

MINUTES

MS 54 PTA Meeting

February 12, 2018 7:00 pm

BTW54PTA@ms54.org

CALL TO ORDER & MINUTES

- Reviewed and approved January minutes

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- 108 St. construction – Moving along smoothly. Chris, Dr. Elster & Jerome at meeting this morning. Demolition is expected to be complete by April. Teachers have not had any complaints about noise.
- Equity Team – Center for Racial Justice held implicit bias training for parents. MS54 hosted last month's CEC3's meeting along with screening for America for Me; all MD54 parents are invited to the equity team meetings.
- Lobby redesign – We have an architect involved who is encouraging student involvement and looking at possible grants. Immediate improvements will include some plants, a new desk and a bench. Ideas and input are welcome.
- SHSAT admissions update – 92% of MS54 parents are against the mayor's proposal. Letters available for parents to sign tonight. Chris & Jerome met with a number of elected officials including Senator Robert Jackson. The letters helped make an impact. Electeds are very guarded on this issue and will not commit to a position. We are trying to build a coalition with other schools who also have kids who need a more rigorous, challenging education; in D3, there are fewer options than in other districts once the specialized high schools are off the table.
 - Timing: the vote on this proposal will not happen until April but there are two lawsuits that may impact that timing; a hearing on the injunction is scheduled for 2/25. The timing of decision letters coming out is pushed back as a result, which means that parents won't get the letters until after answers are due to private schools, further complicating matters for parents and students.
- Topics for upcoming PTA meetings
 - Feb (2/12 7pm) – Justine Fonte
 - Mar (3/12 7pm) – Teachers talking about state tests
 - Apr (4/9 7pm) - TBD
 - 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
 - Coffee on Thursday morning will kick off a series of parent coffees; Dr. Elster is interested in hearing ideas for managing the needs of an academically diverse population

- Recruitment season is complete!

TREASURY

- Treasury update – all going as expected; budget copies distributed
- Annual appeal update – phonathon a few weeks ago but didn't get through all of 8th grade; haven't quite met the goal of \$200K yet

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fundraising Updates – thank you for your contributions – the teachers are very appreciative!
 - Auction update – more donations needed!! Auction forms available online
 - NYCFC 4/16
 - Yankees 5/19

OTHER BUSINESS:

GUEST SPEAKER

Health Education Consultant Justine Fonte believes that health education is social justice education. She promotes allyship, exercising agency over one's own body, and embracing one's authentic self. She builds health and wellness programs that are progressive, interdisciplinary, sex-positive, stigma-busting, and relevant. We are fortunate to be able to welcome her to present "Sex Ed From School to Home."

Next PTA General Meeting: March 12 at 7:00pm