefore qualify as an essential construction operation and continue to build. The building "shell"; exterior walls, floors and roof deck, are expected to be completed in June and they just finished the 10th floor planking this last week. The exterior brick finish is going up around the eastern end of the building. Inside; the interior walls, electric, water and mechanicals are being installed. There has been some impact on the schedule due to the COVID 19, but the construction completion date has not yet been revised. In terms of building occupancy, for a number of reasons Valley Lodge will not be moving back in October. WSFSSH is in the process of working out the timing for their move back, but it will be probably towards the end of the year.
 - Jerome Kramer and Chris Giordano have been liaisons between Booker T and WSFSSH and neighborhood stakeholders in the Construction Advisory Group that meets on a monthly basis. Kyle Clayton has volunteered to take over those responsibilities.
 - We have discussed inviting WSFSSH to join a future PTA meeting to share details & answer any questions
- **HS Admissions Series Update**
 - Continues Thursday at 7:05pm with an advocacy meeting presented by FACE (Friends of Accelerated Curriculum and Education), more of a civics conversation about who controls what, and who to contact for which concerns;
 - The Citywide Council for High Schools (CEC for high schools) has a virtual meeting Wednesday, May 13, at 6:30pm – contact cchs.reps.info@gmail.com
- **PTA Coffees** – have been well-attended and a good way to connect with Dr. Elster answering questions as well; inviting special guests so stay-tuned on that – starting with Mark Levine this Friday

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- Zoom is now approved for school use – will have to switch to DOE version requiring schools.nyc.gov emails for students and password resets, which we'll discuss with students in Wednesday's homeroom
- Report cards are now uploaded and visible on MyStudent.nyc
- We are well into 4th marking period, will get regular number grades as usual for 4th quarter but the FINAL grades for the year will be averaged out to a letter grade (Meets Standards, Needs Improvement, Incomplete – *how these levels are determined is left up to schools, and will be discussed with teachers this week*)
- School-wide student virtual assemblies going well:
 - This week: cooking and mindfulness
 - NEW: this Thursday 4pm, Chancellor Carranza will talk to students about remote learning
 - NEW / CIVICS DAY: Wednesday May 20 Civics Day assembly featuring Gale Brewer
- Students need to fill out a sort attendance form every day, important that they do that
- If parents have any concerns on admissions process for next year, give feedback to the Chancellor, Mayor and State Electives... the Chancellor reiterated that he is not a fan of any screened schools
- Thank you for all the notes for teacher appreciation week last week, and thank you to the PTA for the financial support that allows for the rich programming... especially important for next year which will see huge budget cuts

TREASURERS' REPORT:

- **Budget Status** – current net income is - \$106,428.91, a deficit due to increased expenses (educational consultants, guidance counselor) and less fundraising due to COVID interruption (though virtual fundraising may now resume). We do have ~\$750,000 in the bank to protect us in this very unusual year.
- **2020 Budget Proposal** (attached) – reviewed proposed budget in face of anticipated draconian cuts for next year
 - APPROVED Proposed Budget by vote
 - This budget will now be used as a starting point to be carried forward by the new Executive Board and PTA in Fall, making any necessary adjustments as DOE school budgets demand

OTHER BUSINESS:

- **Bylaws Review** – mandated review and re-adoption of PTA Bylaws every three years is due; adopted DOE template and overlaid with MS54 specifics
 - APPROVED New Bylaws by vote
- **Call for nominations for Executive Board and SLT positions** – email nominations@ms54.org. Position descriptions are on the ms54.org and are included in the weekly email blasts. Please consider nominating yourself and/or encouraging others.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Fundraising** – cancelled NYCFC game will be moved to Fall or Spring, pending
- **Equity Team** – last meeting was well attended with faculty, parents and students with great discussions; learned about new Asian American affinity group – catalyst has been some of the backlash against Asian communities; work with African American and Latinx and Gender; also trying to figure out how to get school/art supplies to those that need.
- **Wellness** – meeting in early June; surveyed teachers if they needed help – purchased headphones for those that needed; have volunteers for mindfulness and meditation options for students; developing resource list to put on website soon
- **School store** – Janet Pouchot is now manager of school store

NEXT GENERAL PTA MEETING: June 16 @ 7:00 pm