



## MINUTES

MS54 PTA Meeting

December 10, 2019 @ 8 am, Auditorium

[BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org](mailto:BTW54PTA@ms54PTA.org)

### CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS & MINUTES:

- Reviewed and approved November minutes

### PRESIDENTS' REPORT:

- **Recent Press** – GOTHAMIST published an article on DOE's newly reported PTA budgets across all schools, including MS54, with inaccuracies and inconsistencies.
- **Holiday/Teacher Gift Collection** – The school pools cash contributions, divides them up, and distributes gift cards to all teachers and staff. We are well behind our typical amount (under \$3K of the usual ~\$17K), so please spread the word and contribute through Dec 13. Historical suggested donation is \$40, but any amount is appreciated.
- **SHSAT/Test Prep for Financial Need Students** – to help kids in need better prepare for the HS admissions process

### RECAPS OF OTHER MONTHLY MEETINGS:

- **SLT** – N/A (*Next meeting is on Friday, 12/13 at 7:20am*)
- **Presidents' Council** – this group's equity committee is having joint meeting with CEC3 about belief systems and screened vs. unscreened school on 12/12 at 9am at the Joan of Arc Complex.
- **Equity Team** – summarized data from their survey is now available on the MS54 website
- **108<sup>th</sup> St Construction** – all is well and on schedule: structure should be built by spring, with move-ins starting in the autumn of 2020, before which we will invite the Westside Federation for Supportive and Senior Housing to come share information with our community. For anyone interested in this project, especially taking on the monthly meetings as Jerome & Chris graduate out, please contact [co-presidents@ms54pta.org](mailto:co-presidents@ms54pta.org)
- **Safety** – Processes have been outlined re: responsibility for door alarms, placement of emergency kits in classrooms, and safety training of new MS54 staff. Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) reports that principal suspensions are down, while superintendent suspensions are up, as compared to this time last year. A new remote system for red-light lockdown notification will be ordered for the auditorium and gym, and the safety team is looking into developing proper protocol when there is a shelter-in and students are out in the yard. For trip safety, bracelets have been ordered for students to wear that display school contact information. The team continues to work on systems so students aren't wandering the halls in the mornings of non-Early Academy days.
- **CEC3/Accelerated Learning** – working on several fronts to advocate for accelerated curriculum: CEC3, Community Board 7, FACE (*Friends of Accelerated Curriculum and Education*) and PLACE (*Parent Leaders for Accelerated Curriculum and Education*). PLACE is hosting a forum with NY State Senator John C. Liu, 12/12 6-7:30 at East Side Middle School, covering topics around school funding, integration, and SHSAT.
- **NYS Assembling hearing on Mayoral Control of Education, December 16<sup>th</sup>** – an important meeting soliciting feedback and input on NYC schools and the Mayor's role. Both the mayor and chancellor have been vocal about wanting to change specialized high school admissions (*note: 20% of D3 kids, and over 50% of MS54 kids, typically get offers at specialized high schools, and have few alternative college-prep options due to no priority D3 schools and barriers to entry at other nearby schools*). The Executive Board and attendees of today's meeting voted unanimously in support of the drafted testimony to be given on behalf of the MS54 PTA at Monday's hearing.

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: (8:20-8:25)

- Next week is mid-way through Q2 marking period – historically, the week when Jupiter would be open to review grades and assignments, before it was always open this year
- This weekend, MS54 hosted the NYC Urban Debate League – Booker placed 10 out of 40 students
- Mr. Fagan's Jazz Band was accepted into the International Jazz Festival, and will compete in February
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade recitals start Friday through next week

