

MS54 General PTA Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & MINUTES

- Approved minutes

SPECIAL ELECTION

- Election to open positions of co-treasurer and co-recording secretary
Kyle Clayton elected co-treasurer; Laura Adams elected co-recording secretary

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

- **108 construction project** – demolition started and will go through April; they are polite, quiet, and use air quality monitors. Going more slowly than expected, but smoothly.
- **Equity Team** – Jan 24, hosting CEC3's monthly equity meeting – screening *America to Me* with a facilitated discussion afterwards. In February, will hold internal team meeting and review draft research report around equity at Booker and D3 schools, using public data.
- **Lobby redesign** – want to make school more accessible and welcoming; Susan Kricorian will do mural; looking to increase mobility access to more of the school.
- **High school admissions and letters/resolutions** – continuing to follow proposed changes to SHSAT admissions; participating with D3 and citywide groups about how to address this; if and when the proposal goes through, there will be drastically decreased HS options because there are no comparable D3 HSS available; advocating for more seats for high-achieving students.

The conversation about SHS seems to skip over the problem of: D3 does not have any zoned HS and there are so few alternatives city-wide for accelerated college-prep curriculum. There is a lack of ~4000 seats at a “rigorous” level. Working with the D3 community to actually document what the options are now, and denoting by SAT scores/AP courses offered, and talking to schools to determine their mission, and hope within weeks to have information to share that may highlight overlooked schools that could be a good fit for MS54 kids.

Tomorrow CEC3 has a 9:30am HS discussion about the letters and resolutions coming out of CEC3.

We will poll MS54 community to know where we stand on this issue as a whole. The Executive Board is unanimously against the proposal as-is, and is trying to refocus the conversation on creating more college-prep HS options for students – and demanding better education for all kids. But we also want to hear from others who are for or against this plan. If you want to get involved, please email the PA!

{Aside: the mayor said he can/will roll out the “discovery” piece – it's expanding an existing program; needs legislation to allow the phase-out of SHSAT exams, as SHSAT is the means of admission under current law. The bill is facing a lot of opposition, from Christa McAuliffe MS, to districts in Brooklyn and Queens that don't have the number of physical seats available without the SHS option, and more.}

- **Nomination of third co-treasurer** – done!
- **Topics for upcoming PTA meetings**
 - Jan (1/16, 7pm) – Tutor Fair
 - Feb (2/12 7pm) – Justine Fonte
 - Mar (3/12 7pm) – Teachers talk about state tests
 - Apr (4/9 7pm) – left open intentionally
 - 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 – all is going as planned with admissions process for next year.

TREASURY

- Treasury update – printed financial summaries were distributed as handouts
- Annual appeal update – Phone-a-thon scheduled for Monday, January 28 and we need more volunteers! Calls will be made to all families who have not yet donated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Fundraising Updates
 - Auction update – currently behind on donations compared to where we have been in previous years; please start rounding some up from the shops/businesses/museums/etc. that you frequent! Also, please come to the gala on March 30th!
 - Phoneathon – See above
 - Tutor Fair – Happening live!
 - NYCFC/Yankees – Dates scheduled for April & May respectively – more info to come
- Wellness committee update – no update shared

OTHER BUSINESS

- Civics Day – a team is looking into holding a Civics Day to encourage students to give back to the community and help them find a charity/purpose that resonates with them.

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