## **TREASURERS' & FUNDRAISING REPORT:**

- **Treasury Team Update** –Olivier Couronne resigned from his Co-Treasurer post. The PTA Executive Board nominated shifting current Co-VP Fundraising Dana Grant over to Co-Treasurer; shift was approved by membership present.
- **Financials** – To date, total income of \$237,618.21, and total expenses of \$455,096.05, yield a net income of -\$216,947.35
- **Funding Requests** – \$415 (Go-Pro & smart remote); \$600 (Wiggle cushions & headphones); \$105 (apple pencil)
- **Annual Appeal** – we are quite behind on our biggest fundraiser for the school. We can't do everything we do at the school without all-school participation in this – every little bit helps, no matter how small. Phone-a-thon coming in January, please join and make calls for a fun night for a good cause!
- **Fundraising Updates**
  - Thanksgiving Pie Sale and Broadway & Beyond brought in over \$3K each
  - Fairway double points
  - One more Jets game 12/22
  - Coming in spring: NYC Football Club soccer game; Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game
  - **3/21 Uptown Jazz Gala tickets now on sale** – a social event with a fundraising component
    - Ticket costs gets you food/drink/entertainment, mingling with fellow MS54ers and district reps
    - Auction component raises more funds – **everyone, please find something to donate!**

**NEXT PTA MEETING:** Tuesday, January 14 @ 7:00 pm

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## **DEMYSTIFYING ICT CLASSES**

Sara Lichtman (*G7 science*), Carley Ross (*G8 Science*), Stefanie Cohen (*G7 Humanities*), and Adam Guzman (*G8 Science*)

An Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) class is a classroom in which a general education and a special education teacher jointly provide instruction to a class that has students with and without disabilities.

An ICT class makeup is typically 1/3 IEP kids, 2/3 General Ed students. The curriculum is the same as General Ed, but there is more differentiation and modification – for example, if a student needs more help organizing, they will provide a graphic organizer; if another needs more scaffolding to absorb the content, there may be sentence starters or helpers. The classes tend to be more fluid. Beyond the benefit of a lower student:teacher ratio (*16:1 versus the usual 32:1*), the kids hear the content in different ways from the two teachers, and see a model of collaboration and good working relationship between the teachers.

Homework and assessments are the same as with General Ed, but again with differentiation and modification. In Ms. Lichtman's class, for example, she has 4 different methods to assess the current unit. All the grade teams meet and plan unit assessments together, whether ICT or General Ed, and they include the same content and skills, with the exception of Regents vs. non-Regents courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. For example, the ICT class for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science covers the same content, but assessments and projects are different than the Regents course. It's not as much of a high stakes class. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade schedules are individualized, and placement in Regents is determined after 7<sup>th</sup> grade based on performance and teacher input – some kids with IEPs will take the Regents class, but the ICT classes are non-Regents.

**Q:** *How are students in ICT notified, do kids know who has an IEP and who doesn't?*

**A:** The kids know they're in an ICT class when there are two teachers; they do NOT know which kids have IEPs or not.

**Q:** *Is the same level of support available to non-IEP kids?*

**A:** Yes. The IEP is legally binding, but an ICT teacher can give kids who may be struggling the more scaffolded materials or organizational support. Every class is different, and teachers react to the kids in the class, whether they have an IEP or not.

**Q:** *Is there an ICT regents class in 8<sup>th</sup> grade?*

**A:** The ICT class is a non-regents class: if you're in that class, you are not taking the Regents. But, if you have an IEP but show readiness, there are some exceptions where an IEP kid is taking Regents science.

**Q:** *I have heard that ICT classes can be more disruptive, is this true?*

**A:** No. Every class is different, it will be based on the specific makeup of the class and the dynamics between the students. If they happen to have more potential to be disruptive, there are two teachers to keep things on track.

**Q:** *What about kids that have an IEP that doesn't specify ICT?*

**A:** They may have a "SETSS" designation where they get pulled out of the class more personal attention. Or, there may be an IEP for OT, Speech, etc. and they can either get it in the classroom or out.

**Q:** *Is math different?*

**A:** In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, an ICT class is paired with another non-ICT class for math based on their performance on the Booker T entry test. Kids that struggled on that test tend to have math with 2 teachers. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, re-evaluate. For example, this year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders are all taking the same math. By 8<sup>th</sup> grade, kids are individually programmed in everything but humanities.

**Q:** *Dr. Elster: why was my (non-IEP) kid chosen for an ICT class? Is it because they are performing at a lower level?*

**A:** No. The school does NOT knowingly or intentionally put non-IEP kids that are struggling or need help into the ICT classes.